

MAY 30, 2022

## 19TH VIENNA SHORTS – TRIUMPH FOR AUSTRIAN DIRECTOR MO HARAWE

**“Will My Parents Come to See Me” received the Austrian Short Film Award and qualifications for Oscars & European Film Awards—Main prizes in international competitions went to Japan and Qatar—Four animations received top awards**

The 19th edition of the international short film festival VIENNA SHORTS ended Monday night with a triumph for Mo Harawe and his film **Will My Parents Come to See Me**. Harawe returned to his native Somalia for the 28-minute drama about a young man who meets a policewoman shortly before execution and, according to the jury, created “a formidable miniature about a country scarred by violence that sticks in our memory.” At the award ceremony at Stadtkino im Künstlerhaus, the film was not only given the main prize in the Austrian Competition (ÖW)—the Austrian Short Film Award endowed with € 4,000—, but also received qualifications for the Academy Awards in the Live Action Short Film category as well as the European Film Awards.

The top prize in the Fiction & Documentary International Competition (FIDO), along with a qualification for the Short Documentary Film Oscar, went to Qatar. **And Then They Burn the Sea** by Majid Al-Remaihi received the € 5,000 Vienna Short Film Award for a “very personal film” that, according to the jury, “beautifully blends family archives with reenacted dreams” while interweaving “a myriad of poetic forms and folk tales with a history of maternal mourning rituals.”

In the international competition for animated and experimental films, Animation Avantgarde (AA), Japan’s Atsushi Wada received the € 2,000 ASIFA Austria Award, the section’s top prize, for **Bird in the Peninsula**. The animation artist had already won an award at VIENNA SHORTS in 2014 and now convinced the jury with his “meditative journey full of uncanny rituals and interrupted fantasies.”

### JURY PRIZES TO ANIMATED FILMS

No less than three more animations were given highest honors at the festival. The € 1,000 Jury Prize in the Austrian Competition went to Alexander Gratzner’s touching animation **In The Upper Room**. The eight-minute story about a grandson’s intimate relationship with his grandfather won over the jury with its combination of “wit and humor with deep introspection” and its recognition “that the cycle of life is a commitment to love and loss.”

The Jury Prize of Animation Avantgarde went to the German animation **Doom Cruise** by Hannah Stragholz and Simon Steinhorst: a colorful spectacle of doom and black humor that left the jury with a “sinking feeling that still leaves a place to hope for us to be together the moment it ends.” The award comes with a one-month residency in Vienna and a € 1,050 stipend.

The award for **Goodbye Jerome!** in the second international competition can be considered a surprise, as animated works rarely make it into the FIDO selection. As one of only two animations in the section of fictional and documentary works, the surreal and colorful French film by Chloé Farr, Gabrielle Seinet and Adam Sillard impressed the jury “with its irresistible charm.” The € 1,000 jury prize is also linked to a qualification for the Oscars in the Animated Short Film category.

## AUSTRIAN MUSIC VIDEO AWARD AND HONORABLE MENTIONS

On Friday, the Austrian Music Video Award was presented for the 10th time during the festival. The € 1,500 award went to Viennese director Matthew Gerges for the music video **Make Me Cry** by On Bells. “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,” was the jury’s verdict. The video—like Harawe’s film—thus automatically qualifies for the short film category at the Austrian Film Award.

Honorable mentions for outstanding artistic achievement went to the American filmmaker Jay Rosenblatt (**How Do You Measure A Year?**), the Polish director Marta Pajek (**Impossible figures and other stories I**), the Austrian directing duo Leni Gruber and Alex Reinberg (**Hollywood**), and the Tyrolean director and rapper Nenda Neururer (**Borders – NENDA**).

## DIRECTOR'S AWARD TO CHINA, NEW CHAMBER OF LABOUR AWARD

Last but not least, four more prizes were awarded on Monday evening: The € 1,000 Elfi Dassanowsky Prize for the best female director of the festival went to the Chinese first-time filmmaker Zou Jing for her drama **Lili Alone**. The Youth Jury Prize, decided upon by apprentices from the Jugend am Werk training workshop, went to the authentically beautiful family drama **Breeze** by Anna Lehner.

The € 2,000 Social Responsibility Award, newly donated by the Vienna Chamber of Labour, was awarded for the first time to **Invisible Hands** by Lia Sudermann and Simon Nagy. The Austrian essay about the lack of appreciation of care work turned out to be the viewers’ favorite and also won the ORF.at Audience Award for films up to twelve minutes.

## FESTIVAL CONTINUES ONLINE

At its 19th edition, VIENNA SHORTS shows around 360 films from 70 countries. Almost 250 of them have now been shown on screens in Vienna in more than 40 programs over the course of six festival days. “We’ve seen that people have an appetite for cinema and festival again,” said festival directors Doris Bauer and Daniel Ebner, “and we’re happy and yet also a little relieved that our additions—from Green Event and more live acts to the new festival app—have been so well received.”

While the on-site festival is now over, the [film portal](#) still offers the opportunity to catch up on competition films until June 30 and to access exclusive programs that were not shown in cinemas—including humorous, political and historical films. Simultaneously, the online offering of VIENNA SHORTS continues to be available at [thisisshort.com](#), the joint streaming platform with three other European short film festivals (until June 30).

## VIENNA SHORTS 2022 – AWARDS OVERVIEW

### FIDO Fiction & Documentary

<b>And Then They Burn the Sea</b> (QA)	Majid Al-Remaihi	Vienna Short Film Award (€ 5,000)	<i>Academy Awards</i>
<b>Goodbye Jerome</b> (FR)	Adam Sillard, Chloé Farr, Gabrielle Selnet	Jury Prize (€ 1,000)	<i>Academy Awards</i>
<b>How Do You Measure A Year?</b> (US)	Jay Rosenblatt	Honorable Mention	

### AA Animation Avantgarde

<b>Bird in the Peninsula</b> (JP)	Atsushi Wada	ASIFA Austria Award (€ 2,000)	
<b>Doom Cruise</b> (DE)	Hannah Stragholz, Simon Steinhorst	Jury Prize (1 month Residency in Vienna and € 1,050 Stipend)	
<b>Impossible figures and other stories I</b> (PL)	Marta Pajek	Honorable Mention	

### ÖW Austrian Competition

<b>Will My Parents Come to See Me</b> (AT/DE/SO)	Mo Harawe	Austrian Short Film Award (€ 4,000 + € 2,000 post production voucher)	<i>Academy Awards, European &amp; Austrian Film Awards</i>
<b>In The Upper Room</b> (AT)	Alexander Gratzner	Jury Prize (€ 2,000 + € 1,000 post production voucher)	
<b>Breeze</b> (AT)	Anna Lehner	Youth Jury Prize (€ 500 + € 1,000 post production voucher)	

<b>Hollywood</b> (AT)	Leni Gruber, Alex Reinberg	Honorable Mention
<b>Invisible Hands</b> (AT)	Lia Sudermann, Simon Nagy	ORF.at Audience Award (€ 500)
MUVI Austrian Music Video Award		
<b>Make Me Cry – On Bells</b> (AT)	Matthew Gerges	Austrian Music Video Award (€ 1,500) <i>Austrian Film Awards</i>
<b>Borders – NENDA</b> (GB)	Nenda Neururer	Honorable Mention
Best Female Director of the Festival		
<b>Lili Alone</b> (CN/HK/SG)	Zou Jing	Elfi Dassanowsky Award (€ 1,000)
Outstanding Film in the Competition in the Spirit of Social Responsibility		
<b>Invisible Hands</b> (AT)	Lia Sudermann, Simon Nagy	Social Responsibility Award (€ 2,000)

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## Information for media representatives

A list of all awards including jury statements and stills can be found [here](#). Jury members are listed [here](#).

Download stills of the films awarded with main prizes: [FIDO: © And Then They Burn the Sea \(Majid Al-Remaihi\)](#), [AA: © Bird in the Peninsula \(Atsushi Wada\)](#), [ÖW: © Will My Parents Come to See Me \(Mo Harawe\)](#), [MUVI: © Make Me Cry – On Bells \(Matthew Gerges\)](#)

A short biography of Mo Harawe as well as a portrait photo can be found at the distributor [sixpackfilm](#).

For detailed press materials and additional images, visit [viennashorts.com/en/press/pressebereich](http://viennashorts.com/en/press/pressebereich).

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