

Press Release



Bears and Awards for the Best Films in *Berlinale Shorts*

The International Short Film Jury awarded the Golden Bear and the Jury-Prize Silver Bear, the DAAD Short Film Award and the nomination for the European Film Academy Short Film 2010.

The Golden Bear for the best short film goes to *Händelse Vid Bank* by Ruben Östlund from Sweden.

96 people are reconstructing a failed bank robbery witnessed in 2006. "Everybody imagines a bank robbery as it is presented in the cinema: everything is perfectly organized and is executed fast and efficient. But reality is different. What does it mean for me as a witness, when reality gets ahead of expectations?" Ruben Östlund comments on his film.

The Jury explains: "His film is a real reflection on our times and the role played by media. Filmed with a single camera without a single cut, we zoom in and out of the picture as if using a CCTV camera. The dialogues are perfect, humanity is explained with humour."

At the moment, the Swedish director is shooting his third feature length film.

The Jury-Prize Silver Bear goes to Israel, for *Hayerida* by Shai Miedzinski. A family is looking for a stone. A stone that is suitable to be used as a tombstone on their prodigal son's grave.

The Jury argues: "The Israeli desert sets a dusty and intense background for a coherent road movie about loss. It's hard to depict grief, a transition for a family, but the director listens to the wind blow and frames the emotion."

Shai Miedzinski chose his own family, his mother and sister, as cast. This creates a unique intensity. Shai Miedzinski graduated from Sam Spiegel School in Jerusalem.

The DAAD scholarship goes to Adrian Sitaru from Romania for *Colivia*. Father and Mother are eating when the son shows up, carrying an injured dove in his arms. "I want the pigeon to stay", says the son. "Impossible", says the father. "I want it to stay and I want a cage for it", insists the son.

"A perfectly paced miniature, a chamber piece inside a Romanian tower block. Funny, heartfelt, with a wonderful rhythm. The director needs only 17 minutes to portray the three characters involved," comments the Jury.

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Adrian Sitaru is a film maker of feature length and short films. This award gives him the opportunity to come to Berlin for three months and work on a new project.

The nomination for the European Film Academy Short Film 2010 goes to the young Belgian director Natalie Teirlinck for her film *Venus vs Me*.
"An experimental attempt to recount childhood memories from the interior with a complex montage technique. Pictures, sound and editing blend into multilayered storytelling. The director magnificently negotiates the puzzle."

The jury decisions were made by the founder and director of the São Paulo International Short Film Festival, Zita Caravanhosa, by the chief editor of the German pop culture magazine "Spex", Max Dax, and by the British producer Samm Hailay.

All screenings of *Berlinale Shorts* have been sold out.

For the first time, people had the opportunity to discuss the challenging films in this section during "*Berlinale Shorts goes Arsenal*".

Press Office
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