

CIVIS Media Prize 2023

Nominated are:

YOUNG C. AWARD

Unfinished country

Short film

Film Academy Baden-Württemberg Authors : Jonathan Schaller, Kilian Lieb

Director: Jonathan Schaller

Production: Fabian Leonhardt, Bernhard Strobel Examination board: Prof. Christian Wagner

Content

18-year-old Romanian Liana lives and works with her father Stancu in Germany, in shabby and exploitative circumstances. Like so many migrant workers, they have to deal with a windy subcontractor, false promises and unpaid wages. Liana is faced with an existential dilemma: to make possible her longed-for trip home and to convince her father to return to her family in Romania, she cannot help but get him into trouble.

Jury statement

"An impressive, richly detailed cinematic narrative in which lighting direction and camera have a special dramaturgical significance. In addition, there is a bravura performance by the leading actress. The topic is virulent, but is treated here without scandalizing but with a pleasantly nuanced attention to the views of those affected."

LSEE THEM BLOOM

Short film

University of Television and Film Munich

Authors: Nikita Gibalenko, Laura Lybaschenko, Sharyhan Osman

Director: Nikita Gibalenko

Production: Joachim Köglmeier (line producer) (HFF Munich)

Board of Examiners: Prof. Marcus H. Rosenmüller, Prof. Julia von Heinz

Content

The Ukrainian sisters Eugenia and Nastya, both in their early 20s, arrive in Munich after a long flight from the war zone. They are lucky and find accommodation in a student flat-share. A world full of sun, music and exuberant parties opens up. But unlike Nastya, Eugenia cannot enjoy her new life. She longs for her homeland, the images of the war won't let her go. And she slowly becomes estranged from her sister, who seems to find it much easier to settle into the new life.

Jury statement

"The film takes a look at a situation that seems ideal only at first glance: The two protagonists, refugees from Ukraine, are warmly welcomed and included in the lives of their student hosts. Normal citizens, they do well where politics often fail. But the involvement quickly becomes patronizing, creates new dependency. The characters on both sides of the issue are complex and subtly drawn. No one-size-fits-all solution is offered to the difficulties; they are convincingly portrayed in their complexity."



Border Conversations

Documentary
Film Academy Baden-Wuerttemberg
Author | Director: Jonathan Brunner

Producer: Tristan Schneider

Board of examiners: Thomas Lauterbach

Content

The film follows Karolina and Kornelia, two Polish activists who care for migrants at Poland's border with Belarus. It is November 2021, thousands are trying to reach the European Union on this route. Many are wandering through the woods, desperately asking for help via chat messages. The two Polish women do what they can, but they come up against the limits of humanitarian aid in a Europe that is increasingly focusing on sealing itself off from the rest of the world and, in the process, accepting great human suffering.

Jury statement

"The film succeeds with reduced means, does without dramatic images and music and relies entirely on the dialogue of the two activists. The plight of the refugees is not directly shown and yet all the more present, for example when there is no answer to the message 'How are you?' The protagonists' dilemma between helplessness and tenacity becomes tangible. It is, in both senses of the word, a borderline experience and an impressive portrayal of the everyday scandal called pushback."

CIVIS VIDEO AWARD | Social Media Formats

Germany as seen by Russian propaganda | Fake News

Social Media Format

Kobalt Productions GmbH | TV Rain, ZDF/ARTE

Author: Masha Borzunova

Editing: Nahuel Stoppa, Vladlena Savenkova (Kobalt Productions)

Production: Tita von Hardenberg, Katrin Sandmann, Stefan Mathieu (Kobalt Productions) Co-production: Tikhon Dzyadko (TV Rain), Lena Goliasch, Dieter Schneider (ZDF/ARTE)

Content

A compact, international edition of Fake News, the YouTube channel on which the Russian Doschd editorial team, from its exile in Riga, systematically debunks the disinformation and propaganda of Russian state media. In short clips, the coarsest myths and distortions are presented and, with the help of the to-the-point moderator, the many methods of misdirection and the numerous clumsy lies are unmasked.

Jury statement

"A professional piece of enlightenment that not only serves the truth in the abstract, but can also help in a very concrete way to promote the peaceful coexistence of people from different backgrounds. For the systematic production of fake news is causing unrest, polarization and division in Europe. The video is well crafted, visually appealing and skillfully tailored to the specific YouTube aesthetic."



Mohamed

Social Media Format

The Europeans | Are We Europe

Producer: Katz Laszlo and Mohamed Bah

Editor: Katy Lee

Sound design: Katz Laszlo

Mixing and mastering: Wojciech Oleksiak

Editorial support: Wojciech Oleksiak, Dominic Kraemer Art direction and head of motion design: Mélody Da Fonseca

Motion design and illustration assistant: Andréa Reille, Rafaelle Fillastre

Visual editor: Teresa O'Connell

Visual executive producer: Mick Ter Reehorst

Content

This is one episode from a series presenting eight portraits of young people in Europe, available as audio and animated video podcast. The episode focuses on Mohamed from Guinea, who has made it to Amsterdam in a dramatic odyssey and is now waiting for a decision on his asylum application. Mohamed has no papers and suffers under a bureaucratic system bent on rejection. He tells of his flight, his arrival, his longing to find a permanent new home in Europe.

Jury statement

"Both the insightful interview and the nothing short of magical visuals make accessible, especially for a young audience, an exceedingly tough subject. The wonderful, intricate and imaginative graphics give rhythm and pace to Mohamed's narrative. Alongside the brutal reality of a refugee's fate, the associative dramaturgy vividly brings to the fore the protagonist's thoughts, feelings and longings."

CTRL_F with the Taliban: Why do people like them?

Social Media Format

NDR | funk

Authors: Mariam Noori, Armin Ghassim, Zita Zengerling

Editing: Lutz Ackermann

Co-production: Jan Wiebe (funk)

Content

Mariam Noori, a German reporter with Afghan roots, is looking for an answer: Her 86-year-old grandfather, once a fierce opponent of the Taliban, now likes them. Why? Noori tries to understand the change of heart and visits her former homeland for the first time since her family fled to Germany. There, the reporter meets Taliban critics as well as supporters, people who think like her grandfather.

Jury statement

"A very personally grounded, courageous journalistic achievement. The starting point is the immigration story of the author herself, who has to balance her roles as a person affected and a journalist. This corresponds to the social media concept of "locking arms" - the user is not lectured, but taken along on a journey of experience with many impressive snapshots."



Robert Koch

Social Media Format

Writer, Editor, Director, Producer: Stève Hiobi

Content

The video traces German African colonialism at the beginning of the 20th century. It follows the story of the medical pioneer Robert Koch and his experiments on Africans. Considered to this day a shining light of scientific research in Germany, Koch is regarded in Africa as a key representative of ruthless and inhumane exploitation disguised as medical progress - an aspect the institute named after Koch mentions only in passing on its website.

Jury statement

"The author single-handedly - without the support of any major institution - provides enlightenment on a relevant topic that has largely escaped public attention. This display of a shameful chapter of German colonialism in Africa does without any frills and reaches especially the younger TikTok generation with its platform-appropriate address."

CIVIS VIDEO AWARD | INFORMATION (Non-fictional)

ARTE RE: Agnes and Amir - Sharing a flat with a 101-year-old woman

Reportage

Kobalt Productions GmbH | ZDF/ARTE

Author | Director: Lisa Jandi Editor: Frederic Ulferts (ZDF)

Producer: Stefan Mathieu (Kobalt Productions)

Content

Agnes is 101 years old and has a new roommate: Amir, 28, fled from Iran to Berlin and is training to be a caregiver. He came across Agnes through an ad on the Internet: "Rent-free living in exchange for company for our granny." Amir takes care of her: he helps her get dressed and brushes her teeth, makes sandwiches, goes to the zoo with Agnes. She is family to him, he is family to her. The two discover what unites them, despite the great age difference and regardless of their diverse backgrounds: humor and the desire to share their own lives with someone.

Jury statement

"Two people separated by several decades discover what they have in common. Both are looking for closeness and support, both are striving to give direction and meaning to their living together, both see their differences as enrichment. The narrative is simple and positive, often funny. The reportage is carried by the dialogue of two very different people, portrayed affectionately and yet not without distance."

Zuhur's Daughters

Documentary **ZDF** | 3sat

Authors | Directors: Laurentia Genske, Robin Humboldt

Editing: Katya Mader Production: Erik Winker, Martin Roelly, Ümit Uludağ (CORSO Film- und Fernsehproduktion



Lohan and Samar are teenage sisters and transgender. But in their family that fled Syria father, mother, second wife and nine other siblings - traditional ideas of living according to the Koran apply. Lohan and Samar are torn between the community they come from and to which they feel connected, and a very liberal, metropolitan environment. For three years, the authors accompany the two women in their search for themselves.

Jury statement

"A family that has fled Syria does not understand their two transgender daughters and embraces them anyway, in a foreign environment where they can develop. It's a highly complicated situation but is not dealt with in the form of a problem film. The beauty of the world and the struggle for freedom - as a woman, as a refugee, as a family member - is captured as well as the plethora of conflicts."

ARTE THEME: Last Refuge - The House at the Gate to the Sahara

Documentation ARTE G.E.I.E

Author | Director: Ousmane Samassékou

Editing: Philippe Muller

Production: Estelle Robin You (Point du Jour - Les films du balibari)Co-production: Don

Edkins (STEPS), Andrey S Diarra (DS Productions)

Content

At the "Migrant's House" in the Malian city of Gao, Africans on their way to elsewhere on the continent or to Europe meet others who have already tried in vain and been sent back. At the migration center, they are cared for - and warned of the risks of the potentially fatal journey. Nevertheless, some stick to their plan. Esther and Kady, teenagers from Burkina Faso, make friends here with Natacha, who has already given up all hope of ever being reunited with her family.

Jury statement

"A masterpiece about people on the road, on the southern edge of the Sahara, about their dreams and traumas. Some are still full of hope for a happier life in Europe or elsewhere, others are stranded and on their way back home. The documentary tells of the fortunes of these migrants, empathetically but never obtrusively, close but never encroaching. A documentary, haunting like few others.

Melilla Cover-up | Border Outrage: Uncovering the truth about deaths in Melilla

Reportage

Lighthouse Reports

Author | Director: Maud Jullien, Head of the Investigation: Klaas Van Dijken

Editing: Georgia Bempelou Reporter: Aziz Alnour

Additional reporting: Javier Angosto

3D Model creation and animation: Jack Sapoch

Reporters: Beatriz Ramalho Da Silva, María Martín Delgado, José Bautista, Steffen Lüdke,

Javier Bernardo, Salaheddine Lemaizi, Asia Ballufier, Arthur Weil-Rabaud,

Additional reporting: Javier Bauluz

Visual reconstruction: Bashar Deeb, Alison Killing



What happened at the border post of the Spanish exclave of Melilla on June 24, 2022? From Moroccan soil, a group of African asylum seekers tried to gain access there. At least 23 people were killed, and 77 others remain missing to this day. The governments of Spain and Morocco left unanswered the crucial questions about the circumstances and responsibility. With forensic analysis of the available acoustic and visual data, the Lighthouse reporters, supported by Der Spiegel, Le Monde and El Pais, make the events comprehensible.

Jury statement

"Using extremely precise journalistic craft, the reportage reconstructs, dissects and proves a particularly blatant case of pushback, the violent repulsion of refugees at Europe's borders. What happened in Melilla is just one example of the cynical EU migration policy. The short investigative format, as sober as it is startling, forces a look at inhumane practices that Europe likes to blank out or dismisses hastily."

CIVIS VIDEO AWARD | Entertainment

Semidetached house: equal opportunities, episode 1

Comedy series ZDF | ZDFneo

Authors | Directors: Dennis Schanz, Christoph Mushayija Rath

Editorial office: Lucia Haslauer

Production: Dennis Schanz (StickUp Filmproduktion GmbH & Co. KG), Luis Singer (Iconoclast

Films Germany GmbH)

Content

Who will get the neat semi-detached house in the countryside just outside Berlin? Everything depends on the real estate agent, with whom Mari, a Berlin native of Iranian origin, and her black friend Theo do not enjoy the best of relations - unlike their decidedly blond and white competitors. In their attempt to win over the down to earth realtor, Mari and Theo experience one surprise after another and at the same time upset the realtor and their competitors in the fight for the longed-for roof over their heads.

Jury statement

"This semi-detached house stands for the coexistence and even togetherness in the immigration society. With comic exaggeration, great dialogues and first-class actors, the film uses the ambivalence of closeness and distance as background of a tug-of-war for the dream domicile. The message is an optimistic invitation to find each other - not in spite of differences, but because of them."

Salam - Rest in Peace, Episode 1

Drama dyad **ZDFneo**

Authors: Zouzou Ben Chikha, Wannes Cappelle, Dries Heyneman

Director: Adil El Arbi, Bilal Fallah Editors: Claus Wunn, Annika Schmidt

Production: Jan De Clercq, Annemie Degryse, Adil El Arbi, Bilal Fallah (Lunanime) Jan

Bennemann, Klaus Zimmermann (Dynamic Television)

Co-production: Stéphane L'Hoest (Dragon Films), FleurWinters (Big Blue), Klaas Cockx, Annick Bongers (Play 4), Christian Loiseau, Alexandrine Duez (Be TV), Philippe Logie (VOO

& Be TV)



Ismael Boulasmoum, "Smile" for short, from a family of Moroccan origin, lives in Brussels and doesn't quite know what to do with his life. Then his father transfers to him and his sister Nadia one half each of the funeral home Assurances Omar. According to tradition, the firm buries members of the Moroccan community in their country of origin. Smile has a hard time with his new role, but he has a business idea: offering burials in Brussels - in imported Moroccan soil. But the concept is far from meeting with unanimous approval.

Jury statement

"Home is where you want to be buried? Sounds good, but it's just where the questions start: What about origin, what about tradition, what about the rules of the Muslim faith? The film deals with the final things, living and dying, the journey from cradle to grave, in the form of a fast-paced, ironic comedy happy to upset some clichés about Belgian immigrant society."

The Lost, Episode 1

Drama series

SVT

Author: Ulf Ryberg

Director: Tova Magnusson

Editors: Joakim Tessert, Thomas Lagerman

Production: Patrick Ryborn

Co-production: Anna Croneman (SVT), Peter Zell (SVT), Peter Possne (Film i Väst), Poa

Strömberg (Unlimited Stories AB), Kjartan Thor Thordarson (Sagafilm)

Content

Trucker Erwin drives his tanker truck across the Öresund Bridge to Sweden. In the tank he has eight Syrian refugees who have paid money for the transport. The police stop the truck, Erwin has to close the tank cap properly - and thus cut off the air supply for the people inside. That doesn't seem to be a problem, behind the border the lid can be opened again. But a disturbing phone call with his future ex-wife makes Erwin forget that his charges in the tank are slowly running out of oxygen. This trip costs almost all of them their lives.

Jury statement

"An extremely intense series episode with a great acting performance by the lead actor, who convincingly conveys human frailty. The film sheds light on the criminal business with refugees, on what it can do to them, but also what it can do to smugglers. The fatal course of events out of control is narrated soberly, almost as if in a reportage, thus creating enormous pull."

CIVIS AUDIO AWARD | Long Programmes (from 6 min)

Microcosm: Last Exit Kabul, 1/3: Trapped

Docu-series

Deutschlandradio | Deutschlandfunk

Author: Tom Mustroph Director: Heike Tauch

Editing: Christiane Habermalz



The chaotic withdrawal of Western troops from Afghanistan in August 2021 puts the members of the human rights group AHRDO in extreme danger at Kabul airport. Although their names are on the evacuation lists of the Foreign Office, they do not even get into the building. In their distress, they contact the author of the documentary. Via voicemail, he follows from Berlin the group's desperate efforts to reach safety.

Jury statement

"The special narrative style - unconventional, authentic, exciting - allows a close look behind the curtain of the public world stage. Beyond the facts we know from the news, the individual fates of those affected become tangible. Along the way, the author is fully aware of his multiple roles as friend, journalist, and helper."

Welcome Home Dr. Marco - Searching for Identity between Karl-Marx-Stadt and Kenya

Feature

SWR | Deutschlandfunk Author: Ute Lieschke

Director: Ute Lieschke, Michael Lissek

Editors: Michael Lissek (SWR), Christiane Habermalz (Deutschlandradio/Deutschlandfunk)

Content

Dr. Marco works as an anesthesiologist in Leisnig in central Germany, one of the few Afro-Germans in the city. He has known looks of disdain ever since he grew up in the 1970s as a sheltered child in a family with father, mother and siblings in Karl-Marx-Stadt. But when he asked, "Mom, why do I look different?" he got no answer. While studying in Leipzig during the 'Wende', he meets other Afro-Germans, and later, when his two daughters, one white, the other black, start asking questions, he sets out to find his biological father.

Jury statement

"In a very touching, emotional and exciting way, the listener is taken into the story of three generations. Their experiences and living conditions are not sorted into good and bad, but are discussed without commentary from the author. The question is not whether racism existed in East Germany, but how it was experienced. Including political awareness and self-empowerment when all of a sudden there is a community to offer access to, and reflect, questions of identity."

Curiosity is enough The letter of confession (1/2)

Feature WDR | WDR 5

Authors: Heike Kleffner, Lena Kampf

Director: Michael Wehrhan Editing: Valentina Dobrosavljevic

Content

On November 17, 1990, a five-year-old child dies in an attack on the home of a working-class family with a Turkish background in Kempten; her siblings survive with serious injuries. The case is never solved. The investigation focuses on the occupants of the house. The existence of a racist confession letter is concealed from the relatives by the police and the judiciary. The first part of the two-part feature reconstructs the night of the arson attack and the investigation from the perspective of the surviving sister, the police and the judiciary.



Jury statement

"The feature reveals disquieting patterns of institutional racism: Inconvenient information is suppressed, victims are confronted with false suspicions. First-rate research and appropriately reticent storytelling by the authors, who focus on facts and let an articulate and reflective protagonist have her say."

CIVIS AUDIO AWARD | Short Programmes (up to 6 min)

Die Maus / Maus Live: Albina's Diary: Living with the War

Audio diary WDR | WDR 5

Authors: Albina Bakuha, Katja Garmasch

Editorial office: Andreas Blendin

Content

14-year-old Albina learns what it is: war. For her, it not a first-time experience, because she lives in the Donbass. Explosions at night, sleeping in the basement are part of her everyday life. School takes place only sporadically online. There is a lot of boredom and evenings with friends are few and far between. Albina writes everything down. But then her beloved cats pack their bags and leave for Germany.

Jury statement

"The play depicts the everyday life of war from the perspective of an adolescent and at the same time makes her experiences tangible for younger people. The diary form, combined with the narrator's accent, creates authenticity and eye level with Albina. The protagonist's modest desires mirror the brutality of an event that changes everything."

Escape from Ukraine - a roller coaster ride of emotions,

"Rendez-vous": The resolution: "I want to live instead of waiting.", Episode 6/6

Series

Swiss Radio and Television Author: Roman Fillinger Editing: Ivana Pribakovic Producer: Philipp Fontana

Content

The series depicts the refugee fate of 26-year-old Olga Miroshnik and her family, who fled the war in eastern Ukraine. It is a story of mixed emotions: relief and shame, guilt and anger, the desire to arrive and homesickness. The 6th episode deals with the difficulty to achieve your goals in volatile conditions. Olga's relationship with Ruslan also suffers. She wants a life that is more than just waiting.

Jury statement

"The author patiently and empathetically builds up a basis of trust with the protagonists and thus allows the listeners emotional access to their fate. You begin to understand how the experience of war and flight leads to a lack of perspective and insecurity and thus prevents life planning."



Rendez-vous information at noon | Pietro Bartolo: The doctor of Lampedusa

Portrait

Swiss Radio and Television Author: Charles Liebherr Editing: Thomas Müller

Content

This is the story of Italian MEP Pietro Bartolo. He is not the only deputy to criticize the EU's migration policy. But he knows the problem firsthand: Bartolo is more than a politician, author and filmmaker. He is also a doctor at Regional Hospital in Lampedusa, the Italian island off the African coast where the perilous journey of so many refugees ends. Bartolo tries to save their lives.

Jury statement

"Few but cleverly placed spotlights bring us closer to a very special personality - a doctor who tries to change things, fails - and yet keeps going. He does not lack credibility and courage, but influence. An emotional portrait that points beyond the individual person, to the often inhumane European refugee policy."

CIVIS AUDIO AWARD | PODCASTS

Among Almans - Migrant Stories

Anxiety in the wake of the Haunau attack: Parshad about anger, episode 2

Podcast

Radio Bremen | Cosmo

Authors | Editors: Cengiz Tarhan, Larissa Sobral, Sophie Anggawi, Karina Gordok,

Isabelle Werner, Salwa Houmsi

Host: Salwa Houmsi

Content

In this episode of her podcast "Unter Almans", Salwa Houmsi talks with entertainer Parshad Esmaeili about racism in Germany. It's about fear and anger after the attack in Hanau. Parshad explains how the assault changed her life and why anti-racism should be a school subject. Education is the antidote, she says, because no one is born a racist.

Jury statement

"Host Salwa Houmsi and her guest Parshad manage to make clear why the Hanau attack is significant far beyond the city and changed everyone's lives. The conversation is natural, authentic and open-hearted and gives sufficient space to explore the different levels of experience. It's as complex as it is entertaining."

Deso - The rapper who joined the IS Welcome to my world, episode 1

Podcast

WDR | COSMO for funk

Authors: Azadê Peşmen, Carlos Steurer, Jan Philipp Wilhelm, Viola Funk

Editors: Henrik Willun, Daniela Woytewicz, Sebastian Göllner

Co-production: ACB Stories, Qzeng Productions

Format developer: Moritz Luppold (funk)



Gangsta rapper Deso Dogg from Berlin-Kreuzberg becomes radicalized, declares music a sin and goes to war for the IS. In this six-part podcast, Deso, aka Denis Cuspert, and host Azadê Peşmen, tell his story. Episode 1 looks at Deso's rapping career and explains why he didn't make the big breakthrough and what his erstwhile fellow rappers think about him today.

Jury statement

"The podcast is the exciting result of outstandingly careful and in-depth research. Host Azadê Peşmen, with a versatile and convincing performance, penetrates a milieu that is difficult to access. She does not present prejudices, but sets out to explore and understand things."

Chai Society

Hijabis in public: hate object and saint, season 4 episode 5

Podcast

Bremen NEXT | N-JOY (Radio Bremen/NDR) Authors: Meltem Saracbasi, Yousuf Mirzad Editors: Dennis Miler, Refiye Ellek, Melanie Lidsba

Content

Maraam Taraf is a hijabi on Tiktok, chatting informally about her preferences, dancing and making fun of everything and everyone. She inspires many - and is attacked, by others who see her style of performing as not appropriate for Muslims. In the podcast with hosts Meltem and Yousuf, Maraam explains how she deals with the criticism and why she is determined to remain undeterred.

Jury statement

"This is not scripted, nor does it claim to be precisely structured. This is about vibes and certain subjects. The podcast is aimed at target communities, young, humorous, inclusive, cool. The conversation is real, without cue dramaturgy. All protagonists are confident but no one is unduly obtrusive."

"Schwarz Rot Blut" - The True Crime Podcast about racist violence in Germany Fire in apartment building - Duisburg 1984, Episode 4

Podcast

WDR | COSMO

Authors: Nele Posthausen, Gilda Sahebi, Marianna Deinyan, Lena Kampf, Andreas

Spinrath

Director: Philippe Brühl

Editors: Johannes Nichelmann, Miriam Hochhard (COSMO), Tobias Gnädig (COSMO),

Georgia, Seifert (COSMO), Leslie Rosin (WDR Feature Editors)

Production: Peter Harrsch

Based on an idea by: Dinah Rothenberg

Content

The series sheds light on the reasons why racism is not always recognized as a motive in court. Episode 4 examines the authorities' handling of the arson attack on an apartment building in the Wanheimerort neighbourhood of Duisburg on August 26, 1984. Seven members of the Satır family lost their lives. Despite numerous indications, a racist motive was never seriously investigated.



Jury statement

"An intensive research and search for clues leads to the erstwhile investigators. The account remains journalistic and does not become activist. The hosts provide well-informed contexting of the historical background and larger political circumstances. As a result, the podcast goes beyond mere documentation. A professionally crafted contribution on a hugely relevant topic."

SPECIAL PRIZE OF THE JURY

for Isabel Schayani, journalist and head of WDRforyou, for her many years of outstanding and sustained reporting on the topic of flight and asylum.