



Press Release

European Film Festival L'Europe autour de l'Europe

Prize winners of the 18th edition

Paris, March 28, 2023

The 18th edition of the Festival has come to an end. In 15 days, we showed 126 films from 31 European countries. We would like to thank the filmmakers who came in great number to present their films in Paris, our professional and committed juries, our warm and enthusiastic audience, our partners, the cinemas and all those who have made this adventure possible.

The Festival is honoured to announce the prize winners of its 2023 edition.

Prix SAUVAGE – selection of 9 recent European fiction films unreleased in France

The jury composed of Ildikó Enyedi – Presidente (Hungary), Damien Bertrand (France) and Nicolas Ducray (France), has unanimously awarded the **Prix SAUVAGE** and its statuette of dancing wolf to **Dubravka Turić** (Croatia) for the film **Traces / Tragovi** (Croatia/Lithuania/Serbia).

By the strength of her direction, her way of building an emotion through images and sounds alone, the way she knows how to find the inner rhythm of each shots, how to hold them, how to arrange them in an organic way, Dubravka Turić already makes us eager to see her next films.

The **Special mention** is awarded to **Alisa Erokhina** (Russia) for the film **Just Before / Накануне** (Russia/France).

Through the disenchanting vitality of her storyline, the raw energy of her direction, Alina Erokhina forcefully captured this stage of teen age where the impulse toward the void and the temptation toward the light coexist.

Second **Special mention** is awarded to **Robert Higgins and Patrick McGivney** (Ireland) for the film **Lakelands** (Ireland).

With great tenderness, Robert Higgins and Patrick McGivney have been able to scrutinize landscapes and faces to bring out, with the help of their radiant actors, all the emotions that the characters keep silent.

Prix LUNA – selection of 9 recent European fiction films unreleased in France

The cinema students and young professionals' Jury composed of Felix Cuiller, Maria Teresa Mendonça, Lilou Parente, Elena Sazonova, Léonore Thiriez has awarded the **Prix LUNA** to **Alisa Erokhina** (Russia) for the film **Just Before / Накануне** (Russia/France).

After much hesitation due to the diversity of approaches and subjects of the selected films, we finally chose two films, one of which we wanted to give a special mention.

*We award the student prize to the film **JUST BEFORE** by Alisa Erokhina. A film whose mastery and reflection, both narrative and formal, we wanted to salute. A film that explores intimacies in a fine and masterful way and whose young age of the director surprised us in view of its quality. We were also touched by the remarkable performance of the two main actors.*

The **Special mention** is awarded to **Robert Higgins and Patrick McGivney** (Ireland) for the film **Lakelands** (Ireland).

*We also give a special mention to the film **LAKELANDS** by Robert Higgins and Patrick McGivney. A film that touched us in its simplicity, in the way it portrays the daily life of young people in the Midlands where the directors come from, through well-constructed characters and which tackles interesting issues with finesse, both in the script and in the mise en scène.*

Prix PRESENT – selection of 9 recent European documentary films

The Jury composed of Eva Stefani - President (Greece), Chloé Aïcha Boro (France) and Ivan Zotikov (Ukraine) has awarded the **Prix PRESENT** and its statuette of dancing wolf to **Eva Charlotte Nilsen** (Norway) for the film **SMILE and WAVE / SMILE og VINKE** (Norway).

In 57 minutes Eva Charlotte Nilsen made a film which was both personal and universal. Using the Norwegian sea and seashore as her canvas, she dives into a personal journey, mystical and sometimes bleak about loss and love. Blending archival material from childhood with outstanding images of Norwegian landscape, Nilsen creates a film of harshness and beauty. A poem.

The **Special mention** is awarded to **Łukasz Kowalski** (Poland) for the film **The Pawnshop / Lombard** (Poland).

*The Jury also offers a distinction to the film **The Pawnshop** by Polish director Łukasz Kowalski for its vibrant depiction of a microcosm that is radically changing. A cinema-vérité documentary which could be read as a metaphor of contemporary Europe.*

Prix SAUVAGE CORTO – selection of 24 short films of recent European production

The Jury composed of Samantha Leroy – Presidente (France), Ana Grgić (Croatia) and Guangli Liu (China/France) has awarded the **Prix SAUVAGE CORTO** and its statuette of dancing wolf to **Gökçe Pekhamarat** (Turkey) for the film **Doubt/ Kuşku** (Turkey).

Through an elaborate mise en scène and a story that builds up tension to the edge of the fantastic, this film explores the terrifying nature of questioning beliefs as the circulation of information and people increases in a society that seeks to renew itself.

The **Special mention** is given to **Giulia Grossmann** (France) for the film **Pasaia** (France).

*Between documentary and anthropological film, **Pasaia** questions the relationship between man and nature and animals through the repetition of ancestral rituals. The work of photography, editing and the soundtrack result in a coherent and successful form.*

Second **Special mention** is given to **Nelson Fernandes** (Portugal) for the film **Us / Nós** (Portugal).

This animated film plunges the viewer into the vicissitudes of life, the darkness of war and exile, in a surprisingly fluid and graceful way, thanks to its movement and an animation technique that is both indelible and penetrating.

A few words about the Festival

The L'Europe autour de l'Europe film festival takes place every year in Paris. For two weeks, the festival presents films of Greater Europe (47 European countries, members of the Council of Europe). About 50 long feature films and a selection of documentaries as well as short, animation and experimental films are screened in legendary Parisian theatres, foreign cultural centres and other exceptional venues, where the viewers can discover old and contemporary European film masterpieces. Since 2012, the festival presents a selection of 9 European films, unreleased in France, for the Prix SAUVAGE competition. The Prix PRESENT is awarded to the best documentary. The Prix SAUVAGE CORTO, founded in 2019, presents a panorama of the European short films – fiction, documentary, animation and experimental movies.

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