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Press Release

ZEBRA Poetry Film Festival honors award winners

On Sunday, three awards worth a total of 9000 € and an audience award were presented at the ZEBRA Poetry Film Festival's awards ceremony. The international poetry film festival took place from 12 to 15 October at Haus für Poesie and Kino in der Kulturbrauerei.

An international jury comprising **Rosa Maria Hopp** (editorial director MDR), **Federico Italiano** (poet) and **Maria Mohr** (filmmaker and film educator) awarded three awards of **3000 € each**. For the competition, 25 poetry films were selected from about 1,200 entries from over 90 countries.

The **2023 ZEBRA Prize for the Best International Poetry Film** (donated by Haus für Poesie) went to **Fitzgerald & Rimini – D Frou Bovary de Porrentruy** by **Yannick Mosimann** from Switzerland, with a poem by **Ariane von Graffenried**.

In their statement, the jury said: *„Hemmed in by the mountains, this film not only features a protagonist trapped in the dreariness of daily life but also an image frozen in time—sometimes the 16 mm image is torn, sometimes doubled. And then, there’s that battered post rock over and over. It’s a perfect whirlwind of cinematic elements, interwoven with the three languages of the extraordinary poem that fuels them. And in between, there’s that “disturbing woman.” Hardly any phrase encapsulates this film as well as, “Mrs. Bovary from Porrentruy isn’t who she wants to be / Her needs are big, her life’s petit.”“*

The **Goethe Film Award – Borders** (donated by Goethe-Institut) went to **Kin ma belle** by **Junior Mozese** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who is also author of the poem the film is based on.

The jury’s statement: *“There are no protagonists in this film, just a city that reveals itself through its contradictions and weaknesses. Singing its praises, the lyrical voice observes the metropolis from unexpected angles, from the sidewalks, from the depths of landfills, in the cracks of life—between healing and exclusion. The film is a vibrant love song to the wayside. This year’s Goethe Film Award goes to an entry that utilizes documentary techniques: “Kin ma belle” by Junior Mozese.”*

The **2023 Ritter Sport Film Award** (donated by Alfred Ritter GmbH & Co. KG) went to **Legs** by **Jennifer Still, Christine Fellows** and **Chantel Mierau** from Canada, based on a poem by Jennifer Still.

The jury’s statement: *“Legs create a gap that connects several generations of women. Between a kid’s birthday party and swimming pools, the bodies—shells—cultivate a playful life of their own. The film distinguishes itself through its unique object creations*

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and an extraordinary timing that often borders on the absurd. Colorful mourning in glitter. What's left when the body's gone? Stockings."

Two special mentions were given by the jury.

The first one is a **special mention of the Goethe Film Award** for **Satane Sefid** by **Shiva Sadegh Asadi** from Iran, both director and author of the poem the film is based on: *"How should one narrate a border crossing that affects the most intimate sphere? In tightly framed, claustrophobic images, the Iranian filmmaker Shiva Sadegh Asadi succeeds in showing that the private is always political. Woman, life, freedom!"*

The second one is a **special mention of the Ritter Sport Film Award** for **Meanwhile, somewhere in the state of Colorado** by the Italian **Gloria Regonesi**, based on a poem by **Simon Armitage**: *"Sometimes, the greatest art lies in visualizing the absolute. Through the simplicity of its visual language, this film is able to emphasize the power of poet Simon Armitage's words without ever overshadowing them. Unpretentious and free of cliches."*

The ZEBRino Poetry Film Festival audience also awarded an audience award.

The **2023 ZEBRino Award for the Best Poetry Film for children and youth** was awarded to **Abri** by **Julie Daravan Chea** from France, based on a poem by **Esther Graneck**.

A special mention was given to the film **Swallows love** by **Mariya Onishchenko** from the Ukraine, based on the Volkslied Shum.

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The focus of this year's **ZEBRA Poetry Film Festival** was Italy. A film program provided insights into the country's poetry film scene. On Sunday, Italian filmmaker Milena Tipaldo held a masterclass on "Poetry & Animation". In addition, Italian poets were guests in two readings at Haus für Poesie: "Three Generations Poetry" with Mariangela Gualtieri (*1951), Maddalena Lotter (*1990) and Italo Testa (*1972). And "The Premio Strega Poesia – the Shortlist reads" brought together four of the five poets who were on the shortlist for the first **Premio Strega Poesia** award: Silvia Bre, Umberto Fiori, Vivian Lamarque, Stefano Simoncelli and Christian Sinicco. Vivian Lamarque, who was awarded the Premio Strega Poesia on October 5 in Rome, was present on stage in Berlin. The Italian focus, especially the reading of the Premio Strega Poesia shortlist, was kindly supported by two of the cooperation partners of this year's festival, Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Berlino and Fondazione Bellonci. The opening and the award ceremonies of ZEBRA Poetry Film Festival were accompanied by Italian musicians Andrea Belfi and Sara Persico.

ZEBRA Poetry Film Festival has been running since 2002. At the time of its inception it was the first international festival for short films based on poems – poetry films – and it is still the biggest of its kind. It offers poets, film makers and festival organizers from all over the world a platform for creative exchange, and the attention of a wide audience. To this end, the festival includes readings, colloquia, and screenings. In addition, the festival offers participatory formats, such as master classes, in which participants will be able to learn more about scenes of poetry/film, their actors and aesthetics, networks and production conditions, and how one might initiate collaborations.

Press Images: <https://www.haus-fuer-poesie.org/en/press/press-photos/>

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