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BERLINALE TALENTS 2017: COURAGE IN ACTION!

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson.

The 15th edition of *Berlinale Talents* was rounded off yesterday by Berlinale International Jury member and artist Olafur Eliasson as well as director Raoul Peck, who is at the festival this year with the Oscar-nominated *I Am Not Your Negro* (*Panorama*) and *Le jeune Karl Marx* (*Berlinale Special*). During the last six days, over 100 experts, 250 Talents and well over 6,000 visitors turned HAU Hebbel am Ufer into an international hub of discussion and networking for film lovers.



Prof. Monika Gruttes, the Federal Commissioner for Culture and Media (Photo via monika-grutters.de)

â??Once again, this yearâ??s *Berlinale Talents* proves to be the festivalâ??s innovation lab. Where else can young filmmakers and experienced experts from every culture, country and profession have such open, inspiring exchange and collaborate on bringing new films to life? I wish these Talents success as they turn their ideas into reality. And above all: Have courage!â?• said the Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media, Prof. Monika GrÃ¼tters, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of *Berlinale Talents*.



In a time of political and social upheaval, this yearâ??s theme has been a call to take a clear stance on cinematic narratives and aesthetics as well as a reminder against discouragement to rally our optimism and work together to bring about change. Throughout over 100 events and workshops, Talents discussed and worked with renowned experts and mentors, including Paul Verhoeven and Maggie Gyllenhaal, Christo, Agnieszka Holland, Ana Lily Amirpour, Isabel Coixet, Andres Veiel, Gurinder Chadha, Laura Poitras, Timothy Spall and many more.

Sundayâ??s opening panel, with this yearâ??s Berlinale International Jury President Paul Verhoeven and Berlinale International Jury member Maggie Gyllenhaal set the tone for this yearâ??s edition. â??Be courageous and step into the unknown,â?• was Paul Verhoevenâ??s encouragement for the Talents. Christo, in his 90-minute discussion with the audience, called for creative work to be based in real contexts: â??The most important thing of all our work is that it is about real things: real wind, real wet, real dry, real fear.â?• The days to come were a journey towards discovering personal, creative and filmic moments of courage. *Talents* alumna Ana Lily Amirpour, who returned this year as an expert, summed up what makes *Berlinale Talents* so special: â??I loved it here when I came in 2010, and I still feel the same. Itâ??s invigorating to be around so many people from everywhere in the world who are just madly in love with their ideas.â?•

Prizes during *Berlinale Talents*

Once again, prizes were awarded to filmmakers during *Berlinale Talents*.

As part of the â??Talent Project Market,â?• the VFF Talent Highlight Award, endowed with â?¬ 10,000, went to the project *The Bus to Amerika* by producer Nefes Polat and director Derya Durmaz (Turkey). Cash prizes of â?¬1,000 each were awarded to the Cuban producer Maria Carla del Rio and the Singaporean producer Jeremy Chua for their nominated projects.

For the fifth time, the Robert Bosch Stiftung awarded during *Berlinale Talents* film prizes to promote international cooperation between German and Arab filmmakers, endowed with up to â?¬ 60,000 each.

Animation: *Night* by director Ahmad Saleh (Jordan) and producers Jessica Neubauer (Germany) and Saleh Saleh (Jordan)

Short Film: *The Trap* by director Nada Riyadh (Egypt) and producers Eva Schellenbeck (Germany) and Ayman El Amir (Egypt)

Documentary: *Behind Closed Doors* (*Mor Lâ??Bab)* by director Yakout Elhababi (Morocco) and producers Karoline Henkel (Germany) and Hind Sah (Morocco / France)

Co-Partner Nespresso kicked off the vertical video contest â??Nespresso Talents 2017â?• during *Berlinale Talents*. The competition is open for entries until April 17, 2017, at nespresso.com/talents. Winners will be officially announced during the Cannes Film Festival and receive a cash prize and participation in a mentoring programme.

And tonight, *Berlinale Talents* and *Perspektive Deutsches Kino* will jointly award the inaugural Kompagnon-Fellowship during the closing evening of *Perspektive Deutsches Kino*.

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Category

1. #Berlinale
2. #BIFF
3. Berlin Film Festival
4. Berlinale Talents

Tags

1. Art
2. Cinema
3. creativity
4. entertainment
5. Film
6. Film Festival
7. Filmmaking
8. inspiration
9. Larry Gleeson
10. marketing
11. Media
12. Monika Grutters
13. News
14. platform
15. Programming
16. writing

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