



Berlin, 21st October 2016



15 Joyful Winners at the PRIX EUROPA Media Awards 2016

Honouring the best European TV, Radio and Online Productions of the Year in Berlin

Awards go to ten different countries

Lifetime Achievement Award for ARTE

Appeal for Freedom of the Press

On Friday evening the 30th PRIX EUROPA Media Awards were presented in the big concert hall of Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (rbb). The 13 coveted **Bronze Taurus Trophies** went to ten different countries. In addition, the European Cultural Channel ARTE was honoured for its unique cross-border dialogue since its foundation 25 years ago with the **Lifetime Achievement Award**. The PRIX EUROPA Media Awards have a total of 78 000 Euros in prize money. The Festival is the biggest professional tri-media forum of its kind and is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

The award for the **Best Television Series** went to an Icelandic production: in the 10 episodes of “Trapped” by the Icelandic director Baltasar Kormákur, mysterious murders are solved in the fascinating Icelandic landscapes. The **Best TV Movie or Mini-Series** also comes from the North: the Norwegian mini-series “Nobel” deals with the political troubles and manipulation in the Afghanistan conflict. The Prix Genève for the **Best Television Fiction Script by a Newcomer** was awarded to the German-Kosovar Visar Morina for his moving family drama “Babai – My Father” submitted by the German broadcaster WDR. The **Best TV Programme about Cultural Diversity** of the year is the British production “Watani: My Homeland” which shows the fate of a Syrian family over three years on its way from the Syrian war front to German asylum.

In documentaries the Scandinavians also proved to have the right touch: the **Best Television Current Affairs** programme is “Mission Investigate: The Panama Papers” from Sweden, the Danes collected the prize in **Radio Documentary** for their production “Queen of the Night” about a woman with a special fetish for male orchestra musicians. The **Best Television Documentary** is the German co-production by Berlin Producers with the German broadcasters WDR and Deutsche Welle “#MyEscape”, where refugees tell the stories of their escapes using the footage from their mobile phones. With their research on “The Case That Never Was” the Irish didn’t only win the award for the **Best Radio Investigation**, but also influenced the decision of the European Court of Justice in a case of international labour law.



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In **Radio Fiction** Estonia convinced the jury with its existentialist sound composition “Things”, the artful interweaving of voices and sounds also characterises the **Best Radio Fiction Series** “Young Beautiful Monsters” from Belgium.

Did you know that Philip Glass was working as a cab driver in New York until he was 42 years old? “Philip Glass: Taxi Driver”, the British winner in **Radio Music**, takes the listener into the exciting parallel universe of the most successful contemporary US composer.

In the new category **Digital Audio** the Danes won with the podcast-series “The Ringbinder Assassin” about an unsolved murder from the 80s. The best **Online Project** of the year opens new worlds to the user: the French Virtual Reality project “Notes on Blindness” enables you to experience what it is like to be blind both on an emotional and a cognitive level. The brand new **Community Award**, which was selected by online voting went to the Finnish real-time role play “#Livetitanic”, which tells the story of the most famous marine disaster in the world from the point of view of Finnish emigrants on social media by fictional Twitter characters based on real people.

For the first time the **Lifetime Achievement Award** for special merits in the European media scene did not go to a person but to the European cultural channel ARTE. The broadcaster is celebrating 25 years of existence since the signing of its founding contract on 30.4.1991 and is honoured for its achievements in cross cultural dialogue and the growing together of Europe.

At the Awarding Ceremony PRIX EUROPA President **Cecilia Benkö Lamborn** appealed to the approximately 600 invited guests from politics and the media, in a stirring speech to strengthen the worldwide fight for **freedom of the press**. Freedom of the press, freedom of opinion and freedom of speech are of fundamental importance for the continued existence of democratic constitutional state systems. “Societies without functioning media are also a breeding ground for extremist political movements”, said Benkö Lamborn.

Around 1000 media professionals from all corners of the continent spent a week screening and listening to the 231 nominated productions from 24 countries. Around **270 jury members** selected the best television, radio and online productions through debate and individual assessment. The 13 winners from the categories receive 6000 Euros each. The Lifetime Achievement Award and the Community Award are honorary awards.

Excerpts from all winning films and jury citations are available on the PRIX EUROPA homepage. The Awarding Ceremony can be screened as Video on Demand on rbb-online.de/prixeuropa and will be broadcast on Tagesschau24 on 23.10.2016 at 01.20h (Berlin time).

With around 1000 participants, PRIX EUROPA is the biggest professional tri-media forum of its kind. Since 1987 it seeks out the best media productions from Europe by screening,



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discussion and voting in open jury groups. Since 1997 the broadcaster Rundfunk Berlin Brandenburg (rbb) is its constant host. PRIX EUROPA is supported by a constantly growing alliance of currently 31 partners: among them various European broadcasters, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), the European Commission, the European Parliament.

Event Note

Saturday, 22.10.2016, at 12.00h (noon Berlin time) in Haus des Rundfunks

Changing Europe! Political Turning Points and Freedom of the Press

A panel discussion about freedom of the press, organised by PRIX EUROPA with the Federal Agency for Civic Education (BPB) and Reporters Without Borders. With **Can Dündar**, **Charlie Beckett**, **Andrey Allakhverdov** and **Prof. Dr. Marlis Prinzing**. Moderation: **Britta Hilpert**, Spokeswoman of the Board of *Reporters Without Borders*. The discussion will be in English with simultaneous translation into German. Entry is free of charge, but registration is required on www.bpb.de/changingeurope.

The discussion will be broadcast on 22.10.2016 at 23.00h (11pm Berlin time) on Tagesschau24.

Further information and press material

Press photos from the Awarding Ceremony and the winning productions, jury citations and further press information are available on <http://prixeuropa.eu/press/materials-for-press-use>

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