

## **The award winners of the 28th Braunschweig International Film Festival**

**"The Good Life" by Jean Denizot wins the Audience Award +++ KINEMA-Award for "We are young. We are strong" +++ Short Film Music Award "Leo" for "Emergency Calls"**

**The French director Jean Denizot wins the competition of the 28th Braunschweig International Film Festival with "The Good Life". The family drama about a father who abducts both his sons and lives hidden away with them for years had its German premiere in Braunschweig. The competition for the best debut or second film has prize money of 10,000 euros and one half goes to the director and the other half to the German distributor. The Audience Award is donated by the main sponsor of the Festival, namely Volkswagen Financial Services.**

**The German-French youth award KINEMA goes to "We are Young. We are Strong" by director Burhan Qurbani. "The Leo", the Short Film Music Award, with prize money of 2,000 euros, was given to the Finnish directors Hannes Vartiainen, Pekka Veikkolainen and sound-designer Joonatan Portaankorva for "Emergency Calls" (original title: "Hätäkuutsu"). The Film Festival honours the Danish actor Mad Mikkelsen for his outstanding acting performances and services to the European film culture with the main award of the Festival, the acting award "The Europa" with prize money of 10,000 euros. The award ceremony at 19:00 this Saturday in the Großes Haus of the Staatstheater is presented by Julia Westlake. The laudatory speech for Mads Mikkelsen is being held by the journalist Daniel Kothenschulte. "The Europa" is donated by the main sponsor of the Festival, Volkswagen Financial Services.**

### **Competition Winner "The Good Life"**

The competition winner, "The Good Life" tells the story of Yves who – after separating from his wife 10 years ago - abducted both his sons. Since then, they have been living a secluded life in the Pyrenees where the children have never been to school and Yves has muddled through as a farm labourer. The children of earlier, however, have in the meantime grown up and want to follow their own dreams, for the simpleness of their lives in nature and the care of their father are no longer enough for them. Just like in a western film and with extreme sensitivity, "The Good Life" describes their flight from the mountains of South France to the banks of the River Loire.

There were 10 films in the competition from different countries, eight of which were German premieres.

From the adjudication of the jury:

"Between life and death – whether an international ship catastrophe or an individual fate within one's own walls: a cry for help never happens without good reason. Based on real emergency dialogues, the film maker Hannes Vartiainen and Pekka Veikkolainen together with their composer Joonatan Portaankorva have created an atmosphere which allows the audience to both witness and experience these existential special situations. In the combination of what appears to be real dialogues between the affected people and the emergency call centre, the documentary and the alienated film footage as well as the non-

emotionalised but dramatic soundtrack , real events are made tangible by the elaborate post-processing. The sinking of the Baltic ferry, the “Estonia”, a multiple pile-up or an unexpected birth of twins thus achieve a meta-real and universal significance.

We, the LEO jury, award the 2014 LEO to “Emergency Calls” for its exceptional composition of medial extracts from our reality and a post-production which leads us into the metaphysical. A most coherent film in which the narrative thread is consistently maintained and the audience leaves the cinema with a feeling of forsakenness but at the same time of security.”

20 films from 13 countries were in the competition.

### **Special mention**

The jury also gave a special mention for “Off Ground“ by Boudewijn Koole (director), Alex Simu (music) und Mark Glynne (sound) from the Netherlands. “For their moving masterpiece which sets aside the laws of physics with its mixture of dance, music and noises at the highest artistic level. In so doing, the film makers show that an aesthetically ambitious production can also appeal to a broad audience without pathos.”

### **German-French KINEMA Award**

The young jury of the German-French KINEMA Award decided for Burhan Qurbanis’s Drama “We are Young. We are Strong.” The director will receive a copy of the film with French subtitles to be used in further festival showings. The six jurors, aged between 16 and 21, three from Haute-Normandie and three from Lower Saxony, selected Qurbanis’s drama about the xenophobic pogroms in Rostock-Lichtenhagen in 1992.

The jury gave the following reasons:

“The tracking shots of the camera allow us to immerse into the vicious circle of violence and a story which repeats itself and affects all generations and all social layers. As spectators, we are literally overrun by the brutality of the events. The transition from black and white to colour increases the impression of injustice and has caused us to think about the topicality of this issue in France, Germany and in the whole of Europe.

With this film, the director has aroused our attention and has made us aware of our role in society. We do not have the right to remain passive: we have to face our responsibility.”

28. Internationales Filmfestival Braunschweig

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Filmographic informations about the winning films

**Audience award and competition for european debut and second films for „The Good Life“ (original title „La belle vie“)**

France 2013, 93 min.

Director: Jean Denizot;

Script: Jean Denizot, Frédérique Moreau; Camera: Elin Kirschfink; Editor: Aurélien Many; Music: Luc Meilland;

Cast: Zacharie Chasseraud, Jules Péliissier, Solène Rigot, Nicolas Bouchaud;

Producer: Mezzazine Films; Distributor: The Match Factory

Trailer: <http://www.mezzazinefilms.com/la-belle-vie.html>

**German-french youth award KINEMA for „Wir sind jung. Wir sind stark“**

Germany 2013/2014, 112 min., black and white

Director: Burhan Qurbani;

Script: Burhan Qurbani, Martin Behnke; Camera: Yoshi Heimrath; Editor: Julia Karg; Music: Matthias Sayer; Sound: Stephan von Hase, Kai Lüde, Rainer Gerlach

Cast: Devid Striesow, Thorsten Merten, Saskia Rosendahl, Jonas Nay, Joel Basman, Trang Le Hong

Producer: TeamWorx Television & Film

Distributor: Zorro Film

Trailer: <http://youtu.be/gVV5tujO4DA>

**Short film music award “LEO” for „Emergency Calls“ (original title: „Hätäkutsu“)**

Finnland 2013, 14:59 min.

Director & Camera: Hannes Vartiainen, Pekka Veikkolainen

Music & Sound: Joonatan Portaankorva

Producer & Distributor: Hannes Vartiainen, Pekka Veikkolainen

Trailer: <http://vimeo.com/83358917>

**“Off Ground” was specialy mentioned**

Netherlands 2013, 12:41 min.

Director: Boudewijn Koole

Script: Boudewijn Koole and Jakop Ahlbom; Camera: Melle Van Essen

Music: Alex Simu

Sound: Mark Glynne

Cast: Louise Lecavalier, Antoine Masson

Producer: JvdW film; Disributor: JvdW film

website: <http://witfilm.nl/projects/off-ground/>