

Press Release 25.03.2024

International experts in Babelsberg: Sehsüchte selects the best student films

53rd international *student*
film festival



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A renowned jury of experts from the international film industry has selected the winning films of this year's Sehsüchte Student Film Festival in Potsdam! To select the best works, eight juries viewed 1344 minutes of footage over the weekend.

A month before the start of the festival the jury members gathered at the Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF. After three intensive days of film watching, they have now decided on the nine best works of up-and-coming international filmmakers. "Political cinema continues to be big, social politics is a major topic and we see many films with a political message, especially in documentary films," emphasizes documentary film director Bianca Gleissinger, who celebrated a great success with her film "27 Stories" in 2023. The **Documentary Film** competition also consists of filmmakers Sue Meures, Gabriel B. Arrahnio, Daniel Abma and Can Tanyol.

The "Best **Feature Film**" and „Outstanding Artistic Achievement in a Feature Film" prizes are awarded by a renowned jury of five people. Curators Afsun Moshiry and Julia Fidel, actors Jerry Kwarteng and Victoire Laly as well as "SYSTEMSPRENGER" cameraman Yunus Roy Imer spent three days viewing newcomer films.

The young members of the **Children's Jury** also expressed their enthusiasm: "Exciting films that deal with many important topics - the environment, poverty, nature and animal protection". The first experience as a member of a jury left a positive impression. "Exhausting, but fun", commented one of the children, while another proclaimed: "The atmosphere at the Film University was great, it's a great building". The children's jury, consisting of Lotta Schwericke (11), Ahmed Abdel Mahmoud (12), Willy Löffler (10), Anton Pulina (11) and Cosima Brandner (10), is looking forward to announcing their final decisions and choosing the winning films.

This year's **Animation Jury** is made up of the following high-calibre international animators: Raman Djafari, Juan Pablo Zaramella, Magdalena Pilecka, Michelle Brand and Ana Chubinidze. The 360° film jury, consisting of VR producer Naima Karim, Christian Zipfel and Pedro Harres, 2003 Oscar nominee Koji Yamamura and journalist Julia Leeb, assessed how excellent immersive storytelling works with the help of VR glasses.

The actor and storyteller Hassan Akkouch talks about the "**Schreibsüchte**" submissions he has already seen: "A lot of the material we have read is noteworthy. It's important to maintain what drives you and the questions you ask yourself. Especially with students, I always hope that they are courageous." The other members of the jury for the "**Schreibsüchte**" screenplay competition are Farah Bouamar, Clara Zoe My-Linh von Arnim, Linda König and Lukas Wesslowski. They will award the prize for "Best Screenplay".

In 2024, Sehsüchte will honor the best interplay of **Sound and Film Music** for the first time. The jury for this competition consists of sound designer and chairwoman of the professional association Filmtone e.V. Kirsten Kunhardt and film sound engineer Klaus-Peter Schmitt, who designed the sound for "Babylon Berlin", among others. Films from this section can be enjoyed in full sound quality at the Filmmuseum Potsdam from 25 April 2024. The Sehsüchte trophies will be awarded at the award ceremony on 27 April 2024 at the Filmmuseum Potsdam.