***Up the Mountain* and *Una Primavera* Win 15th ZagrebDox Big Stamps!**

**The young jury award goes to *Still Recording* by Saeed Al Batal and Ghiath Ayoub, Dević’s *In the Name of the Republic of Croatia* wins regional jury special mention and Honorary Stamps go to Hrvoje Hribar and Tue Steen Müller.**

**Zagreb, 2 March 2019** – At the official award ceremony which took place on Saturday afternoon in theatre 3 of Kaptol Boutique Cinema in Kaptol Centre, the award-winning films of the 15th edition of ZagrebDox were honoured.

Thirty-seven films ran for the festival awards, Big Stamps in international and regional competition. The three-member **international jury** consisted of: director **Nebojša Slijepčević**, the jury chair, film critic and advisor **Tue Steen Müller**, and director **Želimir Žilnik**. Bog Stamp for the best film in international competition went to the Chinese film ***Up the Mountain*** by **Yang Zhang**. Their statement said: “The film captivates with its visual beauty and directing skills, introduces us into the life of a remote community, depicting celebrations, grief, birth and death, spectacular parties and intimate conversations. We can rightfully say that each shot in this film is like a painting, a glorious meditation about true values in life.” The international jury also presented two **special mentions**: to the film ***Minding the Gap*** by American director **Bing Liu** and ***My Unknown Soldier*** by Ukrainian director **Anna Kryvenko**.

The **regional jury** consisted of: Bosnian and Herzegovinian director **Nedžad Begović**, Sheffield Doc/Fest acting director **Melanie Iredale** and Croatian TV reporter, director and Motovun Film Festival director **Igor Mirković**. Big Stamp for the best regional competition film went to the film ***Una Primavera*** by **Valentina Primavera**, an Austrian-Italian-German co-production. The jury said in their statement: “Our winning film is a very personal insight in to domestic abuse, and a great example of a filmmaker turning their camera on their own dysfunctional family to produce a work so intimate and warm whilst making a bigger statement about the systemic issue of patriarchal violence and coercion. The documentary’s central character is a 60-year-old woman who after 40 years of marriage, is not afraid to boldly start her life all over again, and her daughter’s filmmaking is just as bold.” The regional jury also gave two special mentions: to the Croatian film ***In the Name of the Republic of Croatia*** by **Goran Dević** and ***4 Years in 10 Minutes*** by **Mladen Kovačević.**

The **young jury** consisted of: Danish director **Christian Sønderby Jepsen**, Croatian director **Zorko Sirotić** and Serbian director **Marko Grba Singh**. Little Stamp for best film by an author up to 35 years of age went to the film ***Still Recording*** by **Saeed Al Batal** and **Ghiathi Ayoub**, a co-production of five countries: Lebanon, Syria, France, Qatar and Germany. The jury statement says: “The main award the Little Stamp goes to an honest inside story from hell. With camera as a weapon, film's protagonists overcome fear and send out the truth while maintaining friendship and unity in the midst of the ruins of Syria.” The young jury also gave two special mentions: to the Hungarian film ***Easy Lessons*** by **Dorottya Zurbó** and the Serbian film ***Taurunum Boy*** by **Jelena Maksimović** and **Dušan Grubin**.

At this year’s ZagrebDox, the **FIPRESCI Award** was presented for the second time. The jury of the International Film Critics Federation consisted of the Croatian film critic **Dragan Jurak**, film critic from Belarus **Irena Kotelovich** and Italian film critic **Roberto Tirapelle**, and the award went to the Italian film ***Stories of the Half-Light*** by **Luca Magi**. “Every story is a novel, a film, a catastrophe. For its style, depth and ability to say a lot through very cinematic language, dramatic but also gentle, sharp but mellow manner FIPRESCI prize goes to *Stories of the Half-Light*,” said the jury statement.

The **Movies That Matter jury** consisted of political scientist and activist **Sara Kekuš**, Georgian director **Rati Oneli** and Animateka Ljubljana director **Igor Prassel**. The jury members gave the award for the film that best promotes human rights to the Hungarian film ***Easy Lessons***, directed by **Dorottya Zurbó**, with the following statement: “*Easy Lessons* is a strong personal story of a young Somali refugee finding herself in Hungary. Excellent dramaturgy and editing underscore the significance of Kafia’s lonely journey. Through nuancedly layered personal story about identity, acceptance and finding a new home, we glimpse universal questions and lessons about finding your place in the world, when you cannot return to the place you call home. Despite the gravity of situation and hard choices, the resilience, strength and lightness of her spirit make all these difficult obstacles feel like easy lessons. We were impressed by her persistence in trying to find humanity in the world where she lost everything.”

Special mentions in the Movies That Matter category went to the German-British-Australian film ***Island of the Hungry Ghosts*** directed by **Gabrielle Brady** and ***On Her Shoulders*** by **Alexandria Bombach**.

The **Teen Dox Award** to the best film about youth issues went to the American film ***Science Fair*** by **Cristina Constantini** and **Darren Foster**. The jury comprised students from the School of Graphic Design and Media Production in Zagreb. “This film surprised and impressed us with all of its segments. From extremely good production to the structure of the story. All the characters in the film are different, but equally represented. All of their stories contributed to the depth of the film and this depth conveyed the emotions that immersed us deep into this film. The film made us yearn for new knowledge and learning, which is a very difficult task since the ten of us are teenagers. We are very surprised with the quality of all the films we saw, but *Science Fair* won our hearts,” said the jury statement.

**My Generation Award** – presented by **Nenad Puhovski**, the founder and director of ZagrebDox to an author of his generation – went to the film ***To Be Continued*** by **Ivars Seleckis**. “My Generation Award goes to the film *To Be Continued*, by Latvian director Ivars Seleckis, a master of documentary film, the filmmaker who also won the European Film Academy Award and other awards named after documentary film icons Joris Ivens and Robert Flaherty. The film To Be Continued inspires ease, subtle humour and youthful freshness and we truly cannot wait to screen the sequel in a few years,” said Nenad Puhovski’s statement.

The Honorary Stamp for long professional collaboration, friendship and support to ZagrebDox,went to **Hrvoje Hribar** and **Tue Steen Müller.** “Celebrating the festival’s 15th birthday, ZagrebDox wishes to say thank you to all those who helped us grow, evolve and persevere over the course of all these years. Thanking everyone, literally hundreds of them who, one way or another, built a part of themselves into our festival is practically impossible. Therefore we decided to say a symbolical thank you and give the Honorary Stamp to just two of them – one Croatian and one international documentary scene representative. Our first choice is Mr Tue Steen Müller, a friend and supporter of our festival from the very beginning. Its role is probably best described by the fact that at the very first ZagrebDox, in 2005, he played three roles – a jury member, a Danish documentary selection curator, and a documentary project workshop coordinator. His involvement continued in the years to come. By thanking Tue, we also thank the European Documentary Network, the umbrella organisation of European documentary filmmakers. Tue is one of its founders and the first managing director, and the network also helped our festival a great deal. The second Honorary Stamp goes to Hrvoje Hribar, a director and former Croatian Audiovisual Centre managing director, primarily because of the fact that his understanding, knowledge and passion made a great impact on the establishment of documentary film’s position in Croatia, in all its development, production and presentation stages.

Naturally, this honour, like in the previous case, goes to the Croatian Audiovisual Centre and all its employees whose joint effort helped stabilise, evolve and maintain Croatian documentary production even when it was not easy,” said Nenad Puhovski.

The best project of this year’s edition of ZagrebDox Pro training programme, according to the joint decision of all the panellists is the Hungarian project *Raising Predators* by **Réka Ugron** and producer **Lászlo Józs**, who won the ZagrebDox Pro DCP Award. The ZagrebDox Pro Online Mentor Award went to director **Anđelka Vujinović** and the co-author and DoP **Mija Mujović** for the project ***4 Goodnight Stories***. The HBO Europe Award, a diploma and 2000 euro went to the Serbian-Croatian project ***Museum of the Revolution***by Srđan Keča, presented by the co-producer Vanja Jambrović.

The winner of the **HT Audience Award** will be known on Saturday night after all the screenings in international and regional competition and presented on Sunday, 3 March at 8pm.

The 15th edition of ZagrebDox screened over 100 films in 16 programme sections. The festival was attended by over 150 guests from all over the world and many screenings were full to capacity. On Sunday, 3 March, the audience will have a chance to see **extra screenings** of the most popular festival titles, and **The Best of Fest** screens all the award-winning titles of this year’s festival edition. Ticket price for The Best of Fest on Sunday, 3 March for all the six screenings in one theatre is 65 kuna and 20 kuna for individual screenings. Tickets canbe purchased only at the Kaptol Boutique Cinema box office.

ZagrebDox takes place with the support of the **City of Zagreb** and **Croatian Audiovisual Centre** and ZagrebDox Pro with the support of **Creative Europe – MEDIA Sub-programme**. The festival’s general sponsor is **Croatian Telecom**.

**Trailers**

Up the Mountain, dir. Yang Zhang: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMRoxjMWY1w

Minding the Gap, dir. Bing Liu https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5Vm\_Awe3bw

My Unknown Soldier, dir. Anna Kryvenko https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kt3whhqheo

Una primavera, dir. Valentina Primavera: https://vimeo.com/293302649

In the name of the Republic of Croatia, dir. Goran Dević: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjsFnxGsxFI

Still recording, dir. Saeed Al Batal and Ghiath Ayoub: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYOnsi03IWw

4 Years in 10 Minutes, dir. Mladen Kovačević https://vimeo.com/259301316

Easy Lessons, dir. Dorrotya Zurbó: https://vimeo.com/293172178

Taurunum Boy, dir. Jelena Maksimović and Dušan Grubin https://vimeo.com/282905879

Stories of the Half-Light, dir. Luca Magi https://vimeo.com/260020017

Island of the Hungry Ghosts, dir. Gabrielle Brady https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKBGCyIEE1Y

On Her Shoulders, dir. Alexandria Bombach https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RRE1DWK8cU

Science Fair, dir. Cristina Constantini and Darren Foster :https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJdYLAc-gzM

To Be Continued, dir. Ivars Seleckis: https://vimeo.com/258585241

**Press materials**

https://app.box.com/s/yulxqwq7is6czdje9x82s0k7g4x68zvq

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