

Press Release

Juries of the 50th Sehsüchte Anniversary Edition

We are very pleased to announce this year's juries for the 50th Sehsüchte International Student Film Festival. The festival will take place from 21 to 25 July in a hybrid format, online as well as offline on site in Babelsberg. This year, ten prizes and two special mentions will be awarded by nine juries in the competition categories.

Feature Film

Svenja Böttger, Luzie Loose and Felix Binder award this year's prize for *Best Feature Film*.

Svenja Böttger has been the director of the Max Ophüls Preis Film Festival for five years and is a former student of the Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF Film University. The director and writer Luzie Loose made various short films during her studies in Berlin, Baden-Württemberg and Paris. She won the Gold Award for Best Director at the Hof Film Festival with her debut film *Schwimmen*. Director and screenwriter Felix Binder shot his first feature film *Club der roten Bänder - Wie alles begann* in 2018. In September 2020, his superhero film *FREAKS* was released on Netflix.

Short film / animated film

The jury consisting of Annegret Richter, Frédéric Schuld and Pia Hellenthal will award two prizes: *Best Short Film* and *Best Animated Film*. Annegret Richter works as the managing director of the association for German animation (AG Animationsfilm). Frédéric Schuld is a writer, director and animator. Together with Fabian Driehorst, he founded the studio "Fabian&Fred" in 2011. Filmmaker Pia Hellenthal works in the fields of fiction and documentary. Her debut film *Searching Eva* premiered at the Berlinale in 2019.

Documentary film

The *Best Documentary Feature* and the *Best Documentary Short* will be decided by a four-member jury consisting of Kenneth Gyang, Leona Goldstein, Yulia Loshina and Alice Agneskirchner.

Director Kenneth Gyang won the Audience Award at the Africa International Film Festival in Nigeria and the Palme d'Or at the Mexico International Film Festival 2018 with his second feature film *The Lost Café* (2017).

Documentary filmmaker and journalist Leona Goldstein deals with women's*rights, anti-racist struggles and migration in her numerous film and photo documentaries. Since 2012, she has held a teaching position for documentary film at the University of Applied Sciences (HTW) in Berlin.



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Yuila Lokshina studied directing for documentary film at the University of Television and Film Munich. Her graduation film *Rules of the assembly line, at high speed* (2020) won the Best Documentary Award at the Max Ophüls Preis 2020 festival. Alice Agneskirchner was the first student from the "West" to be invited to study directing at the film university KONRAD WOLF in 1989. The author and director received the Grimme Prize 2020 for her documentary film *Wie 'Holocaust' ins Fernsehen kam*.

Focus production

In the Focus Production section the jury takes a look behind the scenes. Here Caroline von Senden, Murat Isgüder, Nadja Jumah, Mina Avramova and Björn Koll will award the prize for *Best Production*. Caroline von Senden is editorial director and coordinator of high-end series, such as *Bad Banks*, for ZDF. Mina Avramova is one of the three faces of the production company Fortune Cookie, which won the FairFilmAward in 2020. Nadja Jumah has been a funding officer at the FFA since 2016, as the contact person for the areas of project film and reference film funding as well as for the commission Production & Screenplay. After many years of working in the film industry, Murat Isgüder (Movie Consult) is now a sought-after distribution expert. Since 1994 Björn Koll has been managing director of Salzgeber & Co. Medien GmbH and has already distributed well over 500 films ranging from queer cinema to documentaries and directorial debuts to world cinema.

360°

This year, Ioulia Isserlis, Mariam Rafehi and Tobias Wüstefeld will decide on the *Best 360° Film*. Ioulia Isserlis is a VR producer, director and writer. She is co-founder and CEO of AnotherWorld VR and has produced VR experiences for clients such as Balenciaga, Microsoft, Siemens and Telekom. Mariam Rafehi is an interdisciplinary designer, researcher and artist. She creates alternative worlds in virtual reality (VR) to confront audiences with unfamiliar experiences. Tobias Wüstefeld works as an animator and illustrator in Hamburg. He creates miniature worlds, which are partly brought to life through animation and partly made to be experienced as interactive work.

Future

In the Future section, a Kids Jury will decide on the *Best Children's Film* and a Teens Jury on the *Best Youth Film*.



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Kids

In the kids section, actresses Amely Trinkts (*How to Sell Drugs Online (Fast)*) and Leonore von Berg (*Vier zauberhafte Schwestern*) will decide on the *Best Children's Film* together with students Gemma Mues, Lydia Jahr and Anton Halten.

Teens

The *Best Youth Film* will be decided by *Babylon Berlin* actress Irene Böhm, Katharina Widl, from the ZDF series *Frühling*, film enthusiast Justus Halten, as well as Marwin Haas and Nils Wolf, from the Disney TV cooking series *An die Töpfe, fertig, lecker!*

Schreibsüchte

Lasse Scharpen, Verena Veihl and Karin Kaci will decide on the *Best Screenplay*. For almost 10 years, the managing director of Studio Zentral, Lasse Scharpen, has worked as a producer and supervised formats such as *DRUCK*, *Deutscher* or *Liebe Jetzt*. As an editor at rbb, Verena Veihl oversees the fictional LEUCHTSTOFF graduation films, as well as the short film series rbb movies from the Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF, and other fictional and entertainment formats for rbb and Das Erste. Karin Kaci is a screenwriter. Among others, she wrote the screenplays for the films *Eines Tages...* and *1000 Arten Regen zu beschreiben* which were successful at festivals worldwide.

The *Best Pitch* will be decided by Lucas Schmidt, Stefan Titze and Janna Nandzik. Lucas Schmidt is a producer at Studio Zentral. Since the end of 2017, Stefan Titze has been involved in the development of the series *How To Sell Drugs Online (Fast)*. For his work with the series, he was awarded the Grimme Prize, as well as the German Television Award. Janna Nandzik is a writer, (creative) producer and director. Her special fields include serial formats and the cross-platform conception of story worlds.

For more information on the individual jury members, please visit our [website](#).

Best wishes

Sehsüchte Team

