

# **PRESS RELEASE 3**

Ljubljana, 16 June 2020

Tuesday, 9 June – Tuesday, 16 June 2020 22<sup>nd</sup> Documentary Film Festival – FDF www.fdf.si

The closing ceremony of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Documentary Film Festival–FDF will take place on Tuesday, 16 June 2020, at 19.45 in Linhart Hall.

The international jury composed of Maryse Hendrix, Rok Biček and Tina Plahutnik will present the Amnesty International Slovenia Award to Best Human Rights Film, followed by a screening of *Collective / Colectiv* by: Alexander Nanau, a strong condemnation of the massive corruption in the Romanian health system and state institutions.

# **Embargo on announcement until 19.45**

You are requested not to publicly announce the winners until 19.45.

### **Amnesty International Slovenija Award**

The jury (composed of Maryse Hendrix, Rok Biček and Tina Plahutnik) has made a unanimous decision to present the Amnesty International Slovenia Award to *Collective* by Alexander Nanau.

**Collective** *Collective / Colectiv*  By **Alexander Nanau** Romania, 2019

Jury statement

Permeating his observational documentary Collective, Alexander Nanau's singular, by now recognizable and remarkable cinematic poetics pulls us in the vortex of the fearless struggle of investigative journalists against the greed and systemic corruption in Romania. A prime political thriller that, through the microcosm of one nation, unobtrusively reflects the 'diseased' situation in which our entire world is trapped. If we could still delude ourselves that this was not our story before the outbreak of the pandemic, it is today clear that the whole of humanity is one big Collective.

## **Special Mention**

The jury wishes to acknowledge the merits of *Exemplary Behavior* (by directors Audrius Mickevičius and Nerijus Milerius) by presenting it with a Special Mention.

**Exemplary Behaviour** *Pavyzdingas elgesys / Exemplary Behaviour* By **Audrius Mickevičius, Nerijus Milerius** Lithuania, Slovenia, Italy, Bulgaria, 2019

Jury statement

While we will probably never find out whether Audrius Mickevičius consciously approached the making of this film as a means of mourning for his murdered brother, it is clear that in creating Exemplary Behavior – together with Nerijus Milerius – he relentlessly exposed the paradox between justice and forgiveness.

### **International jury**

# Amnesty International Slovenia Human Rights Film Award (Competitive Section)

#### Rok Biček

Rok Biček (1985) is a director and producer. He is member of the Directors Guild of Slovenia and the *Association of Slovenian Film Producers*. His feature debut, Class Enemy (2013), won the Fedeora Award at the Venice Critics' Week, was one of the finalists for the Lux Prize, awarded by the EU Parliament, and landed Biček on Variety's 10 Directors to Watch list. In addition to winning Best Film Award, Class Enemy also received the Audience and Critics Awards for Best Film at the Festival of Slovenian Film. Biček's feature documentary, The Family (2017), won the Grand Prix at the Locarno Critics' Week, was shown at IDFA, and won Vesna Award for Best Film at FSF.

Biček runs the Cvinger film production company with a subsidiary in Vienna, focusing on long-term collaborations with directors of his generation, including Olmo Omerzu, Sara Kern, and Maja Prelog. He is currently working on his third feature film, Dark Mother Earth, which is based on the eponymous book by Croatian writer Kristian Novak.

#### Tina Plahutnik

Tina Plahutnik has a degree in social work. She's always worked with children and adolescents, first as a volunteer and later professionally. For many years, she's been writing articles on education for Zmajček magazine. She has always felt a special connection with marginalized groups; she worked with people with physical disabilities, children with mental disabilities and also with young people who dropped out of high school. Tina is an elementary school counsellor, in her work she pays special attention to promoting good coexistence, harmonious relations and school atmosphere.

She has been working with Amnesty International since 2010. She contributed to the collection of pedagogical manuals "Respect My Rights, Respect My Dignity". Several times she served as jury member for the Amnesty International Best Short Documentary Film Award, which was open for youth and presented within the context of the Documentary Film Festival.

#### **Maryse Hendrix**

Maryse Hendrix (Belgium) is a criminologist and expert in transgenerational psychology and group psychology. For several years she lived in Lebanon and Congo. She has experiences working with young people who run into difficulties, juvenile offenders, people with physical disabilities and in the fields of women- and gender issues. She is currently President of the Council for Gender Equality.

She cooperates with the Belgian "Festival des Libertés", also as jury member. She's been Amnesty International volunteer since 1985, among other roles she was member of the Board of Amnesty International in Belgium (French-speaking) for nine years. She is now Cultural Coordinator of the Amnesty International section, in which role she cooperates with people working in different artistic expressions, among others with directors, writers, painters... She organizes human rights discussions as side events at theatre plays, after movies or at book fairs...

She loves travelling and meeting other people, discovering their customs and ways of life. She's been to India, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Peru, Cuba...

General festival sponsor **Automatic servis** 



Festival partners Amnesty International Slovenia Slovenska kinoteka Slovenian Cinematheque Kinodvor Cinema

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