



51. Internationales Studierendenfilmfestival Sehsüchte
Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF
Marlene-Dietrich-Allee 11, 14482 Potsdam-Babelsberg

The Winners of the 51st Sehsüchte Potsdam the 24.04.2022

On Saturday, April 23rd, 2022, the winners and winning films of the 51st Sehsüchte International Student Film Festival were announced at the festive award ceremony in the presence of the audience, jury members, festival partners and numerous filmmakers. The prizes for the 12 categories are valued over 31.000€.



The evening was moderated by actress Helena Sattler, musically accompanied by soul singer Adama.

In the **feature film** section, LA TANA (Italy/ 2021/ R:Beatrice Baldacci) triumphed, impressing the jury with its haunting visual language, which transforms the film from a portrait of a summer flirt into a poetic work of film art about life and death, transporting the viewer visually into the film's own microcosm. The best feature film was awarded 5000€ by the Investitionsbank des Landes Brandenburg (ILB).

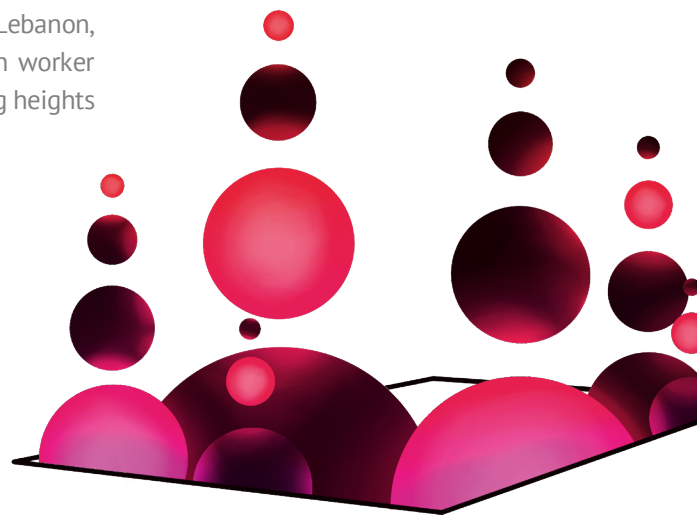
The prize for **best short film** goes to LILI ALONE (China, Hong Kong, Singapore/ 2021/ Director: Jing Zou). The jury praised the intertwining of scenography and acting, which expressively visualizes the emotional inner world of the protagonist. The film has the ability to lead the audience through the life of the protagonist with curiosity and growing trepidation. The best short film receives 2500€, donated by Studio Zentral.

A **special mention** goes out to the short fiction film WARSHA (Lebanon, France/ 2021/ R: Dania Bdeir), in which a Syrian construction worker experiences an unexpected moment of liberation in the dizzying heights of the crane operator's cabin.

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The winning film in the **feature documentary** section is HOW THE ROOM FELT (Georgia/ 2021 /R: Ketevan Kapanadze). The name lives up to its promise: from the very first second, viewers are locked into the lifestyle of a Georgian LGBTQ clique that has created a free, warm-hearted safe space for itself in a society that rejects it. The Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg donated 5000€ for the winning film.



HANDBUCH (Belarus, Germany/ 2021/ R: Pavel Mozhar) convinced the jury in the **documentary short** section. What starts as an ordinary closed room, fills up with several stories of torture and resistance against an authoritarian system over time, which makes the audience feel powerless. But most of all, the room ends up full with the endurance of people who have suffered but have not been broken. Adobe donated 2500€ for the winning film.

In this section, one film also earns a **special mention**. TÖCHTER (Germany/ 2021/ R: Quynh Le Nguyen, Katharina Soon-Hi Thaler, Stella Deborah Traub), whose minimalist realization has an inherent emotional impact and left all viewers wishing it existed in feature length.

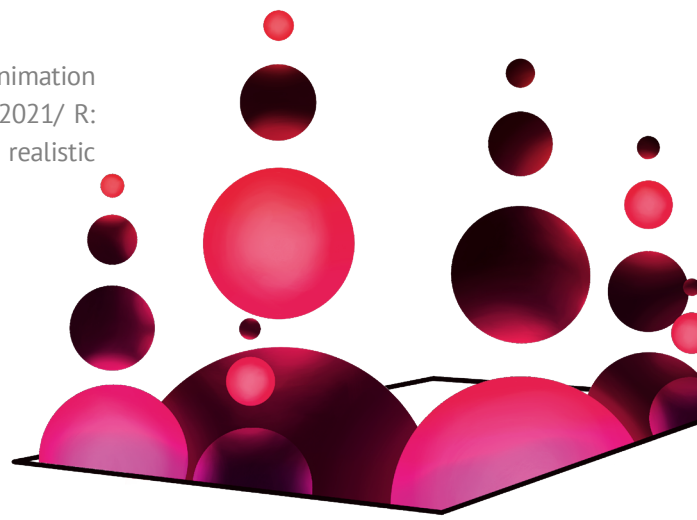
NOIR SOLEIL (France/ 2021/ R: Marie Larrivé) wins in the **animated film** section. A family mystery that stretches far into past generations unfolds on the beautiful Neapolitan coast. The picturesque locations around Mount Vesuvius impresses with an intense color palette and draws viewers into a trance-like spell, giving the story an even more immersive quality. The best animated film receives 2500€, donated by Red Parrot Studios.

The **special mention** of this section goes to the stop-motion animation and puppet film NIGHT (Germany, Qatar, Palestine, Jordan / 2021/ R: Ahmad Saleh), which especially impressed the jury with its realistic puppet design.

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The Kids jury chose REVELINHO (Netherlands/ 2021/ R: Idriss Nabil) as the winning film in the **Future section Kids** this year. They were touched by the cohesion of the three friends and therefore especially praised the performance of the actors. The city of Potsdam donated 2500€ for the winning film.

In the **Teens section**, the decision of our Teens jury fell on THE ODYSSEY (Australia/ 2021/ R: Emmanuelle Mattana). The film shows that despite a screen in between, you can fall in love and share dreams with another person. The likeness to reality in combination with the isolation of the characters impressed the young jury members, who had similar experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Studio Babelsberg donated 2500€ for the winning film.

The winner in the **Focus Production** section is the documentary HELLER WEG (Ukraine, Germany/ 2021/ R: Iryna Riabenska/ P: Felix Krumme, Iryna Riabenska), which could not be more topical in terms of content. To see how the subject matter of the documentary about the Ukrainian Donbass region, which was already submitted in December, became all the more relevant in April must also have shocked the filmmakers. Heller Weg wins both because of its outstanding production talent and for the courage of the producers and the entire film team. The winning film receives color correction worth 4000€ donated by CBBB and a workshop worth 1000€ donated by the Erich Pommer Institut.

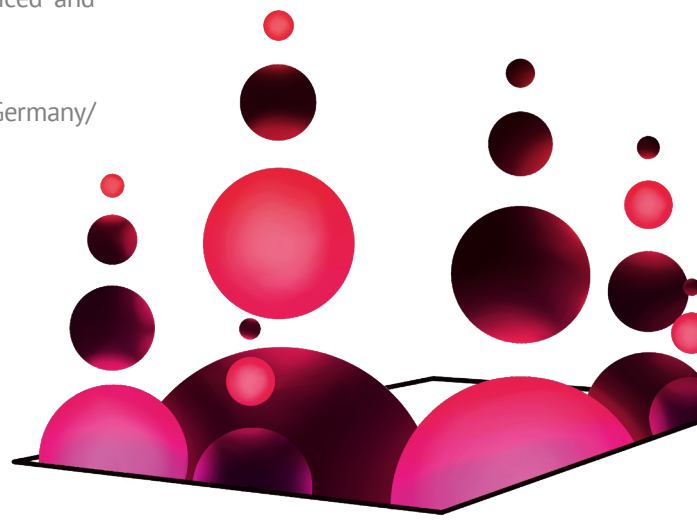
In addition, NAKAM (Germany/ 2022/ R: Andreas Kessler/ P: Max Breuer, Janick Gootz) receives a **special mention**. The film was financed and realized in high quality in cooperation with SWR.

The winning film in the **360°** section is A GROWLING SEA (Germany/ 2022/ R: Niklas Grüter).

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In *A GROWLING SEA*, sailors talk in voiceover about their experience of not being able to go ashore during the pandemic, while viewers experience the claustrophobic nature of the space of the ship in 360°. According to the jury, the film was convincing in that it showcases a considerate and attentive understanding of the VR format. The best film in this section wins 5000€ donated by INVR.Space.

The **special mention** of this section goes to *STRANDS OF MIND* (Germany/ 2021/ R: Adrian Meyer), which emerged as the audience's favorite during the festival days. The VR film shows images of genesis and creation, combined with elements of German fairy tales.

In the **Schreibsüchte** section, the script for "No Dogs Allowed" by Stephan Kämpf won over the jury. The members found the story of a teenage pedophile who is both perpetrator and victim touching and challenging at once. According to them, Stephan Kämpf's authorial qualities are evident in the well-researched topic, the densely constructed plot, a clear characterization and lifelike dialogues. The prize for the best script is donated by audible and amounts to 2500€.

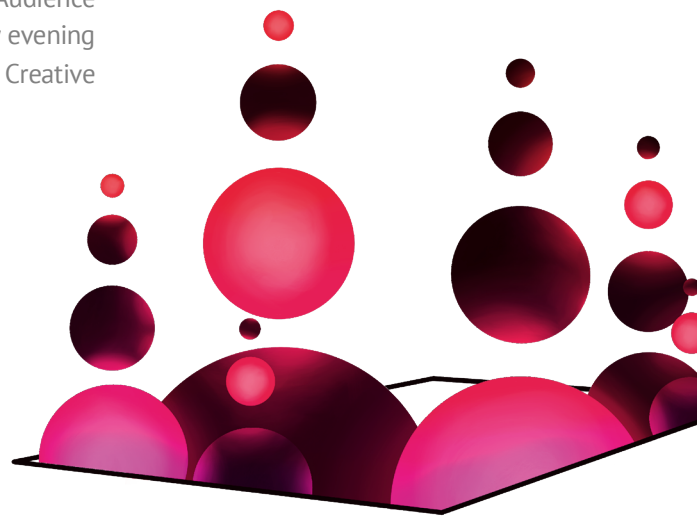
The best **Pitch** is won by "Eine Krankheit wie ein Gedicht" by Jelena Ilic. This pitch for a highly personal and emotional documentary proposes a mixed use of animation, photographs, video footage and interviews to tell the story of Ilic's special father-daughter relationship. The pitch winner is awarded a DramaQueen license.

SLOUCH (Germany/ 2022/ Michael Bohnenstingl) wins the Audience Award in the **Genre Film** section, which was voted for on Friday evening directly after the screening. The winning film receives an Adobe Creative Cloud subscription.

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The Sehsüchte team looks back on five successful festival days and thanks all partners, supporters and visitors. If needed, we would be happy to provide you with more information and additional materials. Press photos of the festival and the winners can be downloaded from our [website](#). If you have any questions, please contact: presse@sehsuechte.de

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With kind regards
the Sehsüchte Team

