

VIENNA SHORTS – Online Edition: Austrian Short Film Award to Christoph Schwarz

Viennese artist with essay film “The best city is not a city” also candidate for European Film Award – International main prizes for fantasy film “Sun Dog” (BE) and computer animation “Genius Loci” (FR) – Nearly 20,000 euros prize money

You can't get more Vienna: The 15-minute essay film “The best city is no city at all” by the Viennese Christoph Schwarz is awarded the Austrian Short Film Award of the 17th edition of VIENNA SHORTS. The documentary work, which deals with the Seestadt Aspern as the capital's largest expansion area from several perspectives, receives 3,000 euros plus 2,000 euros as a post-production voucher and was also nominated by the jury as a candidate for the European Film Award.

The main prizes in the two international competitions go to Belgium and France. The Vienna Short Film Award (4,000 euros) in the feature film and documentary competition Fiction & Documentary goes to the fantasy film “Sun Dog” by Dorian Jaspers (BE). The ASIFA Austria Award (2,000 euros) in the Animation Avantgarde competition goes to Adrien Merigeau for his computer animation “Genius Loci”, which has already been awarded at the Berlinale. Both films are thus qualified for the Academy Awards.

The jury prizes, which are awarded for special achievements, go to the young Upper Austrian Raphaela Schmid for her tragicomic drama “Fish Like Us” (2,000 euros + 1,000 euros post-production voucher), to the Chinese duo An Xu and Chen Xi for the 2D animation “The Six” and to the Brazilian Ana Vaz for her documentary project “Apiyemiyekî?” (Why?). Xu/Xi and Vaz each receive 1,050 euros as well as residencies in Vienna in 2021. Vaz's film is the third to be sent into the Oscar race.

Austrian Music Video Award to Rupert Höller – Coubia best female director

For the 8th time already, the Austrian Music Video Award is awarded within the framework of Vienna Shorts. After videos for Bilderbuch and Zebra Katz, this year's award, which is endowed with 1,000 euros, goes to Rupert Höller's video “Über Nacht” for the band Oehl. The gala for the Music Video Award should have taken place this year at the Porgy & Bess jazz club in Vienna; but there, on Sunday, only the festival's sole analog event took place: the live gig of the band MELA, which was made possible at short notice.

Across all competitions, two prizes will go to two films that have made a lasting impression: The Elfi Dassanowsky Foundation in honor of the Austrian film pioneer honored the Frenchwoman Manon Coubia for her mountain adventure “Tide” as best female director of the festival (1,000 euros). The youth jury, consisting of three 15-year-old schoolgirls from Vienna, awarded “THORAX” by the Upper Austrian Siegfried A. Fruhauf as the best Austrian experimental film.

Directors Bauer & Ebner: “Overjoyed how the adventure went”

The international short film festival VIENNA SHORTS was held as an online edition in 2020 due to the pandemic. More than 5,000 films from all over the world were submitted for the festival, a total of 96 were ultimately up for selection in four competition categories for the prominent and international juries. The festival prizes are endowed with a total of almost 20,000 euros. The audience awards, which are determined via Vevox.app, will not be announced until Tuesday evening. In total, the festival made around 280 films in over 50 film programs available on a specially developed streaming platform.



“In view of the short time available to us since mid-March, we are overjoyed with how the adventure online edition has gone,” said the two festival directors Doris Bauer and Daniel Ebner. “We transferred the entire festival from the analog to the digital world in the shortest possible time and worked day and night with our team to make it possible to hold the festival after all. And even though we are already longing for the cinema and the big screen again, we have learned a lot in the past months, weeks and days and have taken a lot with us for the future.”