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1226 N Salsipuedes Unit C 1(805)704-5994 |https://hollywoodglee.com Larry@HollywoodGlee.com

Berlin Film Festival Announces GWFF Best First Feature Award Jury

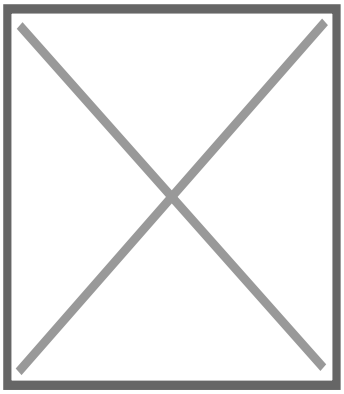
Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

Since 2006, when it introduced the GWFF Best First Feature Award, the Berlinale has been even more committed to supporting the next generation of film makers. The award is endowed with 50,000 Euros, donated by the GWFF (Gesellschaft zur Wahrnehmung von Film- und Fernsehrecht), a society dedicated to safeguarding film and television rights. The prize money is to be split between the producer and the director of the winning film. Additionally, the director will be awarded with a high-quality viewfinder as both a useful instrument and memorable trophy.

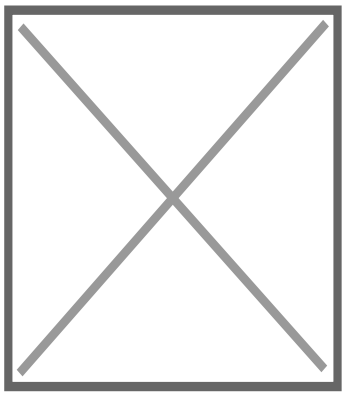
Festival Director Dieter Kosslick and the heads of the *Competition*, *Panorama*, *Forum*, *Generation* and *Perspektive Deutsches Kino* sections have nominated a total of 16 directorial debuts. The winners will be announced at the official Award Ceremony in the Berlinale Palast on February 18.

A three-person jury will decide on the GWFF Best First Feature Award:



Jayro Bustamante (Photo credit: berlinale.de)

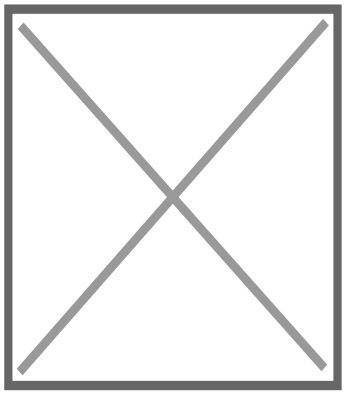
Jayro Bustamante (Guatemala)
In 2015 with his debut feature, *Ixcanul*, Jayro Bustamante was the first Guatemalan director invited to participate in the *Competition* of the Berlinale. Cast with amateur actors from the region of the Kaqchikel Maya, the film won the Silver Bear Alfred Bauer Prize. *Ixcanul* went on to screen at 60 other film festivals, including those in Karlovy Vary, Jerusalem, Telluride, Toronto, Biarritz, Cartagena, Mumbai, Guadalajara, Ghent, and San SebastiÃ¡n, and took home 52 awards. What is more, Ixcanul was the second Guatemalan movie ever submitted for an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. Jayro Bustamante, who had previously studied in Paris and Rome, as well as directed commercials for Ogilvy & Matter, has also made a variety of short, documentary, and animated films. Currently he is working on his next two full-length feature films: *Temblores* and *Los tenis de barrondo*.



Clotilde Courau (Photo credit: Roch Armando)

Clotilde Courau (France)

Clotilde Courau began her acting career at 16 and performed on stage while still at acting school. For her screen debut in Jacques Doillonâ??s *The Little Gangster*, which ran in the Berlinale *Competition* in 1991, she received the European Film Award and her first nomination for a CÃ©sar. Ever since, Clotilde Courau has been an established star of French cinema. She is known for films such as *Elisa* (dir: Jean Becker, 1995); *The Bait* (dir: Bertrand Tavernier, 1995); the opening film of the Berlinale 2007, *La vie en rose* (dir: Olivier Dahan); and *In the Shadow of Women* (dir: Philippe Garrel, 2015). She has also starred in international productions, e.g. in Paul Mazurskyâ??s *The Pickle* (1993) and Rod Lurieâ??s *Deterrence* (1999). Courau regularly performs on the stage: recently she played in â??Piaf, lâ??Ãªtre intimeâ?•, which she also directed. Her latest film *Le Ciel attendra* by Marie Castille Mention-Schaar will open in German cinemas in 2017.



Mahmoud Sabbagh (Photo credit: Ahmed Mater)

Mahmoud Sabbagh (Saudi Arabia)

Born in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) in 1983, author, director and producer Mahmoud Sabbagh presented his debut feature, *Barakah Meets Barakah*, in the Berlinaleâ??s *Forum* section in 2016. There this remarkably humorous film won the Prize of the Ecumenical Jury. It went on to be screened at, e.g., the Toronto International Film Festival, and ultimately entered the race â?? only the second Saudi Arabian film ever to do so â?? for the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. For some years now, Sabbagh, who has a degree in documentary filmmaking from New Yorkâ??s Columbia University, has been considered one of the pioneers of a new independent generation of filmmakers in his country. Among other works, he has directed and penned a documentary on the controversial poet Hamza Shehata as well as the highly-regarded online TV series *Cash*.

The following 16 films are nominated for the GWFF Best First Feature Award:

***Competition* (2)**

Django â?? France
By Etienne Comar
With Reda Kateb, CÃ©cile de France, Alex BrendemÃ¼hl, Ulrich Brandhoff

Wilde Maus â?? Austria
By Josef Hader
With Josef Hader, Pia Hierzegger, Georg Friedrich, JÃ¶rg Hartmann, Denis Moschitto

***Panorama* (2)**

KaygÄ± (Inflame) â?? Turkey
By Ceylan Ã?zgÃ¼n Ã?zÃ§elik
With AlgÄ± Eke, Ã?zgÃ¼r Ã?evik

***Pieles* (*Skins*)** â?? Spain
By Eduardo Casanova
With Ana Polvorosa, Candela PeÃ±a, Carmen Machi, Macarena GÃ³mez, Secun de la Rosa, Jon Kortajarena, Antonio Duran â??Morrisâ?•, Eloi Costa

***Forum* (3)**

***AdiÃ³s entusiasmo* (*So Long Enthusiasm*)** â?? Argentina / Colombia
By Vladimir DurÃ¡n
With Camilio Castiglione, Mariel Fernandez, Laila Maltz, Martina Juncadella, VerÃ³nica LlinÃ¡s

Casa Roshell â?? Mexico / Chile
By Camila JosÃ© Donoso
With Roshell Terranova, Liliana Alba, Lia GarcÃa, Diego Alberico, Cristian Aravena

***Motza el hayam* (*Low Tide*)** â?? Israel / France
By Daniel Mann
With Gal Hoyberger, Susanne Gschwendtner, Amnon Wolf, Eran Ivanir, Oleg Levin

***Generation* (5)**

***As duas Irenes* (*Two Irenes*)** â?? Brazil
By Fabio Meira
With Priscila Bittencourt, Isabela Torres

Butterfly Kisses â?? United Kingdom
By Rafael Kapelinski
With Theo Stevenson, Liam Whiting

***Estiu 1993* (*Summer 1993*)** â?? Spain
By Carla SimÃ³n
With Laia Artigas, Paula Robles

Freak Show â?? USA
By Trudie Styler
With Alex Lawther, Abigail Breslin

Wallay â?? France / Burkina Faso / Qatar
By Berni Goldblat
With Makan Nathan Diarra, Ibrahim Koma

***Perspektive Deutsches Kino* (4)**

Back for Good â?? Germany
By Mia Spengler
With Kim Riedle, Juliane KÃ¶hler, Leonie Wesselow, Nicki von Tempelhoff

***Die beste aller Welten* (*The Best Of All Worlds*)** â?? Germany / Austria
By Adrian Goiginger

With Verena Altenberger, Jeremy Miliker, Lukas Miko, Michael Pink

Millennials â?? Germany
By Jana BÃ¼rgelin
With Anne Zohra Berrached, Leonel Dietsche, Jan Koslowski, Anna Herrmann

***Die Tochter* (*Dark Blue Girl*)** â?? Germany
By Mascha Schilinski
With Helena Zengel, Karsten Antonio Mielke, Artemis Chalkidou

All nominated films will celebrate their world premiere at the Berlinale 2017.

Category

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hollywoodglee