

61 Zlín Film Festival

61st International Film Festival
for Children and Youth

Díl první / Part One
28/5 — 1/6/2021

Díl druhý / Part Two
9/9 — 15/9/2021



Results and jury statements 61th Zlín Film Festival 2021

International Expert Jury for Feature Films in the Children's Category:

Claudia Rudolph-Hartman (GER) – president of the jury
Johanne Helgeland (NOR)
Vít Karas (CZE)

Golden Slipper for Best Feature Film in the Children's Category

Sisters: The Summer We Found Our Superpowers (NOR, 2020), directed by Arild Østin
Ommundsen, Silje Salomonsen



„You don't need superpowers. You just need to believe in yourself". A beautifully told and an absolutely fulfilling story, seen through the eyes of Vega and her little sister Billie. A film about the strengths and the vulnerabilities in a family and about finding your own path. Accompanied by a sensitive visual language and film score, set in a landscape that serves the imaginative aspect of the story. A contemporary film that takes its young audience seriously and is told with great compassion. Empowering storytelling for children (and grown-ups) in it's purest form.



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Karel Zeman Award - Special Recognition for Best Visual Concept in a Feature Film in the Children's Category

Wolfwalkers (IRL, USA, 2020), directed by Ross Stewart, Tomm Moore



A powerful story told with an equally powerful visual language. Tangible, dynamic and original - Wolfwalkers is a complete and stunning experience. The 2D language serves the storytelling very well, and we are amazed by how it appeals to all our senses. On top of that it has several strong messages and is an empowering story for kids, done with great passion for its audience. Outstanding on every level.

Special mention

Even Mice Belong to Heaven (CZE, FRA, POL, SVK, 2021), directed by Denisa Grimmová, Jan Bubeníček



Portraying a fantastic, original and opulent world, the story of the mouse and the fox takes us out on a journey, that keeps us fascinated all along. With its great complexity in details, you can feel the creators energy and passion in every shot.



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Special mention

Kids Are Fine (KOR, 2021), directed by Ji Won LEE



An engaging story told from the children's perspective about death, friendship and family. Although dealing with heavy topics, it is made with lightness and great empathy and told in a pure and poetic visual language, with strong child performances. The film teaches us, as adults, that you need to meet your children with honesty, even when it comes to the tough things in life. A debut that should be noticed – confident and convincing.



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International Expert Jury for Feature Films in the Junior and Youth Category:

Niklas Teng (DNK) – president of the jury

Andrea Metcalfe (CZE)

Tian Tsering (CHN/GBR)

Golden Slipper for Best Feature Film in the Junior Category

Sun Children (IRN, 2020), directed by Majid Majidi



A truly powerful, energetic and heartfelt story which engages all of us through its masterful filmmaking. Another excellent example of Majid Majidi's great love and care for the underprivileged children in Iran and around the world.

Golden Slipper for Best Feature Film in the Youth Category

Valentina (BRA, 2020), directed by Cássio Pereira dos Santos



Valentina takes us on a personal journey of acceptance. Through rich and wholesome characters the director creates a natural and authentic progression of the story told by the powerful performance by debutant Thiessa Woinbackk. A very important film in which its message should resonate around the world.



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Special Jury Prize in a Feature Film in the Junior and Youth Category
The Crossing (FRA, CZE, GER, 2021), directed by Florence Mialhe



With incredible effort and commitment the director Florence Mialhe creates a spectacular story and imagery that has a great impact on us all. Oppression and freedom are eternal themes which has been told through cinema throughout time but it has never been this uniquely poetic and poignant.



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International Jury for Short Animations for Children

Barbora Příkladová (CZE) - president of the jury

Géza M. Tóth (HUN)

Eliza Plocieniak-Alvarez (POL, GER)

Golden Slipper for Best Short Animation for Children

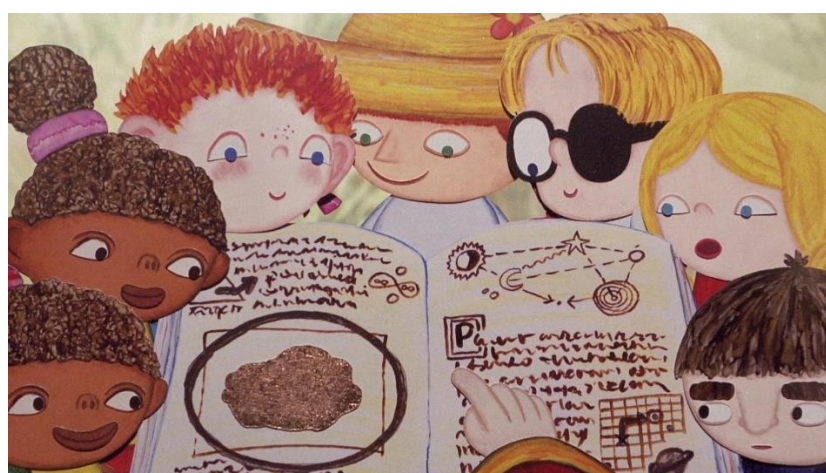
Sounds between the Crowns (CZE, 2020), directed by Filip Diviak



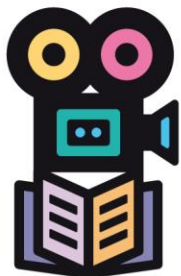
For the extraordinary storytelling animation and art design, combined with brilliant music and impressive sense of rhythm.

Hermína Týrlová Award for Best Short Animation for Children up to 6 Years of Age

Children of Gainmore: How They Found It (CZE, 2020), directed by Petr Mischinger



For an original film full of subtle humour, kindness and imagination. The jury also appreciated brilliant animation style and the fact that story fits perfectly to young audience.



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Children's Jury for Feature Films in the Children's Category

Rozálie Výlupková (CZE)

Jonáš Macek (CZE)

Anežka Růžičková (CZE)

Main Prize of the Children's Jury for Best Feature Film in the Children's Category

Sisters: The Summer We Found Our Superpowers (NOR, 2020), directed by Arild Østin Ommundsen, Silje Salomonsen



We were fascinated by the diversity of the story of Sisters: The Summer We Found Our Superpowers, in which the humour prevailed. The plot left us with many feelings, from fear to tears in our eyes from laughter and emotions. Thanks to the film we split into two camps: the superheroes and the ordinary guys.



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European Youth Jury for Feature Films for Youth

Julie Skládlová (CZE)

Michal Pečinka (CZE)

Ondrej Orechovský (SVK)

Main Prize of the Youth Jury for Best Feature Film in the Junior and Youth Category

Dating Amber (IRL, 2020), directed by David Freyne



As a youth jury, our task was to evaluate the films through the eyes of a teenage viewer and have done so. The film Dating Amber excited us mainly because it wasn't constant and we were excited with the fact that the plot was funny and serious at the same time. We felt different emotions and we experienced the story with the main characters. The characters have shown us that it is human to be afraid of what others will say about us. But standing up for our true selves will never hurt us as much as our own lie.



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International Expert Jury for Student Films Zlín Dog

Loreta Gandolfi (GBR) – president of the jury

Josef Lustig (CZE, USA)

Karolína Zalabáková (CZE)

Zlín Dog Award for Best Student Film (with prize money of EUR 1000)

Yuwol : The Boy Who Made The World Dance (KOR, 2020), directed by BEFF



This film has an outstanding structure. It is framed by a dream which has the surprising effect of influencing the nondreamers. This in turn means that the dream of one particular person can bring a positive change to the whole society. This is a case of a virus, that, unlike our experience of a global menace, sets in motion a dance of life, joy and freedom. The film creates a sense of togetherness, a spirit of collaboration and breaks hierarchies and class divisions. Korealand's infectious energy is brilliantly supported by its sophisticated choreography of film language.

Jury Award in the Animation Category

My Fat Arse and I (POL, 2020), directed by Yelyzaveta Pysmak



This is a film for women and men regardless of gender! The film is a powerful physical experience of the themes of body shaming and eating disorders. It ingeniously deconstructs the sentiments of a woman who finds herself chained in the eternal imperative of a perverse circle of predetermined ideas of beauty. Creative and sparkling, the animation takes us on a roller coaster journey where we experience the viscerality of the dilemma through subversive humour. The film courageously names the issue and offers acceptance, which is a way of saying: I disobey!



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Jury Award in the Live-Action Category

Tala'vision (GER, 2020), directed by Murad Abu Eisheh



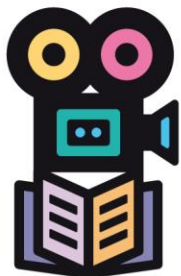
A glimpse of an interrupted life from the perspective of a child in an ISIS dominated land. Surrounded by ruins and void, the little girl Tala finds her way out of an unbearable situation. Her way out is through vision. She battles the claustrophobia of her seclusion with her relentless desire to see, unencumbered by physical limits. This is effectively communicated by the frequent close-ups of the heroine constantly wanting to look outside of her window. The film refers to the very core of cinema which, together with television, is the way of life and hope.

Jury Award in the Documentary Category

Why Didn't You Stay For Me? (NLD, 2020), directed by Milou Gevers



This is a documentary that sensitively discusses the taboo surrounding the existential and psychological problem of suicide. From her own first hand experience, the director opens up to the experiences of several children who are faced with the tragic loss of a parent by suicide. Through animation the director talks about herself, thus diversifying the testimonies of the children tortured by their sad fate, and becomes a compassionate narrative voice that unifies their struggles. The film supports the importance of the sharing of a trauma: one should never feel alone.



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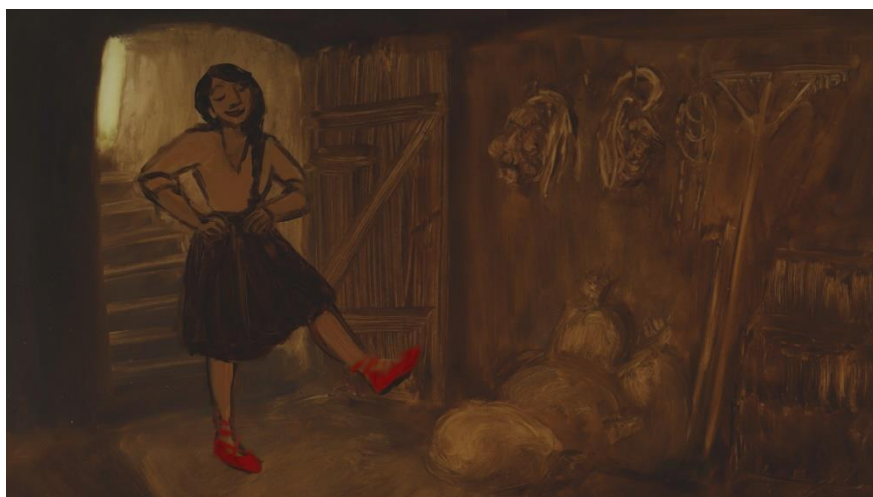
Special mention

Congenital (IRN, IRQ, 2021), directed by Saman Hosseinpuor, Ako Zandkarimi



Congenital is a daring proposal of defiance of social expectations. It treats its thematic concerns with a notable visual sensitivity and reference to the fine-art traditions that are native to the millennia-old cultures of the Middle East.

Red Shoes (CZE, 2020), directed by Anna Podskalská



By painting oil on glass and the remarkable sound design, the creators present us with a visually and emotionally striking parable of a passion that turns into an obsession that one cannot bear.



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Tick (GER, 2020), directed by Fabienne Priess, Levin Tamoj



The film poignantly reflects the common experience of everyday pressures within work and private space, to the point that we turn blind to life itself.

100,000 Acres of Pine (DNK, 2020), directed by Jennifer Alice Wright



The film's striking technical competence creates an uncanny and immersive experience about the drama and mystery of mourning.



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EFCA – International Jury

Julia Jarl (SWE) – president of the jury

Nicola Jones (GER)

Michal Šašek (CZE)

Europe Award - the European Children's Film Association Award for Best European Documentary Film for Young Audience

Kids Cup (DNK, FIN, NOR, 2021), directed by Line Hatland



The ECFA-Jury for documentary film decided to give their award to a film with unique stories connected through a universal topic. Through an excellent way of storytelling and photography the film goes beyond the theme reaching a deeper understanding of each of the characters. Loss of a parent, political instabilities, parental pressure each protagonist is facing their own challenge. They have gone on a journey following one goal: winning. As an audience we follow them closely through emotional and exciting moments. And even though in the world of football winning is the only achievement, in real life winning isn't everything. The ECFA Award for the Best European Documentary Film goes to „Kids Cup“ by Line Hatland. Congratulations!



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International Ecumenical Jury

Dietmar Adler (GER) – president of the jury

Marta Sedláčková (CZE)

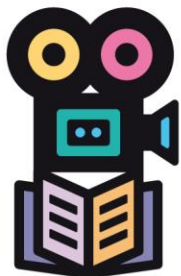
Andrej Chovanec (CZE)

Ecumenical Jury Award

Beans (CAN, 2020), directed by Tracey Deer



Twelve-year-old Tekahentahkwa ("call me Beans") belongs to the indigenous Mohawk people of Canada. During the Oka Crisis in 1990, she searches for her way and emancipates herself between the role, which was meant for her in the family, and role models of older youths. A peaceful protest against a planned golf course on a traditional Mohawk cemetery is answered with racist riots. The film shows impressively how this affects people and how also anti-racism becomes radicalized. On the other hand, strong women become peacemakers in a world of violence. The film functionally combines fiction style with documentary footage. The aesthetics of the film thus collaborates with the two thematic levels of the story: the personal and the social.



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Special mention

Valentina (BRA, 2020), directed by Cássio Pereira dos Santos



Valentina is 17 and trans. She moves from the city to the Brazilian countryside with her mother to start over as a young woman. But a sexual assault exposes her and again she faces resentment. In all her despair, she always finds friends who stand by her. Impressive film with a simple narrative that touches us deeply and opens up possibilities for dialogue especially for young people and gives courage.



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Golden Apple – the City of Zlín Audience Award for Best Feature Film in the Children's, Junior and Youth Category

Martin and the Magical Forest (CZE, GER, SVK, 2021), directed by: Petr Oukropec



ČT: D Audience Award for Best Short Animation for Children

Winter Sleep (CZE, 2020), directed by Kateřina Karhánková, Alexandra Májová

