

XVIII Blue Sea Film Festival 19th-21st August 2011, Rauma, Finland

Press release 20th August 2011 – free to publish at 19.30

Baltic Herring Short Film Competition 2011 - Awarded films

In 2011 Baltic Herring Short Film Competition, a total of 49 films competed in three different categories – student, open (amateur) and professional.

This year, the international film jury was happy with so much water on the screen. The water was an important theme in most of the films, like it is also highlighted in the Baltic Herring Short Film Competition's rules.

The main prize of the student category was won by the film *Muutos meitä johtaa / Change of state* directed by **Ville Hakonen** and **Jussi Sandhu** from Tampere University of Applied Sciences. The Jury characterized the winner as a tragic film with a good sense of humour. The 1970's style was appreciated together with the play with black and white and the colours on several layers. The film also had a Baltic Sea theme: the main character, official supervisor of the national lottery Mr Honkonen (wonderful Mika Honkanen) decides to leave his job and run to Estonia.

The second prize in the student category was awarded to *Parādi man skanu / Show me the Sound* directed by **Agnese Laizāne** from Baltic Film and Media School. The jury described Laizāne's film as a interesting drama about a mother losing her hearing affecting the family dynamics. The jury especially praised the actor work by Ilze Pukinska who played the mother Dagne.

The third prize was awarded to two films: *Laulu sieltä missä tyyntä on / The Song from Silent Waters* by **Outi Tienhaara**, Tampere University of Applied Sciences and *Näe minut / See Me* by **Joonas Rutanen**, Turku Arts Academy. Jury appreciated Tienhaara's way to handle a classical story in a contemporary way. Rutanen's film about a young girl trying to find the courage to be seen was thanked for its delicate directing and acting, together with the special attention to subtle details in cinematography.

The amateur category was won by the sci-fi film *Place to Stay* by the director **Jesse Jokela**. In this category, only the first prize was given out. The jury appreciated the film because it was a coherent, funny and real story of an alien ending up "in the middle of nowhere", Finnish village Lammi. "In the film *Place to Stay* everything on the screen is interesting and it has many delicious moments", described the jury. Also the actors were praised.

The main prize of the professional category was awarded to animated film *Esterhazy*, directed by **Izabela Plucinska**, Poland. The Jury described the film as a great allegorical animation with an edge: a story about a member of the great Esterhazy dynasty in the modern Berlin, starring bunnies.

The second prize of the professional category was won by two Finnish love stories, *The Rite* by Kimmo Alakunnas and *Este / Obstacle* by **Pirjo Ojala**. Pirjo Ojala's

positive story about two persons trying to find each other in a town divided by a river was depicted as humouristic and honest love story. Alakunnas' film *The Rite* is an original dance film with beautiful cinematography.

The Special Prize, the Golden Baltic Herring, was awarded to the film *Muutos meitä johtaa / Change of state* which also won the student category. The winner of the Golden Baltic Herring was awarded with a sculpture made by the artist **Seija Palonen**.

In 2011, the jury also decided to give out a special "Dirty Herring" prize for a high artistic level for Anna Artemyeva's animation *Zhila-była mama / Once Upon a Time There Lived a Mum*. The witty story of the brave mother who always saves the family and makes the home anywhere, even in the stomach of "a dirty herring", was praised for the extraordinary renaissance animation style and wonderful soundscape.

The Baltic Herring Short Film Competition has been supported by the City of Rauma, the Arts Council of Satakunta and Jouko Nummela. The Competition is arranged annually in August during the Blue Sea Film Festival, Rauma, Finland.

The Results

Student Category

- I Ville Hakonen and Jussi Sandhu, Tampere University of Applied Sciences, Finland: *Muutos meitä johtaa / Change of state*, 400€
- II Agnese Laizāne, Baltic Film and Media School, Latvia: *Parādi man skanu / Show me the Sound*, 200 €
- III Outi Tienhaara, Tampere University of Applied Sciences, Finland: *Laulu sieltä missä tyyntä on / The Song from Silent Waters*, 100 €
Joonas Rutanen, Turku Arts Academy, Finland: *Näe minut / See Me*, 100 €

Open (amateur) Category

- I Jesse Jokela, Finland: *Place to Stay*, 400€

Professional Category

- I Izabela Plucinska, Poland: *Esterhazy*, 400€
- II Kimmo Alakunnas, Finland: *The Rite*, 200 €
Pirjo Ojala, Finland: *Este / Obstacle*, 200 €

Special prizes and mentions

Golden Baltic Herring – Special Prize for the best film in the competition
Ville Hakonen and Jussi Sandhu: *Muutos meitä johtaa / Change of state*, 200 €

Special prize "Dirty Herring" for the High Artistic Level - Anna Artemyeva, Russia:
Zhila-była mama / Once Upon a Time There Lived a Mum, 100 e

Special mention for the best documentary: **Johanna Vanhala**: *Voitko rakastaa*

Special mention for the best drama actress: **Ilze Pukinska** (Dagne in the film *Show Me the Sound*)

The Jury

Tarmo Hotanen, Chairman, Master of Film Studies, Rauman Elokuvaajat ry
Kanerva Kuisma, secretary, Master of Philosophy (Media Studies), Rauman
Elokuvaajat ry

Iti Kasser, Artist, Student of Film Studies, Estonia

Iveta Laure, Artist, Master of Film Studies, Latvia

Kosti Uusi-Kartano, Student, Finland

Additional information: Tarmo Hotanen, Tel. +358 44 5843009, email
tarmo.hotanen@luukku.com