**PRESS RELEASE July 8th, 2017**

**NON-STATUTORY AWARDS**

**Award of International Film Critics**

Awarded by The International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI).

**Keep the Change**

Directed by: Rachel Israel  
USA, 2017

For a glorious first feature which tells the story of a colourful group of New Yorkers, who in any other film would be labelled as 'outsiders'. Instead Israel lets us experience their world from the inside, and it's a wondrous place to be.

It is a tender film with a simple narrative, driven by complex emotions. By letting herself be inspired by her magnificent actors' personal experiences of life on the autism spectrum, writer/director Rachel Israel has created a work that is inclusive, fresh and thoroughly engaging.

It also has one of the funniest scripts we have ever come across, with a sense of humour that ranges from the crude jokes of conflicted protagonist David, to the no-nonsense cut-offs by its leading lady Sarah – a female character with a personal brand of vivaciousness never before seen on the cinema screen.

We were deeply affected by this heartfelt story of coming of age and finding love, proving there is nothing wrong with being weird.

FIPRESCI JURY

Peter Kremski, Germany

Karin Svensson, Sweden

Kaan Karsan, Turkey

**The Ecumenical Jury Award**

**The Cakemaker**

Directed by: Ofir Raul Graizer  
Israel, Germany, 2017

With a gentle approach, the film portrays a journey towards acceptance and the pursuit of love. The unique bond formed between the characters strengthens a healing process that brings them a new life. It allows the viewer to connect to the most important of human values, something that overcomes all prejudices: love.

The Ecumenical Jury

Ennio Terrasi Borghesan, Italy  
Laura Lots, Switzerland  
Petr Vacík, Czech Republic

**FEDEORA Award**

Federation of Film Critics of Europe and the Mediterranean for the best film from

East of the West – Competition section

**Mariţa**

Directed by: Cristi Iftime  
Romania, 2017

For the simplicity in directing his debut feature film, focused on the everyday life of a family, whose members, no matter that the family is separated after the divorce of the parents, at their reunion, celebrate the meeting and enjoy it in a spontaneous and friendly way that brings positive energy into their lives.

**Special Mention**

**Blue Silence**

Directed by: Bülent Öztürk

Turkey, Belgium, 2017

To Bulent Özturk for "Blue Silence" for its strong, corageous take both in visuals, sounds and silences on how violence and war eats the soul.

FEDEORA JURY

Kostas Terzis, Greece

Blagoja Kunovski, Macedonia

Eva af Geijerstam, Sweden

**Europa Cinemas Label Award**

For the best European film in the Official Selection – Competition and in the East of the West – Competition.

**Men Don’t Cry /** Muškarci ne plaču

Directed by: Alen Drljević

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Croatia, Germany, 2017

Europe has learned throughout its difficult history that wars, particularly those that have seen neighbour fight against neighbour, do not end when the violence stops. There are difficulties to be faced in healing a divided society, when bitterness and anger must be set aside in favour of compromise and forgiveness in the name of reconciliation. In Alen Drljević's powerful *Men Don't Cry* a disparate group of former combatants representing all factions of the Balkan War of the 1990s gather in a deserted hotel to begin this process. Common ground is found, but hard-gained trust is easily and quickly lost when old resentments come to the surface. The jury was struck by the film's non-judgemental stance on the characters' different perspectives, brought to vivid life by its fine cast, the universality of its theme of the value of forgiveness not just of others, but of ourselves, for past actions, its relevance to Europe's future as a community, and its subtle commentary on the negative aspects of masculinity.

Europa Cinemas Label Jury

Marijana Bosnjak, Croatia

Kevin Coyne, Ireland

Zachary Ioannides, Greece

Stein Sorensen, Norway