

Press release

BLOCKING PERIOD: Friday, 12th November 2021, 9.00 a.m.

An award for the pioneers of cinema – The GROSSE KLAPPE goes to „Dans le silence d’une mer abyssale“ (BE 2021) by Juliette Klinké

The Belgian production „Dans le silence d’une mer abyssale/In the silence of an abyssal sea“ is the winner of the GROSSE KLAPPE. The European film award for the best documentary for children and adolescents is endowed with 5.000 Euros by the Federal Agency for Civic Education. The doxs! Youth Jury selects and presents the winner in Duisburg.

Duisburg/Bonn, 12th November 2021

„Who decides, what is worthy of remembrance?“, asks director Juliette Klinké in her documentary essay. Although women are shaping cinema since its beginning, they are often completely overlooked or pushed to the sidelines in official film historiography. “They are buried in the silence of an abyssal sea”. “Dans le silence d’une mer abyssale” puts film clips, that were made by women between 1896 and 1940 together and brings back a buried legacy to the present cultural memory.

In their **official statement**, the **youth jury** explains, that the film is finally giving justice to the “courageous and innovative women”, that should have deserved recognition a long time ago. The filmmaker “accentuates this theme with remarkably elaborate archival material combined with a poetic but clearly structured narrative style.” This prize may contribute to “young female directors not being overlooked like their pioneers.”

Thomas Krüger, president of the Federal Agency for Civic education and award sponsor of the GROSSE KLAPPE thanks the youth jury for their decision: “Documentaries refine the look for socially critical issues. At the same time, film history educates the eye for a responsible approach to media.” He continues that the awarded film “brings forward the patriarchal structures in the history of cinema. Structures, that are defining society until today, just like the recent and ongoing #MeToo debate has proven. The youth jury reminds us to always demand gender equality – everywhere, even in the supposedly enlightened and creative fields of society.”

Gudrun Sommer, festival director of doxs!: “The jury’s decision stands for a sociopolitical claim, as well as a generational change. Juliette Klinké’s film is a historically wise plea, that presents its arguments aesthetically aspirational. This makes the audience curious about the upcoming cinema of the next years.”

A special mention is given to the German production “Seepferdchen/Seahorse” (DE 2020) by **Nele Dehnenkamp**. The 16 min long film introduces the audience to the refugee story of the protagonist Hanan and her fear of water, which is related to her dangerous journey. “It is remarkable that she confronts her traumatic experiences independently through her work as a swimming teacher.”

Seven European productions of this year’s festival programme were nominated for the GROSSE KLAPPE award. The prize is presented in cooperation with the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb) to

honor documentaries appealing to children and youth and which simultaneously notably encourage debates about aesthetics and politics. The youth jury watched all films in the cinema and announced the winner during an event for the GROSSE KLAPPE-partner schools in Duisburg.

The **complete official jury statement**, as well as the **printable photo material** of the honored films can be found on www.do-xs.de/presse/filmpreise/ after the blocking period.

The doxs!-festival took place from 8th to 21st November as part of the Duisburger Filmwoche. Alongside **Duisburg**, cinemas in **Bochum, Bottrop, Dortmund, Essen, Gelsenkirchen** and **Moers** were venues of the 20th edition in cooperation with doxs! ruhr.

Press contact doxs!

doxs! documentaries for children and youth
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