

MAY 28, 2022

10TH AUSTRIAN MUSIC VIDEO AWARD GOES TO MATTHEW GERGES FOR “MAKE ME CRY – ON BELLS”

Viennese filmmaker convinced the jury with his performative video for On Bells—Special mention for “Borders” by Nenda—Award ceremony during VIENNA SHORTS festival at METRO Kinokulturhaus

The first winner of the 19th edition of VIENNA SHORTS has been announced: **Matthew Gerges received the Austrian Music Video Award (MUVI) for his music video for “Make Me Cry” by On Bells.** At the award ceremony on Friday evening (May 27) at METRO Kinokulturhaus, the jury praised the way Gerges softens “the boundaries between the intimate and the obscene”. The prize, awarded for the tenth time, is endowed with € 1,500 and was donated by the Professional Association of the Film and Music Industry (FAMA).

In the music video for On Bells, the solo project of Styrian musician and visual artist Jakob Kolb, Gerges stages a toxic relationship between two men who alternately seduce and fight each other. A “golden shower” is as much a part of the performance as a candle sticking out of the anus of one of the performers. “While watching it, you partake in acts of intimate pleasure, and the composition (of image and music) makes you want to join in on this unconventional playground,” reads the verdict of the jury, consisting of curator Hanna Bauer, film critic Savina Petkova, and filmmaker and last year’s winner Lorenz Uhl.

SPECIAL MENTION FOR NENDA

An honorable mention was given to “Borders” by Nenda Neururer aka NENDA. In her self-staged video and the accompanying song, the Tyrolean rapper deals with the effect that—often randomly drawn—borders have on the individual. The jury was struck by “how the feel-good artistic expression can mislead us in the best possible way. Multiple layers of meaning converge in a homogenous style, political and urgent, unafraid to call injustice by its name and to do so with precision—to engage, to challenge, to channel the artist’s power for change.” NENDA was also nominated for the MUVI last year with the music video for her song “Mixed Feelings”.

A total of 18 music videos were nominated at the jubilee edition of the Austrian Music Video Award, with winner Matthew Gerges also in the running with a second video, “Genesis – ANTHEA feat. Ayegy”. The screening and award ceremony took place on Friday evening (May 27) at METRO Kinokulturhaus, along with a live concert by ANTHEA and hosted by FM4 editor Gersin Livia Paya.

ABOUT THE AUSTRIAN MUSIC VIDEO AWARD

The Austrian Music Video Award **was first presented in 2013.** Year after year, it gathers a comprehensive selection of diverse genres and aesthetics from both promising newcomers and established acts. “Since the competition’s beginnings in 2013, we’ve been excited to see that, along with constant professionalization, there has

always been room for experiments to surprise us,” said Christoph Etzlsdorfer, who heads the selection and has been part of the programming team since the beginning.

AWARDED FILMS SINCE 2013

2022: Make Me Cry – On Bells, Director: Matthew Gerges

2021: BRUMM BRUMM – YUKNO × Oehl feat. Autodrom, Director: Lorenz Uhl

2020: Über Nacht – Oehl, Director: Rupert Höller

2019: Italy & (This is) Water – Soap&Skin, Directors: Ioan Gavriel, Anja Plaschg

2018: Frizzle Frizz – KIDS N CATS, Directors: Patryk Senwicki, Dominic Spitaler

2017: Bulletproof – VENTIL, Directors: Florian Kindlinger, Peter Kutin

2016: GOD OF GHOSTS/Nu Renegade – Zebra Katz x Leila, Director: Florian Pochlatko

2015: TRISTES DÉSERTS – A Robot’s Tale (August feat. Austrian Apparel), Director: Stephanie Winter

2014: Maschin – Bilderbuch, Director: Antonin B. Pevny

2013: MeTube: August sings Carmen ‚Habanera‘, Director: Daniel Moshel

VIENNA SHORTS continues in Viennese cinemas until May 30 and online until the end of June. Further festival awards will be presented on Monday, May 30, starting at 7 p.m. at Stadtkino im Künstlerhaus.

Watch the awarded music videos online: [Make Me Cry – On Bells](#), [Borders – NENDA](#)

Detailed press material and images can be downloaded at viennashorts.com/en/press/pressebereich.

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