

## Press Release

### Remaining Composed in a Turbulent Time – The doxs! Youth Jury Awards the GROSSE KLAPPE to “The Circle” (UK 2019) by Lanre Malaolu

Duisburg/Bonn 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020

The British production “The Circle” is the winner of the GROSSE KLAPPE. The European film prize worth 5,000 euros for the best political children and youth documentary film is sponsored by the German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb, and this year it is celebrating its tenth anniversary.

“Sometimes I feel like my own thoughts are attacking me.” David and Sanchez are confronted by racism and social prejudices on an almost daily basis. The two brothers and protagonists from “The Circle” (UK 2019) live in the London district of Hackney, which is associated with criminality, drugs and gang warfare. The rejection and fear which the young men are confronted by shapes their attitude towards life and undermines their self-confidence.

The youth jury justified their decision by saying “We are awarding the prize to a film that keeps its composure in a time fraught with political turbulence and manages to overcome stereotypes.” The members of the jury were particularly impressed by the choreographies of a local dance group which accompany the two brothers and transform their thoughts and feelings into artistic movements. These “stood in contrast with the grave sets of ever-present problems addressed by the film” and created “hope by presenting the beauty of the dancing as an antidote to violence and hatred”.

**Thomas Krüger, President of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education** and founder of the GROSSE KLAPPE, thanked the youth jury for their decision. “They illustrated their sensitivity for the issue of racism”, he said, “and urged people to consistently seek a critical attitude towards dealing with every form of denigration and ostracism of minority groups.” And he added: “The decision in favour of this film emphasises how urgent it is to reveal experiences with discriminations in society and to clearly address conflicts. This is the only way of being able to prevent the continuation of ideologies that foster inequality.”

The young people gave a **special mention** to the Czech production **M E Z E R Y / S p a c e s** (CZ 2020) by **Nora Štrbová**. In the eight-minute animation film the filmmaker grapples with her brother’s brain tumour illness. “We are particularly impressed by the variation in the style of visual presentation and sound effects, and this underlines the originality of the film.”

In 2020 eight European productions from the festival programme were nominated for the GROSSE KLAPPE. The prize is awarded in cooperation with the German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb and pays tribute to documentary films which appeal to children and youth and thereby particularly encourage aesthetic and political debates.

The youth jury watches all films in the cinema – this year the award is not being personally presented because of the pandemic.

The **detailed statement of the jury** and **printable images** of the award-winning films are available at <https://www.do-xs.de/presse/filmpreise/> once the retention period runs out.

The doxs! Festival took place online from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November within the framework of the 44<sup>th</sup> Duisburg Film Week.

**Press contact doxs!**

Doxs! dokumentarfilme für kinder und jugendliche

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