

Baltic Herring 2024 winners

Baltic Herring Short Film Competition is open for filmmakers in the Baltic Sea countries + in Iceland: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden + Iceland.

The level of the competition was high, especially in the student series with many original, imaginative and surprising stories and some particularly fine camera and acting work.

Golden Baltic Herring: Cédric Ernoult, Kunsthochschule Köln, Germany: Le Métèque

Le Métèque deserves the main prize above all for its mature cinematic language. The skillful framing of events leaves the viewer with the opportunity to see a larger story beyond the film. The unanswered questions that arise during the film keep the viewer captivated.

I Prize amateurs: Akseli Kouki, Finland: About Wine, Football and Loneliness

About Wine, Football and Loneliness is a story about how loneliness can eat away at you from the inside, even when you're surrounded by friends and a beautiful cottage setting. The strong performances and a solid script subtly and effectively show how the feeling of loneliness can overshadow everything, turning the ordinary aspects of daily life into something meaningless.

I Prize Students: Mahsa Mollenhauer, Hamburg Media School: Ein Fahrrad für Alicia, Germany

Ein Fahrrad für Alicia is a stark and beautiful story of two siblings looking out for each other. The film also explores growing up in different circumstances. The excellent young actors in the film deserve a special mention.

I Prize professionals: Antanas Skučas and Gintare Valevičiute Brazaskiene, Lithuania: Purga

Purga creates a chilling picture of the horrors and atrocities of a Soviet prison camp. In this film, sadness and hopelessness are transformed into a beautiful language of animation. The visual style and soundscape convey the suffering of the prisoners in a realistic, moving and compelling way.

Mentions of Honor

Brave vision: Topi Raulo, Aalto University, Finland: Suonsilmä

The film makers have created their own visual and narrative way of storytelling in an uncompromising manner. They have executed their vision with integrity.

Beautiful gesture: Saarlotta Virri, Aalto University, Finland: In the Midst of Chaos there Was Shape

A tender reminder of the power of play.

Breathtaking storytelling: Alexey Evstigneev, Russia/France: Father's Letters-VOSTA!

Two truths running side by side manage to touch the heart.

Jury 2024:

Veikko Timonen, Golden Baltic Herring winner 2023

Grete Ahtola, Cultural Councillor at Estonian Embassy in Helsinki

Silja Lehtonen, Museum Director of Lönström Art Museum

Lotta Halinen, dancer, Raumars artist