



Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

## **FINAL PRESS RELEASE**

### **July 8<sup>th</sup> 2023**

The 57<sup>th</sup> Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, a non-specialized festival with two competitive categories, took place from June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup>. It was organized by Film Servis Festival Karlovy Vary, a.s., with Jiří Bartoška as the president of the festival, Karel Och as its artistic director, Kryštof Mucha as the executive director and Petr Lintimer as the head of production. The 58<sup>th</sup> Karlovy Vary IFF will be held from June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup> 2024. On July 8<sup>th</sup> 2023, the festival's juries presented awards for the best films at the closing ceremony of the 57<sup>th</sup> Karlovy Vary IFF.

## **CRYSTAL GLOBE COMPETITION**

### **CRYSTAL GLOBE JURY**

**Dora Bouchoucha**, Tunisia

**Patricia Clarkson**, USA

**John Nein**, USA

**Olmo Omerzu**, Czech Republic / Slovenia

**Barry Ward**, Ireland

### **GRAND PRIX – CRYSTAL GLOBE (25 000 USD)**

The financial award is shared equally by the director and producer of the award-winning film.

#### **Blaga's Lessons / Urotcite na Blaga**

Directed by: Stephan Komandarev

Bulgaria, Germany, 2023

### **SPECIAL JURY PRIZE (15 000 USD)**

The financial award is shared equally by the director and producer of the award-winning film.



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**Empty Nets** / Toorhaye khali

Directed by: Behrooz Karamizade

Germany, Iran, 2023

**BEST DIRECTOR AWARD**

**Babak Jalali** for the film **Fremont**

USA, 2023

**BEST ACTRESS AWARD**

**Eli Skorcheva** for her role in the film **Blaga's Lessons** / Urotcite na Blaga

Bulgaria, Germany, 2023

**BEST ACTOR AWARD**

**Herbert Nordrum** for his role in the film **The Hypnosis** / Hypnosen

Sweden, Norway, France, 2023

**SPECIAL JURY MENTION**

**Dancing on the Edge of a Volcano**

Directed by: Cyril Aris

Germany, Lebanon, 2023

**PRÁVO AUDIENCE AWARD**

**The Edge of the Blade** / Une affaire d'honneur

Directed by: Vincent Perez

France, 2023



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## PROXIMA COMPETITION

### PROXIMA JURY

**Dana Linssen**, Netherlands

**Marija Razgutė**, Lithuania

**Šimon Šafránek**, Czech Republic

**Barbara Wurm**, Austria

**Meng Xie**, People's Republic of China

### **PROXIMA GRAND PRIX (15 000 USD)**

The financial award is shared equally by the director and producer of the award-winning film.

#### **Birth**

Directed by: Yoo Ji-young

South Korea, 2022

### **PROXIMA SPECIAL JURY PRIZE (10 000 USD)**

The financial award is shared equally by the director and producer of the award-winning film.

#### **Guras**

Directed by: Saurav Rai

India, Nepal, 2023

### **SPECIAL JURY MENTION**

**Brutal Heat / Brutální vedro**

Directed by: Albert Hospodářský

Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, 2023



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**CRYSTAL GLOBE FOR OUTSTANDING ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTION  
TO WORLD CINEMA**

**Russell Crowe**, New Zealand

**FESTIVAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION TO CZECH  
CINEMATOGRAPHY**

**Daniela Kolářová**, Czech Republic

**FESTIVAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

**Alicia Vikander**, Sweden

**Ewan McGregor**, United Kingdom

**Robin Wright**, USA



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## NON-STATUTORY AWARDS

### THE ECUMENICAL JURY AWARD

Since 1994 the Ecumenical Jury has awarded films from the Crystal Globe Competition that display high artistic quality while questioning social, political ethical, and spiritual values. It promotes directors who emphasize the search for truth, justice, and hope in accordance with Christian Gospels.

#### THE ECUMENICAL JURY

**Hana Ducho**, Czech Republic

**Anna Grebe**, Germany

**Hermann Kocher**, Switzerland

### GRAND PRIZE OF THE ECUMENICAL JURY

**Blaga's Lessons** / Urotcite na Blaga

Directed by: Stephan Komandarev

Bulgaria, Germany, 2023

### COMMENDATION OF THE ECUMENICAL JURY

**Citizen Saint** / Mokalake Tsmindani

Directed by: Tinatin Kajrishvili

Georgia, France, Bulgaria, 2023

### EUROPA CINEMAS LABEL AWARD

Since 2003, the Europa Cinemas Label has been awarded to a European film by a jury of Europa Cinemas exhibitors at five European festivals. It aims to increase the promotion, circulation and exhibition lifespan of winning films. The Europa Cinema Label awards the best European film from the Crystal Globe Competition and Proxima Competitions.

#### EUROPA CINEMAS LABEL JURY

**Anna-Lena Arreborn**, Sweden

**Ilona van Heeckeren**, Netherlands

**Jörg Jacob**, Germany



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**The Hypnosis / Hypnosen**

Directed by: Ernst De Geer

Sweden, Norway, France, 2023

**FIPRESCI AWARD**

The International Federation of Film Critics Jury awards two FIPRESCI Prizes: to a film from the Crystal Globe Competition and a film from the Proxima Competition, for works that best promote film art and encourage new and young cinema.

**FIPRESCI JURY**

**Jana Bébarová**, Czech Republic

**Max Oliver Borg**, Switzerland

**Engin Ertan**, Turkey

**Cerise Howard**, Australia

**Hamed Soleimanzadeh**, Germany

**Jan Storø**, Norway

**The FIPRESCI award for the best film in the Crystal Globe Competition**

**The Hypnosis / Hypnosen**

Directed by: Ernst De Geer

Sweden, Norway, France, 2023

**The FIPRESCI award for the best film in the Proxima Competition**

**Imago**

Directed by: Olga Chajdas

Poland, Netherlands, Czech Republic, 2023



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## **KVIFF EASTERN PROMISES WINNERS: WORKS IN PROGRESS, WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT – FEATURE LAUNCH AND FIRST CUT+ WORKS IN PROGRESS AT KARLOVY VARY IFF 2023**

KVIFF Eastern Promises 2023, the festival's film market, showcased a total of 27 film projects across 3 programs during the 57<sup>th</sup> Karlovy Vary IFF.

### **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

JURY

**Oscar Alonso**, Spain

**Nadia Ben Rachid**, France

**Agustina Chiarino**, Uruguay

**Petr Tichý**, Czech Republic

**Esra Demirkiran**, Turkey

**Works in Progress** is a platform for feature and documentary films in the post-production or late-production stage from Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, and North Africa, which will premiere after the Karlovy Vary IFF. A total of 11 projects were pitched. The winner was awarded a prize consisting of post-production services from UPP and Soundsquare. Furthermore, two projects were awarded 5,000 EUR each for their further development, one sponsored by TRT Sinema and one by Barrandov Studio.

### **WORKS IN PROGRESS POST-PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT AWARD (90,000 EUR)**

**I'm Not Everything I Want to Be / Ještě nejsem, kým chci být**

Directed by: Klára Tasovská

Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria

### **WORKS IN PROGRESS TRT AWARD (5,000 EUR)**

**Tasty / Gardutė**

Directed by: Egle Vertelyte

Lithuania, Estonia



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## **WORKS IN PROGRESS KARLOVY VARY IFF AWARD (5,000 EUR)**

**Bikechess** / Bikechess

Directed by: Assel Aushakimova

Kazakhstan, France, Norway

## **WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT – FEATURE LAUNCH**

**Danijel Hočevár**, Slovenia

**Joseph Fahim**, Egypt

**Simone Baumann**, Germany

For this platform, KVIFF has partnered with the Midpoint Institute script and project development program as well as with the When East Meets West co-production market and Trieste Film Festival. Together they have showcased 8 projects that have gone through development and mentoring within the Feature Launch program. The jury has awarded a 10,000 EUR cash prize, jointly sponsored by MIDPOINT, Barrandov Studio and KVIFF, for further development of the project.

## **WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT AWARD (10,000 EUR)**

**Flight from Kabul** / Let z Kábulu

Directed by: Sahraa Karimi

Slovakia

## **CONNECTING COTTBUS AWARD**

JURY

**Marjorie Bendeck**, Republic of Honduras

**Katharina Stumm**, Germany

**Excavators** / Ekskafis

Directed by: Argyro Nicolaou

Cyprus

## **ROTTERDAM LAB AWARD**

JURY

**Facundo Lema**, Netherlands / Argentina





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The award goes to **Tomáš Pertold**, producer of the film **God Break Down the Door / Bože, rozraz dveře**  
Czech Republic

### **FIRST CUT+ WORKS IN PROGRESS**

JURY

**Esra Demirkiran**, Turkey

**Francesca Tiberi**, Italy

**Marge Liiske**, Estonia

First Cut+ is a programme created for boosting the competitiveness and marketability of feature films that previously participated in First Cut Lab. The programme was launched in 2020 through close cooperation with two dynamic and well-established film industry platforms: Trieste's When East Meets West and Karlovy Vary IFF's Eastern Promises Industry Days. Each year, it promotes a portfolio of 16 fiction feature films at the stage of post-production – eight of them were presented here in Karlovy Vary.

### **TRT FIRST CUT+ AWARD (5,000 EUR)**

**Allen Sunshine**

Directed by: Harley Chamandy

Canada, USA

### **INDUSTRY PARTNERS**

Film Industry Office supported by: **PPF Foundation**

Media partner: **Deadline**

Partners:

**ACE Producers**

**Audiovisual Producers' Association**

**Association of Directors, Scriptwriters and Script Editors**

**b.square**

**Barrandov Studio**

**Cinando**



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**Creative Europe Desk CZ | Media**

**Czech Film Fund**

**Europa Distribution**

**European Film Academy**

**First Cut+**

**First Cut Lab**

**KVIFF Talents**

**KVIFF.TV**

**LUX Award**

**MIDPOINT Institute**

**Sane Cinema**

**Screen International**

**Slovak Audiovisual Fund**

**Slovak Film Institute**

**Soundsquare**

**Štaidl Leška Advokáti**

**TRT Sinema**

**UPP**

**Voyo**



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## **STATISTICS OF THE 57<sup>th</sup> KARLOVY VARY IFF 2023**

The 57<sup>th</sup> Karlovy Vary IFF 2023 was attended by 10 989 accredited visitors. Of that number 9 085 had Festival Passes, 432 were filmmakers, 942 accredited film professionals, and 537 journalists.

There were a total of 445 film screenings and total of 123 517 tickets were sold. A total of 185 films were screened, including 116 feature fiction films, 28 feature documentaries and 41 short films. 36 films received their world premiere, while 11 had their international premiere and 5 their European premiere. 188 screenings were personally presented by delegations of filmmakers. 93 Press & Industry screenings were held.

A total of 942 film producers, film buyers, film sellers, distributors, film festival programmers, representatives of film institutions, and other film professionals were accredited. 480 accredited film professionals came to the festival from abroad.

A total of 27 new films and projects in development across 3 platforms were showcased to a total of 149 buyers and distributors and 120 film festival programmers.



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## **ORGANIZER OF THE 57<sup>TH</sup> KARLOVY VARY IFF 2023**

Film Servis Festival Karlovy Vary, a.s.

**PRESIDENT OF THE FESTIVAL**

Jiří Bartoška

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Karel Och

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Kryštof Mucha

**HEAD OF PRODUCTION**

Petr Lintimer

**MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jan Jírovec

**TRAILERS DIRECTORS**

Ivan Zachariáš and Martin Krejčí

**DESIGN**

Jakub Spurný & Aleš Najbrt – Studio Najbrt

**FESTIVAL PRODUCTION DESIGNER**

Martin Chocholeoušek



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**Organizer of the 57<sup>th</sup> Karlovy Vary IFF 2023: Film Servis Festival Karlovy Vary, a.s.**

**Organizers of the 57<sup>th</sup> Karlovy Vary IFF thank all partners that helped to carry out the festival.**

57<sup>th</sup> Karlovy Vary IFF is supported by:

**Ministry of Culture Czech Republic**

Main partners:

**innogy**

**Vodafone Czech Republic a.s.**

**Rohlik.cz**

**Allwyn – leading global lottery operator**

**City of Karlovy Vary**

**Karlovy Vary Region**

Partners:

**UniCredit Bank Czech Republic and Slovakia, a.s.**

**ORLEN Benzina**

**Philip Morris ČR a.s.**

**Czech Investment Funds**

**Mattoni mineral water**

**Accolade**

**Visa**

**Progresus Invest Holding**

**RENOMIA, a. s.**

Supported by:

**Luxor Bookshop**



**Karlovy Vary International Film Festival**

**Pharmacy chain and e-shop Dr. Max**  
**TCF Capital, an investment company**  
**Gopass**  
**Sev.en Group**  
**OSTRA GROUP**  
**HSF System**

Film Industry Office supported by: **PPF Foundation**

Official car: **BMW**

Official coffee: **Nespresso**

Official fuel: **VERVA**

Partner of festival moments: **instax**

Official champagne: **Moët & Chandon**

Official beer: **Pilsner Urquell**

Official drink: **CAMPARI**

Partner for a clean festival: **KÄRCHER**

Festival awards supplier: **Moser Glassworks**

Partner of the festival Instagram: **PROFIMED**

Point of sale software provider: **Teya**

Official wine: **Obelisk**

Official bike: **Specialized**

GPS technology supplier: **ECS Invention spol. s r.o.**

The 57th KVIFF is insured by: **Česká podnikatelská pojišťovna, a.s.,  
Vienna Insurance Group**

Partner of the No Barriers Project: **innogy Energie**



**Karlovy Vary International Film Festival**

Official non-profit partner: **Czech Cystic Fibrosis Association**

Main media partners: **Czech Television**  
**Czech Radio Radiožurnál**  
**PRÁVO**  
**Novinky.cz**  
**REFLEX**  
**BigBoard Praha PLC**

Media partners: **magazine TV Star**  
**ELLE Magazine**  
**men's magazine Esquire**

Partners of the golf tournaments: **ROWAN LEGAL**  
**Sedlecký kaolin a. s.**  
**ORLEN Benzina**

Main hotel partners: **Hotel Thermal**  
**Grandhotel Pupp**  
**Four Seasons Hotel Prague**