

Awards 2021

International Feature Film Competition

Jury

Thomas Imbach, Filmmaker (Switzerland)

Savina Neirotti, Artistic Director Torino Film Lab and Head of Programming at Biennale College - Cinema, The Venice International Film Festival (Italy)

Josh Siegel, Curator, Film Department, MoMA (USA)

Grand Jury Prize offered by la Mobilière

CHF 20 000

Faya Dayi, by Jessica Beshir

The Grand Jury Prize offered by la Mobilière goes to *Faya Dayi* by Jessica Beshir. Interweaving an ancient Sufi parable about the quest for the water of eternal life with a rigorous meditation on labor, exploitation, and exile, and moving freely among different levels of reality and consciousness, Jessica Beshir has created a dreamlike fable for our own uncertain times.

Special Jury Award offered by Région de Nyon

CHF 10 000 –

CHF 5 000

1970, by Tomasz Wolski

CHF 5 000

Les Enfants terribles, by Ahmet

Necdet Cupur

The Special Jury Award offered by Région de Nyon goes ex aequo to *Les Enfants Terribles* by Ahmet Necdet Cupu, an intimate yet universally resonant chronicle of a tragic family quarrel, and to *1970* by Tomasz Wolski for its imaginative and gripping response to a watershed event in Poland's struggle towards democracy.

Burning Lights Competition

Jury

Kamal Aljafari, Filmmaker (Palestine)

Sergio Fant, Programmer - Berlinale International Film Festival (Italy, Germany)

Garbiñe Ortega, Artistic Director Punto de Vista (Spain)

Prize in the Burning Lights Competition offered by the Canton de Vaud

CHF 10 000

Looking for Horses, by Stefan Pavlović

This film grows organically out of an encounter, defining its own set of rules and becoming an actual ground of transformation involving both the filmmaker and his subject. The filmmaker finds the poetic expression in a natural way working with raw images and sounds, to elaborate a sincere reflection on language, identity and trauma. The prize goes to a compelling work made with bravery and tenderness, *Looking for Horses* by Stefan Pavlović.

Special Jury Award
offered by
la Société des Hôteliers
de la Côte

CHF 5 000

***Splinters*, by Natalia Garayalde**

This intimate tale from the past is a powerful timely and universal cry against injustice and greed. Starting filming as a child, with surprising vision and sharp humor, and staying loyal to the project for decades, the filmmaker carries the responsibility of celebrating the memory of her beloved ones, and giving voice to a community victim of an outrageous political crime. The Special Jury Award goes to *Splinters* by Natalia Garayalde.

Special Mention

***The Great Void*, by Sebastian Mez**

A special mention goes to a film from the future, about a present for which we don't have images yet: *The Great Void* by Sebastian Mez.

National Competition

Jury

Anna Berthollet, Sales Agent, Lightdox (Switzerland)
Julie Frères, Producer, Atelier de production Dérives (Belgium)
Diana Tabakov, Director of Doc Alliance Films (Czech Republic)

Prize in the National
Competition offered
by SRG SSR

CHF 15 000

***Nostramo*, by Fisnik Maxville**

The jury is honoured to award a film that tells of the encounter between men of different fates, at the ends of the world. Referring to the historical dialogue between European settlers and indigenous populations, this piece of observational filmmaking builds a strong atmosphere, which invites us to a uniquely cinematic experience. For all those qualities we award the national competition prize offered by SRG/SSR to *Nostramo* by Fisnik Maxville.

Special Jury Award in
the National
Competition offered
by SSA/Suissimage

CHF 10 000

***Chronicles of That Time*, by Maria Iorio und Raphaël Cuomo**

For this artwork's outstanding approach portraying the Mediterranean Sea, at first a shared space between continents that now becomes myth through museum mosaics and their official narrative. Intertwined with the contemporary stories of people in shades, fragments of history and glitched images remind us of our incomplete memory. We award the Special jury award of the National Competition offered by SSA/SUISSIMAGE to *Chronicles of That Time* by Maria Iorio and Raphaël Cuomo.

International Medium Length and Short Film Competition

Jury

Alejo Franzetti, Filmmaker and Programmer (Argentina/Germany)
Consuelo Frauenfelder, Filmmaker and Producer, Garidi Films
(Switzerland)
Laila Pakalnina, Filmmaker (Latvia)

Prize – Medium Length offered by Clinique de Genolier

CHF 10 000

Strict Regime, by Nikita Yefimov

An intelligent film that problematizes the representation of power in the documentary form, sincerely exposing the bureaucratic obstacles, formal limits and human conditions for its realization. Its director has created a transparent and honest work, which portrays, while questioning with humor and talent, the idea of discipline as the only form of redemption.

Special Mention Medium Length

My Quarantine Bear, by Weijia Ma

A film that tenderly depicts a massive global tragedy. With a great talent for improvisation, this young director has created an intimate document of these chaotic times.

Prize – Short Film offered by Fondation Goblet

CHF 5 000

The Communion of My Cousin Andrea, by Brandán Cerviño

For a sensitive and honest conversation with a child about the world and God. For having the creative courage to share with humor the mise en scène of the film. For a lovely smile and a mischievous look. For a movie that helps to live.

Special Jury Award – Short Film offered by Mémoire Vive

CHF 2 500

If You See Her, Say Hello, by Hee Young Pyun und Jiajun Oscar Zhang

A film that travels in time and space. A sensitive exploration towards reminiscences and personal memories in a country that often seems unfathomable. A beautiful film that shows that it is possible to find in the past images of the future.

Special Mention Short Film

The City of the Sun, by Maria Semenova

An approach on the lights and shadows of a staged dogma. In a territory dominated by the white clarity of Siberia, the director manages to capture with patience and mystery the complex darkness of sectarianism.

International Medium Length and Short Film Competition

Youth Jury

The Youth Jury is composed of students from the post-compulsory education levels in Nyon and Lausanne:

Léa Chapui

Benjamin Liang

William Pearmund

Odile Piotet

Supervised by Juliette Gaultier, Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design (HEAD), Geneva

Youth Jury Award –
Medium Length Film
offered by Ecole Moser

CHF 5 000

Trees in Summer, by Suyu Lee

We decided to award the Youth Jury Award - presented by Ecole Moser - to a film that offered real life experience, handled with skill and sensitivity. Through a personal narrative, the director offers a new approach to illness, family relationships and resilience. The director's touching story is told in a variety of rich narrative styles. She takes us on a very intimate sensorial and poetic experience. Nature is proposed as a medium for healing and serenity. The film shows a deep thinking process allowing to offer simple but sublimated moments of life. The film in question is *Trees in Summer*, directed by Suyu Lee.

International Critics Award – FIPRESCI Award

To promote cinema as an art form and encourage new and young cinema, the International Federation of Film Critics awards the International Critics' Prize – FIPRESCI Prize to a first feature film presented in the International Feature Film Competition or the Burning Lights Competition.

Jury

Max Borg, Journalist, Clap.ch, Corriere del Ticino (Switzerland)

Marla Jacarilla, Journalist, Contrapicado Escritos sobre Cine, Miradas de Cine (Spain)

Nachum Mochiach, Journalist, HABAMA - Culture Site, Atmosphere (Israel)

Faya Dayi, by Jessica Beshir

For creating a contemplative but also deeply personal and poetic portrait of the people from Harar, approaching and giving voice to a silenced community and getting the perfect balance between the dreamlike images, the spirituality, and the story itself, the FIPRESCI Jury of the 52nd edition of Visions du Réel gives the International Critics Award to *Faya Dayi*, directed by Jessica Beshir.

Interreligious Award

CHF 5 000

Jury

Noëmi Gradwohl, Journalist and cultural editor (Switzerland)
Marie-Therese Mäder, Professor for Religious and Media Studies
(Schweiz), President
Jean-Paul Käser (Switzerland)
Majid Movasseghi, Filmmaker and Critick (Switzerland)

Little Palestine (Diary of a Siege), by Abdallah Al-Khatib

People in the sealed-off Yarmuk refugee camp assert their humanity in the Syrian civil war despite hunger and lack of prospects, while the humanitarian world remains on the sidelines. When a small street choir sings to piano accompaniment and the noise of bombs, their song joins the sad chorale of similar sieges in world history.

Zonta Award

CHF 5 000

Prize for a female filmmaker whose work reveals mastery and talent and calls for support for future creations.

Jury

Tom Bidou, curator, Spoutik theatre,(Switzerland)
Lila Ribí, Filmmaker (Switzerland)
Marion Blöchlinger, Zonta-Club (Switzerland)

Pushing Boundaries, by Lesia Kordonets

Zonta is an international club that supports the cause of women. The jury, after an arduous deliberation, as the quality of the films was excellent, retained a strong, bold film, whose powerful and rigorous construction shows the human resilience in the face of the absurdity of war. For these reasons, we have decided to award the Zonta Prize to *Pushing Boundaries*, by Lesia Kordonets.