



19 International Film Schools Festival Awards

The **19 International Film Schools Festival**, organized by the **Uruguayan Film School (ECU)** and **Cinemateca Uruguaya**, ended on Saturday 17 August after four days in Cinemateca, Montevideo. There were awards and mentions for student short films from Germany, Argentina, France, Hungary, Israel, the Netherlands, Poland and Uruguay.

Awards

The Professional Jury, composed by Gema Juárez Allen (Argentina), María Nela Lebeque Hay (Cuba) and Emiliano Mazza De Luca (Uruguay) gave the following awards: Best Fiction prize to **The last children in paradise**, directed by Anna Roller (University of Television and Film Munich, Germany); Best Documentary prize to **Sisters**, directed by Michal Hytros (Lodz Film School, Poland); Best Animation prize to **You are overreacting**, directed by Karina Paciorkowska (Lodz Film School, Poland); and Best Iberamerican short film to **Lo que perdí en el fuego**, directed by Sofía Ferraro (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina). As Best Uruguayan short film the Jury awarded **Escena**, directed by Tomás Píriz (Uruguayan Film School).

The five filmmakers will receive as a prize a license of the professional script writing software **Final Draft**, and the best Uruguayan short film also received the **Musitelli Prize** (professional filming equipment worth USD 4,000) and the **La Mayor Prize** (5.1 sound mix of a short film).

Meanwhile, the **Students Jury** composed by Nicolás Medina (Tecnicultura en Audiovisuales UTU / ORT University), Olivia Opizo (Uruguayan Film School) and Santiago Ordóñez (Catholic University of Uruguay), decided to give the following awards and mentions: Best Fiction prize to **Dante vs Mohammed Ali**, directed by Marc Wagenaar (Netherlands Filmacademy, Netherlands), with a Special Mention to **The last children in paradise**, directed by Anna Roller (University of Television and Film Munich, Germany); Best Documentary prize to **Valley of the rulers**, directed by Efim Graboy (Tel Aviv University, Israel); Best Animation prize to **Moitié-moitié**, directed by Baptiste Drapeau (La Fémis, France), with a Special Mention to **Broken things**, directed by Panni Gyulai (MOME Animation, Hungary). Among the Uruguayan short films, they also awarded **Escena**, directed by Tomás Píriz from the Uruguayan Film School, who received the **DirectTV Faciuni Becas Award**, consisting of a Sony A7 camera.

The festival audience also awarded its own prizes: as Best International short film the audience award went to the documentary **Valley of the rulers**, directed by Efim Graboy (Tel Aviv University, Israel); and as Best Uruguayan short film the award went to **Música de ascensor**, directed by Franco Marchese of

the Uruguayan Film School. In this case the prize is worth 8.000 pesos for the acquisition of the exhibition rights by the **ICAU** (Uruguayan Film and Audiovisual Institute).

In total, the Festival presented around **USD 8,000** in prizes.

Parallel activities

The official selection of the festival included 70 short films made by students from 53 film schools in 29 countries and four continents. 38 of them were narrative fictions, 19 documentaries or non-fictions and 13 animations. The screenings, with free admission, took place in the new Cinemateca complex, which meant a great leap in exhibition quality and comfort.

In addition, three master classes were held as parallel activities on the challenges and opportunities for film production in the region. They were conducted by **Sandino Saravia Vinay**, a Uruguayan producer based in Mexico (The Pope's Bathroom, A Monster with a Thousand Heads, Boi Neon, Birds of Passage and Alfonso Cuarón's Roma); Argentinians **Mariano Llinás** and **Laura Citarella**, founders of El Pampero Cine (Extraordinary Stories, La flor); and Argentine producer **Gema Juárez Allen** (Road to La Paz, Soldier, War Theater, Rubén Blades is not my name).

During the Festival there were also three very special exhibitions: a showcase for curricular works made by students of the **Audiovisual Art Workshop (TAA)** for children and teenagers, which takes place on Saturdays at ECU under the coordination of Carolina Deveras; the premiere of the short film **Al-Nujum - The stars**, made in the Saharawi refugee camp in Bojador (Algeria) during a photography and camera workshop by Diego Soria, teacher of the Uruguayan Film School, with students from the Abidin Kaid Saleh Film School of the Saharawi Republic (the only film school in the world located in a refugee camp); and the pre-premiere of **The Last Youtuber**, a "zombie" web series directed by Martín De Benedetti, graduated from ECU (Generation 2014), and produced by Diego Fernández Pujol of Parking Films with ECU as associate producer.

There were four intense days of cinema, conversations, social and professional meetings. We are very thankful to those who accompanied us these days and to all the friends, collaborators, participants, guests, jurors, companies and institutions that made it possible. We will meet again next year in the Festival number 20!

This edition of the Festival was possible thanks to the support of ICAU (Uruguayan Film and Audiovisual Institute), Montevideo Audiovisual, Musitelli, La Mayor, Orpheo Hotel, La Cocina de Pedro, Cinemateca Café, Montevideo Portal, La Diaria, TV Ciudad, TNU, CILECT, FEISAL, TAA, and the sponsorship of DirecTV Faciuni Becas, Bar Fénix and Final Draft.

More information (in Spanish):

<http://ecu.edu.uy/sitioweb/festival-2019/>