

Press Release



GWFF Best First Feature Award Jury

Since 2006, when it introduced the GWFF Best First Feature Award, the Berlinale has been even more committed to supporting the next generation of film makers. The award is endowed with € 50,000, donated by the GWFF (Gesellschaft zur Wahrnehmung von Film- und Fernsehrechten), a society dedicated to safeguarding film and television rights. The prize money is to be split between the producer and the director of the winning film. Additionally, the director will be awarded with a high-quality viewfinder as both a useful instrument and memorable trophy.

Festival Director Dieter Kosslick and the heads of the *Competition*, *Panorama*, *Forum*, *Generation* and *Perspektive Deutsches Kino* sections have nominated a total of 17 directorial feature film debuts. The winners will be announced at the official Award Ceremony in the Berlinale Palast on February 16.

A three-person jury will decide on the GWFF Best First Feature Award:

Katja Eichinger (Germany)

After graduating from the British Film Institute, author and journalist Katja Eichinger worked for a number of papers and magazines, including *Variety*, *Financial Times*, *Esquire*, *Dazed & Confused*, *The Independent on Sunday*, and *VOGUE Germany*. After the death of her husband Bernd Eichinger, she wrote his biography, titled "BE" (2012). Her debut novel, "Amerikanisches Solo", was published in 2014. Alongside being the initiator of the Giorgio Moroder retrospective "The Sound of Munich" and "Warholmania" – an homage to Andy Warhol – she supports young filmmakers through the "NO FEAR Award", a scholarship for promising producers at the University of Television and Film Munich (HFF), as well as through her work at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (dfffb). In 2014 she was on the jury of the "Made in Germany - *Perspektive Fellowship*" at the Berlinale. In 2018 she produced the concept album "Junkspace" with Rem Koolhaas and the New York band Tempers.

Alain Gomis (France / Senegal)

Born in France in 1972, the French-Senegalese director studied art history and film at the Sorbonne University in Paris. After beginning with videos and short films, he made his feature film debut in 2002 with *L'afrance* which focused on the spiritual hardships of migrants in France and was awarded a Silver Leopard in Locarno. His feature film *Andalucia* was shown at the Venice Days, *Aujourd'hui (Tey)* screened in *Competition* at the 2012 Berlinale and was chosen as Senegal's entry for an Oscar® nomination for Best Foreign Language Film. In 2017, Alain Gomis

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presented his film *Félicité* in the Berlinale *Competition* and won the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize.

Vivian Qu (China)

Director, screenwriter, and producer Vivian Qu is one of Chinese independent cinema's most important representatives. Her directorial debut *Shuiyin jie (Trap Street, 2013)* premiered to critical acclaim in Venice, and was shown at over 50 film festivals worldwide. In 2017 she presented her film *Jia nian hua (Angels Wear White)* in Venice Competition, and it garnered her numerous awards worldwide, including Best Director at the 54th Golden Horse Awards and the Chinese Director's Guild Award in her home country. Prior to this, she has produced several award-winning independent films including Diao Yinan's *Bai Ri Yan Huo (Black Coal, Thin Ice)*, which received the Golden Bear for Best Film and the Silver Bear for Best Actor at the 2014 Berlinale. Vivian Qu was president of the jury at the 2018 International Antalya Film Festival.

The following 16 films are nominated for the GWFF Best First Feature Award:

Competition (1)

Systemsprenger (System Crasher)

Germany

by Nora Fingscheidt

with Helena Zengel, Albrecht Schuch, Gabriela Maria Schmeide, Lisa Hagmeister, Melanie Straub, Victoria Trauttmansdorff, Maryam Zaree, Tedros Teclebrhan

Panorama (6)

The Day After I'm Gone

Israel

by Nimrod Eldar

with Menashe Noy, Zohar Meidan

37 Seconds

Japan

by HIKARI

with Mei Kayama, Misuzu Kanno, Makiko Watanabe, Shunsuke Daitō, Yuka Itaya



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Buoyancy

Australia

by Rodd Rathjen

with Sarm Heng, Thanawut Kasro, Mony Ros

Flesh Out

Italy

by Michela Occhipinti

with Beitta Ahmed Deiche, Amal Saab Bouh Oumar, Aichetou Abdallahi

Najim, Sidi Mohamed Chighaly

A Dog Barking at the Moon

People's Republic of China / Spain

by Xiang Zi

with Nan Ji, Naren Hua, Zhang Xinyue

Greta

Brazil

by Armando Praça

with Marco Nanini, Denise Weinberg, Demick Lopes, Gretta Sttar

Forum (5)

Gli ultimi a vederli vivere (The Last to See Them)

Germany

by Sara Summa

with Canio Lancellotti, Pasquale Lioi, Barbara Verrastro

So Pretty

USA / France

by Jessie Jeffrey Dunn Rovinelli

with Edem Dela-Seshi, Thomas Love, Rachika Samarth

Serpentário (Serpentarius)

Angola / Portugal

by Carlos Conceição

with João Arrais

Monștri. (Monsters.)

Romania

by Marius Olteanu,

with Judith State, Cristian Popa, Alexandru Potocean



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El despertar de las hormigas (Hormigas)

Costa Rica / Spain

by Antonella Sudasassi Furniss

with Daniella Valenciano, Leynar Gómez, Isabella Moscoso

Generation (2)

Mijn bijzonder rare week met Tess (My Extraordinary Summer with Tess)

Netherlands / Germany

by Steven Wouterlood

with Sonny van Utteren, Josephine Arendsen, Julain Ras,
Tjebbo Gerritsma, Suzan Boogaerdt

Cleo

Germany

by Erik Schmitt

with Marleen Lohse, Jeremy Mockridge, Heiko Pinkowski, Max Mauff

Perspektive Deutsches Kino (2)

Die Einzelteile der Liebe (The Components of Love)

Germany

by Miriam Bliese

with Birte Schnöink, Ole Lagerpusch, Andreas Döhler, Justus Fischer

Oray

Germany

by Mehmet Akif Büyükatay

with Zejhun Demirov, Deniz Orta, Cem Göktaş, Ferhat Keskin, Mikael Bajrami

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