

Press Release



Berlinale 2019: The *Panorama* Audience Awards go to *37 Seconds* and *Talking About Trees*

The public has cast its votes: the 21st *Panorama* Audience Awards go to ***37 Seconds*** for best fiction film and ***Talking About Trees*** for best documentary. The awards are presented by the Berlinale *Panorama* section in collaboration with radioeins and rbb television (Berlin-Brandenburg Broadcasting).

Yuma is 23 and a wheelchair user on account of cerebral palsy. But the comic book artist can certainly hold a pencil. Determined to live life on her own terms - and at arm's length from her overprotective mother - she stumbles across manga porn. Born in Osaka, Japan, HIKARI studied film and TV production at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. With her short films she received numerous awards at festivals all over the world. ***37 Seconds*** is her first feature.

In an attempt to revive an old cinema in Sudan, four friends encounter insurmountable resistance. The film, which focuses on the history of Sudanese cinema, also sheds light on the current situation in this crisis-ridden country. Born in Sudan in 1979, Suhaib Gasmelbari lived there until the age of 16. He studied film at the Université Paris 8 in France and worked as a freelance cameraman and editor for Al Qarra, Al Jazeera and France 24. He has written and directed many short fiction films and documentaries. ***Talking About Trees*** is his first feature-length documentary.

The official award ceremony will be held at 5.00 pm on Sunday, February 17, at CinemaxX 7 at Potsdamer Platz. The prizes will be awarded by Martina Zöllner (rbb TV, programme director of the documentary and fiction section) and Robert Skuppin (radioeins programme director). Knut Elstermann, *radioeins* film expert, and *Panorama* head Paz Lázaro and co-curator Michael Stütz will host the event. Directly after the ceremony, the *Panorama* Dokumente winner will be shown. The feature film will be screened at 8 pm, also in CinemaxX 7.

The *Panorama* Audience Award has been established in 1999. Since 2011, the awards are given to both, the best fiction film and the best documentary film. During the festival, moviegoers are asked to rate the

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films shown in *Panorama* on voting cards after the screenings. In 2019 a total of 29.000 votes were cast and counted.

This year *Panorama* presented 45 feature-length films from 38 countries, of which 15 screened in the *Panorama Dokumente* series.

Panorama Audience Award Winner Fiction Film 2019

37 Seconds

Japan 2019

by HIKARI

2nd place Panorama Audience Award Fiction Film 2019

Šavovi (Stitches)

Serbia / Slovenia / Croatia / Bosnia and Herzegovina 2019

by Miroslav Terzić

3rd place Panorama Audience Award Fiction Film 2019

Buoyancy

Australia 2019

by Rodd Rathjen

Panorama Audience Award Winner Panorama Dokumente 2019

Talking About Trees

France / Sudan / Germany / Chad / Qatar 2019

by Suhaib Gasmelbari

2nd place Panorama Audience Award Panorama Dokumente 2019

Midnight Traveler

USA / United Kingdom / Qatar / Canada 2019

by Hassan Fazili

3rd place Panorama Audience Award Panorama Dokumente 2019

Shooting the Mafia

Ireland / USA 2019

by Kim Longinotto

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