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Who makes the better media?

Media makers from all over Europe gather for a weeklong contest in the German capital

On Saturday the PRIX EUROPA Festival will open in the historic Haus des Rundfunks in Berlin. 28 countries are competing with a total of 212 productions. After six days of presentations the jurors will announce the best European television-, radio- and online productions.

A red thread through this year's competition is the subject of refugees as well as the dangers of terror and the surveillance state. But the plights and fates of women and children also come to the fore.

In reaction to the current refugee situation PRIX EUROPA is explicitly inviting refugees with a background in journalism to participate in the festival. "The responsibility of the media for the future of Europe has never been greater. Their headlines and emphases influence what is important to us", says Festival Director Susanne Hoffmann. "The viewers', listeners' and users' trust and interest are precious goods. Do we sometimes forget this in our day-to-day business? Who actually decides what gets into the headlines - and what doesn't? These questions will be put forward this year."

Trends and tendencies

In radio the search for individual traces of the past is very popular – stories that make history seem concrete and personal, and even intimate. Many online productions examine what the digitalisation of the world means for the individual. Where does surveillance start to violate personal rights? And in television, series and single dramas challenge each other more and more which offers some outstanding and provoking narrative forms: the British series "Cucumber" sketches gay life with breathtaking speed, the Swiss serial "Station Horizon" brings the Wild West to the Alps and the highly thrilling TV movie "Under the Radar" broadcast by the German ARD this week invents a kind of German Guantánamo in Poland.

Go North or the longest drama on earth

The Nordic countries show themselves to be groundbreaking in many ways. As in previous years, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Iceland prove with numerous nominations the high quality of media production in Northern Europe. In addition, Nordic formats are being presented at several special events: Swedish Sveriges Radio will, for example, introduce its very successful cross-media project #minflykt (MyEscape) and Swedish Utbildningsradio will present strategies, of how to integrate kids' and young people's perspectives in everyday media. The Norwegians will bring along the "longest" drama on earth to the PRIX EUROPA "Midweek Party": a television series shot across 2670 kilometres.



Awards Ceremony

On the evening of 23 October all twelve PRIX EUROPA Awards will be announced and handed over during a festive gala in the historic Haus des Rundfunks in Berlin to the makers of the best European programmes of the year, including a prize money of 6000 Euros each. In addition, the investigative journalist Rolf Stengård from Sweden will receive the PRIX EUROPA Lifetime Achievement Award.

The ceremony will be broadcast live on the rbb homepage, as well as on the German news channel Tagesschau24 at 01.35am on 24 October.

Accreditation:

Press and media professionals please register on www.prixeuropa.eu.

More information and material, including press photos, are also available online.

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