

Press Release

2 May 2020

The Winners of Docudays UA 2020

The 17th Docudays UA International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival has announced its winners. On May 2, an online award ceremony was held, hosted by **Angelina Kariakina** and **Maksym Shcherbyna**.

This year, the festival set a number of records: over four thousand of minutes of free-of-charge relevant documentaries online, 250 online meetings in the professional DOCU/PRO section, 70 films with adapted subtitles for people with hearing impairments, and three films with audio descriptions for people with visual impairments. Two ceremonies and 18 RIGHTS NOW! events were translated into sign language. There were daily online parties of the best electronic music by our partners from the Khvyliovy bar.

Traditionally, Docudays UA films competed in the **DOCU/WORLD**, **DOCU/UKRAINE** and **DOCU/SHORT** competitions. One of the ten nominated films received an award in the **RIGHTS NOW!** category. It was given to a creative documentary which explores the contemporary world and makes a significant contribution to the discussion of human dignity, freedom and equality.

Among ten films from all the film programmes which were the best at talking about human rights protection and were interesting for the young audience, the **Teens' Jury** selected the film which received its award. In addition, the **audience favorite which received the Audience Award** was determined. Another film was given the **Andriy Matrosov Award**. All the winners will receive awards designed by the artist Zhanna Kadyrova and monetary prizes in the amount of \$1,000. A special prize was awarded by the Festival's media partner, **Current Time TV**. The winners of the **Ukrainian Doc Preview** were also announced.

The main award in the DOCU/WORLD competition was received by the film ***The Earth Is Blue as an Orange*** by the Ukrainian director **Iryna Tsilyk**. According to the jury, the "*film is striking for its creativity in the filmmaking choices and the positivity of the characters*" and "*shows us that making a film under harsh circumstances can also be an act of resilience that can have a positive impact on the family and the community.*"

"For his bravery, making a necessary film in a country where filmmaking is social activism," the **Special Mention in the DOCU/WORLD competition** went to the film ***The Cause*** by **Andrés Figueredo**.

The Main Prize in the DOCU/UKRAINE competition was received by the unique family story ***The Earth Is Blue as an Orange*** by **Iryna Tsilyk**. According to the jury, "*...the director translates their story into a complex and multi-layered work with a remarkable meta-aspect that both questions and celebrates the documentary form.*"

"It's an achievement to have a construction come together as an emotional experience." This is what happens, according to the jury, in the film ***Greykey*** by **Enric Ribes**, which receives **the Main Prize in the DOCU/SHORT competition**.

The jury decided to give the **Special Mention** to the film that "*distinguishes itself by its non-narrative character, whose simplicity, clarity and concision allows to capture in a small lapse of time the landscape of a city, Kyiv*"—the film ***Circulation*** by **Oleksiy Radynski**.

In the **RIGHTS NOW!** nomination, the human rights jury set the film ***Midnight Traveler*** by **Hassan Fazili** as the main winner. "*The prize is for the excellent combination of perspectives that paints a vivid and hopeful portrait of a family, as well as a condemnation of the refugee crisis. For the strong and credible characters,*

and for the director's ability to cinematically convey a relevant and universal topic in a way that engages and motivates the viewer to get involved in the development/solution of the issue depicted in the film," summarize the members of the Festival's Human Rights Jury.

The Special Mentions in the RIGHTS NOW! category were received by the films *Buddha in Africa* by Nicole Schafer and *WAR NOTE* by Roman Liubiyi.

The **Current Time** television platform chose its favorite among the films nominated in the RIGHTS NOW! category. The award was given to the film which "not only makes a significant contribution to the discussion of human dignity, freedom and equality, but also ... with the fact of being made, accomplishes the task of applying the human rights principles to the benefit of the protagonists of the film." It was the film *Midnight Traveler* by Hassan Fazili, which received a financial prize of \$3,000 from the media partner.

"For tender, boundless love for people and life. For desperate honesty in opening new unexpected features of the world which seemed understandable until now," **the memorial prize in honor of the Festival's producer Andriy Matrosov** was awarded by Docudays UA organizers to the film *WAR NOTE* by Roman Liubiyi.

The Main Prize of the Teens' Jury was received by the film *Immortal* by Ksenia Okhapkina. The teens' verdict: "The film touches upon the problems of thousands of ruined human lives. The film's protagonists are children, and the city is the background and a symbol of the system which generations have been unable to escape. Immortal is the case when visual connections produce connections of meanings."

The film *Punks* by Maasja Ooms received the **Special Mention of the Teens' Jury**, "primarily due to its exceptional and augmented story composition: it is a proof that complex conflict and visible changes in characters are not the 'prerogatives' of feature film."

The audience chose their favorite: it was **Roman Liubiyi's** film *WAR NOTE*.

As a part of the DOCU/PRO industry section, Ukrainian feature-length documentaries at the stage of production and post-production were presented within the **Ukrainian Doc Preview**. Six film projects were demonstrated to world festival programmers and representatives of international funds, sales companies and broadcasters. This year, six awards awaited the winners of the Ukrainian Doc Preview.

The **Ukrainian Institute Award** in the amount of 150,000 UAH for the promotion and distribution of the upcoming film was received by "a project that brings a unique Ukrainian story set in an unusual environment," the film *Salt from Bonneville*, directed by **Simon Mozgovyi**.

The award from the **Current Time** television platform in the amount of \$2000 was received by the film *Iron Butterflies* by Roman Liubiyi as "a piece of original and brilliant filmmaking that manages to use a whole new language to tell the obvious story about the surreality of war."

Diary of a Bride of Christ by **Marta Smerechynska** received two awards. The **East Silver Caravan Award**, which provides support with film distribution at international film festivals for one year. "It's a story of personal courage, faith and determination, but also a unique insight into a secluded community," say the Institute of Documentary Films representatives. In addition, the film received the **DOK Leipzig Award**, namely two accreditations to attend the German film festival DOK Leipzig and the DOK Co-Pro Market in October 2020.

The Documentary Association of Europe Talent Development Award was received by the project *The Elf's Tower* by **Polina Kelm**. The film's team received two free-of-charge subscriptions for membership in the Documentary Association of Europe (DAE) for one year, with access to DAE services, including online consulting and exclusive networking events.

"For a promising approach in depicting a touch of normality, love, calm and nature in contrast to today's unprecedented circumstances and challenges," the **Pitch the Doc** award was received by the project *Plai*.

DOCUDAYS UA INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

www.docudays.ua

for correspondence:
11 Mala Zhytomyrska str.,
office 10, Kyiv 01001, Ukraine

Path Through The Mountains, directed by **Eva Dzhyzhlyashvili**. The award provides a consultation session on film development and promotion. The film's team will be consulted by prominent Pitch the Doc experts for a year.

This year, the **Ukrainian Doc Preview** was held in partnership with the **Ukrainian Institute**. Until 10 May, 43 documentaries from the competition and non-competition programmes of the 17th Docudays UA are available on the docuspace.org platform. On 3 May, we invite you to the Audience Day. Read more about its schedule at [this link](#). We remind you that due to the quarantine, the 17th Docudays UA will be held online for the first time. The residents of the whole Ukraine have become the Festival's audience.

Follow the festival news at docudays.ua and on social media:

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

INSTAGRAM

TELEGRAM

YOUTUBE

FLICKR

For more detailed information on the festival and to arrange interviews, please address **Maria Matiashova**, the Festival Press Coordinator, at maria.matiashova@docudays.ua.

за підтримки



партнери



генеральні медіапартнери



медіапартнери

партнери правозахисної програми



інформаційні партнери правозахисної програми



інформаційна підтримка



організатори

