

17th International Film Festival and Forum
on Human Rights

FIFDH Geneva 8-17 March 2019

www.fifdh.org



PRESS RELEASE
Geneva, 16 March, 2019

**International Film Festival and Forum
on Human Rights**

THE FIFDH CAPTURES GENEVA

Sold-out theatres, an enthusiastic and young audience from all walks of life: the 2019 edition of the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights, which ends this Sunday in Geneva, will once again have been a huge public success, with a 92 percent attendance rate in 62 locations in Greater Geneva and in French-speaking Switzerland. Over the course of 10 days, 300 speakers participated in 200 events around 47 films, including world and international premieres and preview screenings, in the presence of filmmakers and protagonists.

The 2019 FIFDH has been a space of action, ideas and transformation, devoted to new forms of artistic, political and collective resistance, with extraordinary activists and celebrities, who embody commitment in the face of an unprecedented decline in human rights around the world, including Switzerland.

"What marked this edition are not movements, but the women and men in the field who risk their lives every day; people too often invisible to whom we gave the floor in Geneva and who have shaken entire rooms. It's a huge source of hope", says Isabelle Gattiker, Festival Director.

Celebrating citizen engagement

"I do not act for myself, but for others." In honour of **Magdalena Nandège Lokoro**, a South Sudanese peace activist who spoke at the Festival alongside actor **Forest Whitaker**, the FIFDH gave the floor to those who resist on the ground.

The participation of women in public debates has been one of the guidelines of this edition. Brazilian feminist activist **Ludmilla Teixeira** denounced the decline of democracy and human rights in Brazil. Her call for the vigilance of the international community on the situation in her country and the mobilization of women against a misogynist, racist and homophobic populism resonated with the FIFDH. The festival devoted an evening to the issue of cyber-harassment of women journalists, the questioning of gender identities and highlighted women human rights defenders.

The Festival highlighted the action of young people from **LUCHA**, a citizen movement that promotes democracy in the Democratic Republic of Congo. "In prison, I was freer than those who interrogated me," said **Fred Bauma**, one of his activists. The FIFDH focused on the future of Iraq with **Mustafa Saadoon**, Director of the Iraqi Observatory for Human Rights, and **Maha Alsakban**, President of the Human Rights Advisory Board of Iraq, allowing Iraqis to participate at the heart of discussions concerning the future of their country.

The Festival reviewed the 30th anniversary of the web in the presence of its inventor **Tim Berners-Lee**, endeavoured to spawn new projects for connecting digital technology and human rights during an organized hackathon.

The identity of Switzerland and its role in international affairs were questioned during a debate between **Christine Beerli**, **Tim Guldemann** and **Dick Marty**. The Festival also gave the floor to people without legal status in Geneva as part of Operation Papyrus, in partnership with the RTS.

Can cinema change the world?

"There is no better instrument than cinema to create empathy and offer the opportunity to put yourself in the shoes of others". The actor **Forest Whitaker** recalled the power of cinema on the Festival stage. **Rithy Panh** came to present his new film *Graves Without a Name*, produced by ARTE, which concludes a powerful trilogy dedicated to the Cambodian genocide. Brazil's Petra Costa premiered her film, *The Edge of Democracy*, an international fresco dedicated to her country's recent history. For the first time this year, the FIFDH has been involved in the development of new projects. On the occasion of its professional **Impact Day**, the Festival brought together filmmakers, NGOs, foundations and philanthropists around documentary film projects that have an impact on society. At the end of the day, the project *Mars* by Dea Gjinovci and produced by Britta Rindelaub of Alva Film (Switzerland), received the Impact FIFDH prize of CHF 2'000.

Bruno Boudjelal, Laurent Gaudé, Ai Weiwei, Roberto Saviano: a place of artistic abundance

Photographer **Bruno Boudjelal**, artist-in-residence of the Festival, has created the project *We will not die tired*, which addresses the issue of migration flows through the narrative and personal testimony of residents of Meyrin. The artist **Ai Weiwei** came to speak at the end of the screening of the film *XIMEI* by **Andy Cohen** and **Gaylen Ross**, for which he is executive producer. **Roberto Saviano** spoke via videoconference in the context of the French release of his new novel *Baiser Féroce*. The writer **Laurent Gaudé** came to present excerpts of his most recent play, *Et les colosses tomberont*, inspired by his experience as a member of the jury of the FIFDH 2017, as well as a photographic performance with the photographer **Gaël Turine**. The writer **Yves Pagès** presented a gratifying performance addressing graffiti from May 1968 to today. Musician **Sahin Najafi**, a member of the jury, performed in concert at the Alhambra as part of the Festival.

Aïssa Maïga at the Tattes Accommodation Center

The Festival is committed to social cohesion and access to culture, by organizing an ever-increasing number of free events in migrant centers, social institutions, hospitals, detention centers and opening its doors to the beneficiaries of the General Hospice. French actress **Aïssa Maïga** met the public at the Tattes Residence Center (Vernier), following the screening of Chiwetel Ejiofor's *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*.

The Festival continues on Sunday

The FIFDH continues Sunday, March 17th. Filmmaker **Amos Gitai** will present his latest film, *A Tramway in Jerusalem*, with Mathieu Amalric. The Festival will open the debate on democracy and corruption in Guatemala, highlight the role of documentary cinema as an act of witnessing of the war in Syria with the projection of *Still Recording* and examine criminal law in Switzerland with former President of the Confederation **Ruth Dreifuss**. The Festival's closing event will take place with French writer **Édouard Louis**.

See the FIFDH website www.fifdh.org

AWARDS LIST

CREATIVE DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

The International Documentary Jury was chaired by **Leïla Slimani** alongside **Julie Trébault, Felipe Barbosa** and **Hussain Currimbhoy**

GRAND PRIZE OF GENEVA (CHF 10'000) Offered by the City and State of Geneva

***DELPHINE AND CAROLE, INSOUMUSES* by Callisto Mc Nulty**

"We were captivated by the vivacity, freshness and engagement of this documentary. An ode to two women of action, to the friendship and power of transmission embodied by a little girl."

GILDA VIEIRA DE MELLO PRIZE IN TRIBUTE TO HER SON SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO (CHF 5'000) Offered by the Barbara Hendricks Foundation for Peace and Reconciliation

***ON HER SHOULDERS* by Alexandria Bombach**

"We wanted to commend the extraordinary commitment of the director, alongside Nadia Murad whose courage and obstinacy have profoundly moved us."

SPECIAL MENTION Creative Documentary Competition

***STILL RECORDING* by Ghiath Ayoub and Saeed Al Batal**

"Political and Ethical Mention. We will not be able to say that we did not know."

The Youth Jury Creative Documentary Competition: **Eliot Brown, Justine Fontanet, Pablo Morisia, Alex Rey, Elliott Riat** and **Lucie Romer**

YOUTH JURY PRIZE DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION CREATION (CHF 500) Offered by Peace Brigades International (PBI)

***STILL RECORDING* by Ghiath Ayoub and Saeed Al Batal**

"At a time when human rights are under threat, it is important to denounce attacks on human dignity. During this festival, we discovered men and women who fight so that their stories are not forgotten. However, speaking out and pointing out these injustices remains a risky act in some parts of the world and therefore calls for extraordinary courage.

It is the courage of people who preferred to use their cameras rather than weapons that we are awarding. Their raw images of the inhumane conditions of daily life plunge us into the reality of war and allow us to imagine ourselves in their place. Just like us, this young generation continues to dance, to sing, to appropriate art to express itself, to play sports, to get married. `Life must continue!`"

SPECIAL MENTION OF THE YOUTH JURY

***GHOST FLEET* by Jeffrey Waldron and Shannon Service**

"This documentary has illustrated the power of cinema to mark a moment in time and educate us. It is the extraordinary artistic direction that has captured the attention of the entire audience. By inviting us to travel across the oceans, allowing us to feel and implicate ourselves in the cause of modern slavery in the fishing industry, I am pleased to announce that the mention of the Youth Jury is attributed to *Ghost Fleet* by Shannon Service and Jeffrey Waldon."

FICTION COMPETITION

The International Fiction and Human Rights Jury was chaired by **Pat Mitchell**, along with **Uzodinma Iweala**, **Shahin Najafi**, **Anne Deluz** and **Philippe Cottier**.

GRAND PRIZE FOR FICTION (CHF 10'000)

Offered by the **Hélène and Victor Barbour Foundation**

***THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND* by Chiwetel Ejiofor**

"Through a fluid filmmaking, embodied by actors who offer a rare authenticity to their roles, the director warns us about the importance of education, transmission between generations, issues that particularly concern women in rural areas from Malawi. The film also dramatically reflects the urgency that African society face with issues of climate change."

SPECIAL MENTION

Fiction Competition

***CARMEN & LOLA* by Arantxa Echevarría**

"Arantxa Echevarría presents her first feature-length film, with two non-professional actresses - the amazing Zaira Romero and Rosy Rodriguez - whose candidness and truth are part of the film's success. The strength of the story lies as much in the engaged discourse as in the resistance that the two heroines face in relation to their environment. A film that testifies, with modesty and accuracy, to the wonder of a first love."

The Youth Jury Fiction Competition: **Wedid Ben Hamiden**, **Leïla Berthoud**, **Mathilde Foehr**, **Julia Oliveira** and **Colin St Mary**

Youth Jury Prize COMPETITION FICTION (CHF 500)

Offered by the **Eduki Foundation**

***CARMEN & LOLA* by Arantxa Echevarría**

"This film left us outraged while also giving us the desire to continue fighting against inequality and discrimination. The diversity and relevance of the theme describes a reality and paints portraits that are both complex and nuanced.

It honours strong and free women, whether it be the director or the main characters. The director has managed to address a universal and very current theme with beauty and sensitivity. Through her film, she makes an essential appeal to tolerance."

SPECIAL MENTION

of the Youth Jury

***ANOTHER DAY OF LIFE* by Raúl de la Fuente and Damian Nenow**

"For the originality of its approach as well as its visual and audio richness."

GRANDS REPORTAGES COMPETITION

Prize of OMCT (CHF 5'000)

Offered by the **World Organization Against Torture**

***CONGO LUCHA* by Marlène Rabaud**

"*Congo Lucha* is a film full of humanity, very rich artistically, which combines poignant moments and humour, to show a different image of a country overwhelmed by more than 20 years of conflict. It shows a young generation of human rights defenders who fight, through peaceful means and in spite of all risks, against repression and systematic torture. The holding of a presidential election in January this year, which saw a first alternation - certainly contested but also peaceful - owes a lot to the courage of these young people. This award is also a tribute to the commitment of this new generation of defenders, and an encouragement to their future actions. "

CARCERAL CONTEXTS

**JURY PRIZE IN
CARCERAL CONTEXTS
- CHAMP-DOLLON**
Offered by the City and
State of Geneva

***THE SENTENCE* by Rudy Valdez**

"This film has touched us because the question of confinement affects everyone. Cindy's sentence affected her entire family, but despite this, Cindy remains a mother, wife, daughter and sister. As long as there is love, there is hope. Cindy and her family have proven it throughout this story. Thank you for sharing with us a glimpse of your life."

**JURYS PRIZE IN
CARCERAL CONTEXTS
- LA CLAIRIÈRE**
Offered by the City and
State of Geneva

***UN JOUR ÇA IRA* by Stan and Edouard Zambeaux**

"Too many people live in emergency shelter centers, going through difficult times. This film is their stories and especially the story of Djibi, who is our age. We were called to question during this film and were profoundly touched. This story is also the story of some of us. Despite their difficulties, the film showed us that there is always hope and that we must keep the faith. That's why we awarded this prize for hope, faith, for Djibi and all the people that allowed us to discover *Un Jour Ça Ira*. Djibi, you are the example that despite hardship, we can prevail. Strength to you, strength to you all."

**SPECIAL MENTION,
CARCERAL CONTEXTS
- LA CLAIRIÈRE**

***SONITA* by Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghami**

"We also give a special mention to the film, *Sonita* by Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghami to affirm our support for all young women who are victims of forced marriage."

**JURY PRIZE IN
CARCERAL CONTEXTS
- LA BRENAZ**
Offered by the City and
State of Geneva

***THE SENTENCE* by Rudy Vadez**

"We, the Brenaz jury, awarded Rudy Valdez's *The Sentence* for the best film for its authenticity and the hope it gives us. We were particularly touched because this story is also ours, and that of our families. This film denounces arbitrary justice that doesn't take into account human considerations. Thank you, Rudy Valdez."

**SPECIAL MENTION IN
CARCERAL CONTEXTS
- LA BRENAZ**

***GRAND ET PETIT* by Camille Budin**

"The Clairière jury also awarded a special mention to Camille Budin's film *Grand et Petit*. Thank you for inviting us to immerse ourselves in the world of children."

**HUG Jury Prize –
Malatvie Day Hospital**
Offered by the City and
State of Geneva

***NI D'ÈVE, NI D'ADAM. UNE HISTOIRE INTERSEXE.* by Floriane Devigne**

"The issue of intersex has profoundly moved us. Thanks to the film we hope that intersexuality will be better understood and respected. This is a subject that should not be taboo and should be discussed at any time without a problem. Thank you to the protagonists of the film, Audrey, M. and Deborah and thank you to Floriane Devigne for allowing us discover and better understand the lives of intersex people."

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