



International
Documentary
Film Festival
Amsterdam

Amsterdam, Wednesday, November 27th, 2019

***In a Whisper* wins IDFA Award for Best Feature-Length Documentary**

Today, IDFA announced the winners of the competition programs during the IDFA 2019 Awards Ceremony at Eye Film Museum. The winner of the VPRO IDFA Audience Award will be announced on Friday, November 29th. The International Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) continues until Sunday, December 1st.

IDFA Competition for Feature-Length Documentary

Directors **Heidi Hassan and Patricia Pérez Fernández** are the winners of the **IDFA Award for Best Feature-Length Documentary** (€ 20.000) with [*In a Whisper*](#) (Spain, France, Switzerland, Cuba). The film centers on two emigrated Cuban filmmakers whose passion for film, friendship, and freedom reunites them after years apart.

“A refreshing expression of womanhood; an ode to loss; a celebration of friendship, will, and vulnerability; a reclaiming of hope and passion; and a piercingly honest cinematic dialogue are all embodied in this magical, original, and risk-taking cinematic endeavor,” the jury reported.

This year, for the first time at IDFA, three new awards were presented in the Competition for Feature-Length Documentary. The **IDFA Award for Best Directing** (€ 5.000) went to **Mehrdad Oskoueï** for his film [*Sunless Shadows*](#) (Iran).

The **IDFA Award for Best Editing** (€ 2.500) went to **Sander Vos** for [*Punks*](#), directed by Maasja Ooms, and the **IDFA Award for Best Cinematography** (€ 2.500) went to **Maasja Ooms** for [*Punks*](#) (the Netherlands), directed by Ooms.

The [jury members](#) for IDFA Competition for Feature-Length Documentary were Claire Simon, Mila Turajlić, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Gaston Kaboré, and Rima Mismar.

IDFA Competition for First Appearance

Lucy Parker won the **IDFA Award for Best First Appearance** (€ 10.000) for [*Solidarity*](#) (United Kingdom).

“A rigorous, complex, and clever yet accessible look at a strongly contemporary issue, which transcends its subject and transforms it into a disquieting universal warning,” the jury reported.

The jury decided to give two special mentions in this competition. The first special mention went to [*Froth*](#) (Russia, Qatar), directed by **Ilya Povolotsky**, and the second to [*I Owe You a Letter About Brazil*](#) (Brazil) by **Carol Benjamin**.

The [jury members](#) for the IDFA Competition for First Appearance were Paolo Moretti, Anand Patwardhan, Emma Davie, Maya Hawke, and Tatiana Huezo.

The **FIPRESCI Award** (€ 5.000) was given to **Alyx Ayn Arumpac** for [Aswang](#) (Philippines, France, Norway, Qatar, Germany).

The FIPRESCI [jury members](#) were Gena Teodosievska, Zane Balčus, and Alexander Zwart.

The IDFA Award for Best First Appearance is made possible by the [Friends of IDFA](#).

[IDFA Competition for Mid-Length Documentary](#)

The **IDFA Award for Best Mid-Length Documentary** (€ 7.500) was awarded to **Jalal Vafaei** for [Anticlockwise](#) (Iran).

[Mother-Child](#) (Argentina) by **Andrea Testa** received a special mention in the Competition for Mid-Length Documentary.

The [jury members](#) for the IDFA Competition for Mid-Length Documentary were Jonathan Littell, Xuan Liu, and Romuald Karmakar.

[IDFA DocLab Competition for Digital Storytelling](#)

Victoria Mapplebeck won the **IDFA DocLab Award for Digital Storytelling** (€ 5.000) with [The Waiting Room VR](#) (United Kingdom).

The Special Jury Award for Creative Technology (€ 2.000) went to [In Event of Moon Disaster](#) (United States) by **Francesca Panetta and Halsey Burgund**.

The [jury members](#) for the IDFA DocLab Competition for Digital Storytelling were Zeina Abi Assy, Monique Simard, and Harm van de Ven.

[IDFA DocLab Competition for Immersive Non-Fiction](#)

Vincent Morisset won the **IDFA DocLab Award for Immersive Non-Fiction** (€ 5.000) for [Vast Body 22](#) (Canada).

The Special Jury Award for Creative Technology (€ 2.000) went to **Duncan Speakman** for [Only Expansion](#) (United Kingdom).

The [jury members](#) for the IDFA DocLab Competition for Immersive Non-Fiction were Eddie Lou, Angeliq Spaninks, and Marianne Levy-Leblond.

IDFA DocLab is supported by the [Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy of the Netherlands](#), [CLICKNL](#), [Netherlands Film Fund](#), [Mondriaan Fund](#), [ARTE](#), [HTC VIVE](#), [Flanders Audiovisual Fund](#), [Tolhuistuin](#), and [MIAP Foundation](#).

[IDFA Competition for Dutch Documentary](#)

The **2Doc IDFA Award for Best Dutch Documentary** (€ 7.500) went to **Reber Dosky** for [**Sidik and the Panther**](#) (the Netherlands).

A special mention was awarded to [**Punks**](#) (the Netherlands) by **Maasja Ooms**.

The [**jury members**](#) for the IDFA Competition for Dutch Documentary were Caroline Libresco, Dorota Lech, and Sergio Oksman.

The 2Doc IDFA Award for Best Dutch Documentary is made possible by [**NPO 2Doc**](#).

[**IDFA Competition for Short Documentary**](#)

[**Up at Night**](#) (Congo, Belgium) by **Nelson Makengo** won the IDFA Award for Best Short Documentary (€ 5.000).

Additionally, a special mention was awarded to [**Mizuko**](#) (United States, Japan), a co-directed by **Katelyn Rebelo and Kira Dane**.

The [**jury members**](#) for the IDFA Competition for Short Documentary were Cíntia Gil, Thomas Keenan, and Karen Archey.

[**IDFA Competition for Student Documentary**](#)

Denize Galiao won the **IDFA Award for Best Student Documentary** (€ 2.500) for [**Saudade**](#) (Germany).

The jury awarded a special mention to **Moritz Schulz** for [**Summerwar**](#) (Germany).

The [**jury members**](#) for the IDFA Competition for Student Documentary were Aboozar Amini, Juliette Duret, and Melissa Lindgren.

[**IDFA Competition for Kids & Docs**](#)

The **IDFA Award for Best Children's Documentary** (€ 5.000) went to **Jafar Najafi** for [**Asho**](#) (Iran).

A special mention in the IDFA Competition for Kids & Docs went to [**Foreplay**](#) (the Netherlands) by **Anne van Campenhout**.

The [**jury members**](#) for the IDFA Competition for Kids & Docs were Katarzyna Lesisz, Carin Goeijers, and Petra Rockenfeller.

[**IDFA Competition for Creative Use of Archive**](#)

The inaugural **Beeld en Geluid IDFA ReFrame Award** (€ 5.000) for best creative use of archive was awarded to **Alan Berliner** for [**Letter to the Editor**](#) (United States).

The jury also awarded a special mention in this category to [**Marshawn Lynch: A History**](#) (United States) directed by **David Shields**.

The [jury members](#) for the IDFA Competition for Creative Use of Archive were Peter Forgács, Mohanad Yaqubi, and Susana de Sousa Dias.

The IDFA Competition for Creative Use of Archive is supported by [The Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision](#) (Beeld en Geluid).

Jørgen Leth receives IDFA's Lifetime Achievement Award

During the award ceremony, IDFA's artistic director **Orwa Nyrabia** presented the **Lifetime Achievement Award** to Danish documentary filmmaker **Jørgen Leth**.

From his influential short film ***The Perfect Human*** (1967) to latest ***I Walk*** (2019), shown at IDFA this year in the Feature-Length competition program, Leth remains an inspiration to filmmakers all over the world. This award is meant to acknowledge his extraordinary contribution to filmmaking.

"People do often ask me what motivates me to continue making films and I always answer that it's all very simple. I just cannot stop! Receiving this Lifetime Achievement Award convinces me in what I have been doing all my life. My almost 50 films during the last 57 years were made on behalf of my lust and my curiosity to explore the art of filmmaking. My work can be seen as a whole and as a continuous exploration of how to make films. This is why I'm so pleased to be receiving a Life Achievement Award at IDFA. I'm very honored and flattered. Thanks to IDFA for their gratitude towards me. This award will keep me walking and exploring life and filmmaking," said **Jørgen Leth**, recipient of IDFA's **Lifetime Achievement Award** for 2019.

Other Awards

At the beginning of the evening, last year's stipend recipient **Sophie Dros** presented the **Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Documentary Stipend** (€ 50.000) to filmmaker **Marina Meijer**.

This grant of €50.000 allows the recipient to make a documentary about a subject of their choosing. The award is intended for a documentary filmmaker with a proven track record who has already earned modest recognition in the documentary field.

The International Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) continues **until Sunday, December 1st**. The winner of the **VPRO IDFA Audience Award** will be announced on **Friday, November 29th**.

IDFA's competition program is supported by **Ammodo**.

Editors' notes:

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