

## Press Release



Berlinale 2016: Crystal Bears and the Awards by the Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung (Federal Agency for Civic Education) in *Generation 14plus*

The members of the Youth Jury in *Generation 14plus*

Vincent Edusei  
Emilia Forck  
Mira Leskien  
Carlotta Saumweber  
Tim Schiffer  
Esther Siebelitz

give the following awards:

**Crystal Bear for the Best Film: *Es esmu šeit (Mellow Mud)***  
by Renārs Vimba, Latvia 2016

We were particularly impressed by a film that managed to create powerful and expressive images in spite of its spare dialogue and understated performances. Thanks to a convincing portrayal of the female protagonist, we were able to accompany her on a journey that movingly depicted the search for personal self-determination, strength and responsibility. In an inspirational fashion, this film production captures the decisive process of personal growth experienced by young people on their way to becoming adults.

**Special Mention: *Las plantas (Plants)***  
by Roberto Doveris, Chile 2015

Mindful observation and pause for reflection. With unflinching directness tempered by tenderness, this film depicts a young woman in all her vulnerability, in her feeling out her own way towards sexual expression and in her loneliness. This many-layered production, in which everyday moments of both surrealism and authenticity partake in a fascinating interaction, not only managed to impress us from an artistic point of view - indeed, above all it touched us on a personal level and turned our attention inwards.

**Crystal Bear for the Best Short Film: *Balcony***  
by Toby Fell-Holden, Great Britain 2015

In an ostensibly classic tale of a friendship between two girls who come from different cultures, this film succeeds in astounding the viewer through its sophisticated dramaturgy. The story holds a mirror up to a society still plagued by persistent clichés, a mirror that in the end also forces the audience to face their own prejudices. Provocative and full of

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Amtsgericht Charlottenburg  
HRG Nr. 96 · HRB 29357  
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strong imagery, this production also manages at the same time to make our current challenges clear.

### **Special Mention Short Film: *Kroppen är en ensam plats (The Body Is a Lonely Place)***

by Ida Lindgren, Sweden 2016

Through the combination of aesthetically pleasing and at the same time off-putting images with an intimate text collage representing multiple perspectives, the elements of this film join in a fascinating manner to form an experimental whole that gives expression to the emotions present for individuals struggling with eating disorders. This exploration of a subject of such great importance impressed us immensely with its poetic approach.

The members of the International Jury *Generation 14plus*

Sam de Jong  
Petros Silvestros  
Liz Watts

give the following awards:

**The Grand Prix of the *Generation 14plus* International Jury for the Best Film**, endowed with € 7,500 by the Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung (Federal Agency for Civic Education): *Las plantas (Plants)*

by Roberto Doveris, Chile 2015

We were strongly pulled towards a movie that sank into our subconscious. The director managed in a profound and extremely cinematic way to convey the sexual awakening of a young woman against a background of family under duress. The central performance is at once strikingly brave and also wonderfully vulnerable. The whole film announces a filmmaker not afraid of extending the boundaries of cinematic language and storytelling. This film is an unforgettable sui generis.

### **Special Mention: *Zhaleika***

by Eliza Petkova, Germany 2016

We were moved by this smart allegory about shifting cultural changes and the collision of new and old values in small town Europe. With a great eye for detail, the naturalism of this film combined with a compelling story of a young woman searching for her own place in the world, and her achievement of that freedom, is brilliantly executed both in performance and direction.



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**Special Prize of the *Generation 14plus* International Jury for the Best Short Film, endowed with € 2,500 by the Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung (Federal Agency for Civic Education): *O noapte in Tokoriki (A Night in Tokoriki)***

by Roxana Stroe, Romania 2016

For its idiosyncratic tone of voice and superb craft and storytelling, this film manages to playfully depict a heartfelt but urgent message. With humorous mise-en-scene, no dialogue and an ironic use of music the film tells a brilliantly engaging story about unacceptable love in rural Europe and its repercussions.

**Special Mention: *Kroppen är en ensam plats (The Body Is a Lonely Place)***

by Ida Lindgren, Sweden 2016

We were all struck by a unique piece of cinema that described a complex condition in a completely original form. Using a beautiful palette of colours, and brilliant writing in the form of voice over, with a bold and innovative point of view, this short manages to describe in a visceral and emotionally disturbing way a young woman's struggle with an eating disorder.

Award ceremony and screening of the winning film tonight at 7.30 p.m. at Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Cinema 1.

Press Office  
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