71st International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, 29 April – 4 May 2025

All Awards of the 71st International Short Film Festival Oberhausen

Award ceremony: Sunday, 4 May 2025, 7:00 p.m. CEST, Lichtburg Filmpalast, Elsässer Str. 26, 46045 Oberhausen

High-resolution stills of award-winning films are available in the Downloads section from Monday, 5 May, here: https://www.kurzfilmtage.de/en/presse/

Awards of the International Competition

Awards of the International Jury

Members:
Antti Alanen (Finland), Bea de Visser (Netherlands), Philbert Aimé Mbabazi Sharangabo (Rwanda/Switzerland), Elisabeth Streit (Austria), Susanna Wallin (USA/UK)

Grand Prize of the City of Oberhausen
worth 8,000 euros

Jailoogo Karay Uzak Jol
(Long Way to the Pasture)
Ilgiz-Sherniiaz Tursunbek uulu
Kyrgyzstan 2025, 23‘35“, colour

Statement:
A cinematic energy is unleashed in a film of a shepherding family’s move to summer pastures in Kyrgyzstan. A way of capturing the moments of this human and animal life’s migration over a wild river. All creatures are revealed in the heat of action, totally immersed in the moment. Moving with the forces of nature and its elements. Remarkable cinematography and use of light and motion.

Principal Prize
worth 4,000 euros

Dvorts∞vaya
(The Palace Sq∞are)
Mikhail Zheleznikov
Israel 2024, 22‘, colour/black and white

Statement:
The Alexander Column is the axis of encounters on the Palace Square in St. Petersburg. Starting from a witty photomontage, the film expands to a broader narrative; a film that equally captures a place and time. The First World War is declared, the Winter Palace is stormed, and in one shock cut, we move from the Russian Revolution to the dismantling of the Soviet Union. For the filmmaker there is never a faceless crowd, always a crowd of individuals with faces that are still watching us today.

Promotional Prize of the International Competition
worth 1,500 euros

Gusarapos
(Crawlies)
Ulysse de Maximy
Mexico 2024, 17‘55“, colour

Statement:
The filmmaker guides us to a family, drawing from his own experiences with madness, centering on the voice recordings and observations of a schizophrenic uncle. We feel a strong individual voice transformed into a unique cinematic language. The story is disturbing and moving at the same time. We feel it more than we read it.

European Film Awards Short Film Candidate

Common Pear
Gregor Božič
Slovenia/UK 2025, 15‘, colour

Statement:
A new generation is awakening in an environment where one cannot survive. They use the archive to study the recent past to achieve knowledge from the previous generations. Voices from the past lead us to a poetic exploration of nature threatened by the climate catastrophe. A near-future fiction film about the loss of nature and how to navigate this reality.

Special Mentions

Será inmortal quien merezca serlo
(Whoever Deserves It, Will Be Immortal)
Nay Mendl
Cuba 2024, 19‘, colour

Statement:
How do we remember a beloved person? A film that relates to the queer present and a previous generation in the name of Winston Hernandez. Old photographs show the history interwoven with the present reality of queer people in Cuba. A repressive government installed detention camps for these people regardless of their political convictions. The film reveals the voices of this community.

Aswin Pyaung Lelkyinn Titehku
(A Metamorphosis)
Lin Htet Aung
Myanmar 2024, 16‘39“, colour

Statement:
In this film the filmmaker transforms the experiences of what it is like to grow up with state television propaganda into a kind of counter-broadcast. An outstanding exploration of the possibilities of AI in the compositions and its narratives.
This distorted, eerie broadcast explores the daily experiences of living in a dictatorship accompanied by a lullaby that might haunt you forever: Yee, lé-lé! Yee, lé-lé!

1st Prize of the Jury of the Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia
worth 5,000 euros

Members:
Bernd Brehmer (Germany), Stephan Brüggenthies (Germany), Ruth Schiffer (Germany), Silke Schönfeld (Germany), Ulrike Sprenger (Germany)

Myakish
(Crumb)
Elena Kulesh
Russia 2025, 28‘45“, colour

Statement:
The “Njet” as a bracket. Three young men full of longing, looking for a life of their own against all odds. We gain insights into a society in which the wishes and needs of the weaker members are thwarted by patriarchal violence.

2nd Prize of the Jury of the Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia
worth 3,000 euros

Jailoogo Karay Uzak Jol
(Long Way to the Pasture)
Ilgiz-Sherniiaz Tursunbek uulu
Kyrgyzstan 2025, 23‘35“, colour

Statement:
A family in Kyrgysztan take their livestock to the summer pasture. Intense, almost magical images make the audience part of this journey. This film always finds the right rhythm, precisely observing the interplay of forces between humans and nature.

Special Mention

Les Fenêtres
(Windows)
Elsa Pennacchio/Etienne De Villars
Frankreich 2024, 13‘42“, Farbe

Statement:
When prisoners’ thoughts set the walls in motion.

The International Critics’ Prize (FIPRESCI Prize)

Members:
Giuseppe Di Salvatore (Switzerland), Kathrin Häger (Germany), Nini Shvelidze (Georgia)

Common Pear
Gregor Božič
Slovenia/UK 2025, 15‘, colour

Statement:
The FIPRESCI Film Critic Award 2025 goes to a film that focuses on caring for trees and highlights the intergenerational responsibility for the climate breakdown. Also, on the dramaturgical level the vegetables create a visual bridge between science fiction and documentary. A dystopian view filled with a feeling of loss and melancholia introduces us to a place of refuge where we can hope for repair. Here the documentary elements are put at a distance through the analysis of images. The cinematic immersion, enhanced by impressive photography and elaborate framing, leaves room for a reflection about an urgent “common fear” to which anyone can feel connected, and probably re-connected with nature.

Prize of the Ecumenical Jury
worth 1,500 euros

Members:
Michael Müller (Germany), Mina Radović (United Kingdom), Valeriia Shakhunova (Poland)

Drogi Leo Sokolosky
(Dear Leo Sokolosky)
Weronika Szyma
Poland 2024, 8‘, colour

Statement:
By employing minimalist animation with live action resurrected from family archives, this film transports the viewer through Ansbach and the inner space of one woman's journey to find her great-grandfather who went through the labour camps of the Second World War. Making the past present, and bringing together history, documentary and critical personal reflection, Drogi Leo Sokolosky is a wondrous cinematic diary that gives us the rare opportunity to pull back the curtain and peer into the depths of a human soul.

Special Mention

Nocturno
(Nocturne)
Sol Muñoz/Ana Apontes
Argentina 2025, 14‘28“, colour

Statement:
Inviting us into the atmospheric care-free world of childhood, the film captures two sisters walking through the night as their father works as a security guard for an affluent neighbourhood. Contrasting the loneliness of locked up condominiums with the freedom of sisters discovering an open and wide world, Nocturne is a delicate work of social critique and an existential reminder of what it really means to live life embraced by love.

ZONTA Prize
worth 1,000 euros
for a female filmmaker in the International or German Competition

She Crossed
Zhang Daisy Ziyan
USA 2024, 20‘, colour

Statement:
A portrait always tells us something about the portrayed and the one portraying. The film in question doesn't merely portray care work, but creates a cinematic form through rhythm and observation to convey precarity, tenderness and evanescence; the gentle passion as well as aesthetic grandeur of human encounters. Through an homage to a very particular woman, it celebrates intimacy, trust and activities carried out by millions of women around the world without recognition. The protagonist's love for plants is mirrored in the attention with which the filmmaker turns to the most ephemeral phenomena, be it a raindrop or the passing expression of a face.

Awards of the German Competition

Members of the Jury:
Adrian Figueroa (Germany), Amos Ponger (Germany), Giovanna Thiery (Germany)

Prize of the German Competition
worth 5,000 euros

Hay un dolor
(There's a Pain)
Froilán Urzagasti
Germany/Bolivia 2024, 39'51", colour

Statement:
With great poetic power and subtle observation, the film unfolds a nuanced panorama of work, migration and community. Combining documentary moments with fictional elements in quiet, precisely composed images, it creates a narrative of foreignness, belonging and shared experiences in both public and private spaces.

Promotional Prize of the German Competition
worth 1,500 euros

Haha no tegami
(Mother's Letter)
Sylvia Schedelbauer
Germany 2025, 25'05", colour/black and white

Statement:
In her film, the filmmaker paints a poetic tale of two personal journeys on which mother and daughter are reflected in each other. A journey of emancipation and migration, and a journey of remembrance. Using archive material, the filmmaker weaves an intimate and multi-layered document of longing, transience, freedom and reconciliation.

3sat Emerging Talent Prize
worth 2,500 euros
In addition the award includes a buying option on the awarded work to be broadcast on 3sat.

Monument
Maksim Avdeev
Germany 2024, 14‘45“, colour

Statement:
The film is a reflection on filmmaking itself – as an act of empowerment and an attempt to speak about the unspeakable. In a documentary approach between two generations, a telephone call is interwoven with family videos and becomes a multi-layered mirror of familial, political and emotional tensions. The search for understanding becomes a confrontation with traditional values and ideological constructs, without providing simple answers. The precise interplay of sound and image, present and memory, proximity and distance creates an open space for dialogue, doubt and transformation.

Special Mention

Amanhã não dão chuva
(It Shouldn’t Rain Tomorrow)
Maria Trigo Teixeira
Portugal/Germany 2024, 11‘30“, colour

Statement:
In her poetic work, the filmmaker paints an emotionally complex picture of a mother-daughter relationship. Fear and loss are processed in a lyrical animation.

Awards of the 17th NRW Competition

Members of the Jury:
Neriman Bayram (Germany), Oliver Flothkötter (Germany), Lili Hartwig (Germany)

Prize of the NRW Competition
worth 1,000 euros

Overwork
Céline Berger
Germany 2025, 10‘10“, colour

Statement:
Precise movements, mechanical hand movements, small-scale work steps. Always rhythmical, always following a fixed choreography. An arrangement of found images that highlights the significance of work which is becoming more and more intangible in the age of AI and digitization, and which celebrates the craft of montage itself.

Promotional Prize of the NRW Competition
worth 500 euros

Chrysanthemum

Jingyuan Luo
Germany 2025, 9‘20“, colour

Statement:
Impotent grief, concealed and covered up by state censorship. An approach from a distance. Subtle animations and repetitive movement patterns create a poetic attempt to transform the intangible into remembrance.

Special Mention

ghosting mother
Bernhard Mescherowsky
Germany 2025, 16‘58“, black and white

Statement:
The development process leaves traces on the 16mm stock, just like the passing of time destroys the grave. In search of remembrance, the filmmaker not only portrays his mother but also the attempt to create his own ritual of mourning.

Prize of the WDR Westart Audience Jury
worth 750 euros, sponsored by WDR Westart

Members:
Reinhard Beckmann, Vera Conrad, Susanne Degener, Agnes Lampkin, Nicole Lohner, Dorothea Musik, Reinhold Radermacher, Torsten Schilinsky, Maren Scheele, Gabriele Sommer, Sandra Walter

ghosting mother
Bernhard Mescherowsky
Germany 2025, 16‘58“, black and white

Statement:
A son says farewell, looking for traces. His mother died too early, giving him no more time to ask questions. What does he know about her beyond her role as mother? About her dreams, longings, hopes. What do we know about each other? Which memories will remain?
A very personal film, deeply moving and experimental. The 16mm stock disintegrates like a sick body. The images fade, dissolve.
We were touched by this exploration of grief, the simple words, the visual design, the soundtrack, the idea.

Awards of the 48th International Children’s and Youth Film Competition

Awards of the Children’s Jury

Members:
Adam Dadirkh, Carla Hentschel, Lara Seidel, Finja Telge, Carla van Benthem

Prize of the Children’s Jury

worth 1,000 euros, sponsored by Wirtschaftsbetriebe Oberhausen (WBO)

Autokar
Sylwia Szkiłądź
France/Belgium 2025, 17‘, colour

Statement:
What we liked about our winning film was that the girl was courageous enough to go on such a long journey by bus alone. In the film, all the people in the bus change into animals, which we thought was fascinating because they scared the girl less than before. Some of the animals’ characters were not at all what we expected. The she-wolf, for example, was really nice at the end. Our favourite scene was when the girl grew and lifted her house.

Promotional Prize of the Children’s Jury
worth 1,000 euros, sponsored by Energieversorgung Oberhausen AG (evo)

A Small Garden by the Window
Lee Jonghoon
South Korea 2024, 4‘35“, colour

Statement:
Our award winner takes up an important topic: climate change. The issue was well presented even without words. The film shows that one individual can make a real change. We especially liked the green cuties that drank rainwater from the air in one scene. The animation was particularly cool.

Special Mention

Shan Shen De Huang Yan
(The Lie of the Mountain God)
China 2024, 15‘55“, colour

Statement:
What we liked about our Special Mention was that real people acted in the film. In this film, a child has seen the Mountain God, but nobody believes him. It was good to see that the child still believed in the story and gave free rein to his imagination. And it was nice that the grandmother supported the boy at the end. Our favourite scene was when the boy stole the scarecrow.

Prize of the Youth Jury
worth 1,000 euros, sponsored by the Rotary Club Oberhausen

Members:
Dersem Hasan, Phil Laskowski, Danilo Lopez da Silva, Nazanin Semo, Linda Tenge

Ik Zeg Je Eerlijjk
(Honestly)
Eva Nijsten
Netherlands 2024, 24‘16“, colour

Statement:

This documentary really made us think. By creating a space where people can discuss sexual, religious and cultural diversity openly and freely, Peter shows that conflict and force are not the way to solve problems and that a solution need not necessarily be the goal. That's why the film does not try to instruct, nor does Peter. Instead, his questions and statements inspire us to ask our own questions. They make us laugh, despair and hope, creating a need for exchange. And only when there is exchange will we be able to move towards each other instead of turning away from the other.

SURPRISE. Prize for the most surprising film

worth 1,000 euros, sponsored by Methode Film

Gravity

Robotina
Italy/Mexico 2024, 8'40", colour

The SURPRISE goes to a film in which a change of gravity changes the action. While this animation begins in a very imaginative and futuristic way that seems far from our reality, its surprising end is a critique of human consumerism and the irresponsible way garbage is handled. And yet the Italian Banger at the end sounds like hope and solidarity.

Special Mention

Kismet

Žiga Virc
Slovenia 2025, 14'56", colour

Statement:
Our Special Mention goes to a film that opens insights into the most intimate moments of a family consisting of women from different generations who disagree about the traditions of their Roma community. While the main character longs for freedom and independence, her grandmothers fears the disintegration of tradition. It was especially interesting to us that all actors are actually part of the community and partly improvised their own stories. While this feature film shows some dark and oppressive situations in the young girl's life, we quickly realise that she also finds a lot of love and understanding in her family. We think that this is important, because otherwise it would simply be a confirmation of outsiders' pre-existing prejudices.

Prize of the Ecumenical Jury of the Children's and Youth Film Competition

worth 1,500 euros

Members:
Andreas Greif (Germany), Jochen Mündlein (Germany), Boglárka Paksa (Hungary)

Autokar

Sylwia Szkiłądź
France/Belgium 2025, 17', colour

Statement:
Agata's journey from Poland to Belgium offers a universal perspective on leaving one's homeland and explores identity and tradition with sensitivity. In times of political and social polarisation, the film confronts the fear of otherness and provides a valuable insight into human connection that resonates across all age groups.

Special Mention

Happy Snaps
Tyro Heath
UK 2024, 12‘03“, colour

Statement:
Happy Snaps offers a sensitive portrayal of a friendship that must face the challenges of separation and loss over the course of the film. It provides an important and inclusive perspective on relationships shaped by the human need to hold on and the emotional process of coping with change.

ECFA Short Film Award
(The award consists of a nomination for the ECFA Short Film Award 2025)

Members:
Raluca Bugnar (Romania), Pantelis Panteloglou (Greece), Teresa Lima (Portugal)

Gravity
Robotina
Italy/Mexico 2024, 8‘40“, colour

Statement:
After loving many, many of the selected shorts, our three member jury agreed on a film that surprised us the most.
When the world turns upside down there are things that fly away and things that stand firmly on the ground. This film charmed us with this unexpected plot and its authentic unique aesthetic. We all need a little reminder now and then to become aware of all that is abandoned in our lives and embrace it again.
A film that creates an entire viable universe in under nine minutes, with such creativity and plot twists, that it will be keeping the audience on their toes as they enjoy the ride.

27th MuVi Award

Awarded on Saturday, 3 May 2025, 10 pm CEST, Lichtburg Filmpalast, Elsässer Str. 26, 46045 Oberhausen

Members of the Jury:
Lin Htet Aung (Myanmar), Xenia Lesniewski (Austria), Jo Zimmermann (Germany)

1st Prize
worth 2,000 euros

K-BOB STAR (Cardi B)
Hansol Kim
Germany/South Korea 2024, 3‘01“, colour

2nd Prize

worth 1,000 euros

Quand le grenier aura pris feu (Anadol & Marie Klock)
Utku Önal
Germany/France 2025, 6‘13“, colour

MuVi Online Audience Award
chosen by online vote on www.muvipreis.de and worth 500 euros

looking @ ghosts (die hunde x prozpera)
Jeremias Heppeler
Germany/Japan 2024, 5‘07“, colour

Oberhausen, 4 May 2025

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