

FANTOCHE

INTERNATIONALES FESTIVAL FÜR ANIMATIONSFILM
BADEN/SCHWEIZ

JURY STATEMENTS: FANTOCHE 2024

fantoche.ch/awards-2024

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Jury: Marie-Pauline Mollaret (FR), Tina Schwizgebel (CH), Aya Suzuki (JP/GB)

BEST FILM

This Is a Story Without a Plan Cassie Shao, US 2023

Two characters are witnessing a constant explosion in different fragments of their lives. A tale of observers.

Jury-Laudatio: «An explosion of colors and movement, with motifs that echo one another, and a unique story that challenges our understanding. The film takes us on a joyful and free-spirited whirlwind, where everything comes together harmoniously: the vibrant aesthetics and the narrative madness, all of which showcases the director's singular vision. We are delighted to award **Best Film** to **This Is a Story Without a Plan** by Cassie Shao.»

HIGH RISK

HIC SVNT DRACONES Justin Fayard, FR 2024

Only yesterday, dragons were coming down to see what humans were doing in their valleys. Destroying everything in their path, we cursed them, in vain.

Jury-Laudatio: «The parsimonious use of animation, far from frenzy, takes the time of contemplation. With an incredible work on the sound and very slow movements, the film reveals the majestic strength but also the fragility of the world around us. To be so demanding with an audience is not so easy in our society where everything needs to go fast. The **High Risk** award goes to **HIC SVNT DRACONES** by Justin Fayard.»

NEW TALENT

Tabac froid Arthur Jamain, FR 2023

Can we tell our mother that we have been sexually assaulted by our brother? The obvious answer should be «yes». However, only few dare to break the silence. The question we ask ourselves is: «Why aren't we talking about it? »

Jury-Laudatio: «The film tackles a challenging subject with a minimalist yet powerful approach, offering a raw and relatable portrayal of contemporary relationships. Its refined cinematography and precise animation performance are strikingly sophisticated for a new artist. In a programme filled with abstract and highly animated films, its understated acting and respect for the subject matter truly stand out. We are pleased to present the **New Talent** award to **Tabac froid** by Arthur Jamain.»

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BEST VISUAL

Pear Garden Shadab Shayegan, DE 2024

Six-year-old Lily visits her grandmother, who has had a mastectomy and now misses her breasts. When Lily finds out that her grandmother's shadow still has both breasts, she is prepared to do anything to get them back.

Jury-Laudatio: «This film's expressionistic style makes its story accessible to all audiences, regardless of their familiarity with arthouse animation. Without relying on a commercial aesthetic, it evokes a deep empathy for its characters. The visual design, with its vibrant color palette and crayon-like texture that resembles childhood drawings, transcends age and artistic preferences, allowing viewers to connect with the beautifully crafted narrative. We are delighted to present the **Best Visual** award to **Pear Garden** by Shadab Shayegan.»

SPECIAL MENTION INTERNATIONAL JURY

Dreams About Putin Vlad Fischez, Nastia Korkia, PT/BE/ HU 2023

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, many Russians have shared dreams about their president on social media. A selection of these posts has been brought to life in this film. The result is a bizarre and disturbing nightmare vision that explores the theme of the collective unconscious in Russian society.

Jury-Laudatio: «We initially believe we're stepping into a video game, only to realize that we're navigating different dreams haunted by the same ominous figure. As the film unfolds, a growing sense of oppression creeps in, making us feel the weight of how an entire population can be affected—even in their sleep. Blurring the lines between dream and reality, the film powerfully conveys the idea that oppression doesn't just exist in the waking world; it follows people into their dreams. This is why we wanted to give a **Special Mention** to **Dreams about Putin** by Vlad Fischez and Nastia Korkia.»

AUDIENCE AWARD INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Pear Garden Shadab Shayegan, DE 2024

Six-year-old Lily visits her grandmother, who has had a mastectomy and now misses her breasts. When Lily finds out that her grandmother's shadow still has both breasts, she is prepared to do anything to get them back.

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SWISS COMPETITION

Jury: Catherine Colas (FR), Tendayi Nyeke (ZW), Maya Yonesho (JP/DE)

Youth Jury (Swiss Youth Award): Deutschschweiz / Aargau: Josia Robert Blass, Linus Denzler, Caterina Galassi, Alix Stoll; Romandie / Waadt: Océane Estoppey, Evan Marsden; Tessin: Sofia Rufo, Leah

BEST SWISS

Sans voix Samuel Patthey, CH 2024

Dan spends a lot of time in his flat. His daily life is accompanied by the electronic music pumping through his headphones. But when the young man goes outside, he feels disconnected from the world around him and only finds solace in nightclubs. One day, he catches the eye of a baby who will change his perception of the world around him.

Jury-Laudatio: «This filmmaker brought the audience into their emotional journey and took us right in. Together with their strong drawing skills, musical score and fluidity in the pacing this film successfully gave us the perspective of a lost man who finds his way. It had a clear vision and statement of life as a connection of moments executed in an honest and vulnerable way. It came from the guts, and therefore **Sans voix** from Samuel Patthey gets the **Best Swiss** award.»

HIGH SWISS RISK

La Perra Carla Melo Gampert, CO/CH 2023,

Breasts plump, bum tight, plumage smooth. She's ready for her date. But her daughter clings onto her – she doesn't want her to go. Very soon, however, this fledgling pubescent will give in to her sexual desire and experience disappointment. In the conflict-ridden world the two women inhabit, men evade partnership and fatherhood. The family dog is her only support.

Jury-Laudatio: «This film was bold in style and subject matter. The filmmaker's approach on the role of women in society leaves room for interpretation and debate. The character designs and stylistic choices were radical and fully executed. The **High Swiss Risk** award goes to **La Perra** from Carla Melo Gampert.»

NEW SWISS TALENT

About a Cow Pavla Bašťanová, CZ/CH 2023,

Situations and stories from the lives of cows: cows grazing in the pasture, cows bringing peace to people in a therapy garden, cows in the slaughterhouse... A patchwork of idyllic and dramatic images illustrates the connection between humans and animals in both a positive and negative light and ends by giving us hope for a better world.

Jury-Laudatio: «This film was playful and poetic with an unexpected topic. We enjoyed the sound design, the joyful approach to metamorphosis and the filmmaker's freedom in exploring the art of animation. The **New Swiss Talent** award goes to **About a Cow** by Pavla Bašťanová.»

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FANTASTIC SWISS

Matta and Matto Bianca Caderas, Kerstin Zemp, CH 2023, 10'16"

In a dystopian world where people are forbidden to touch one another, Matta and Matto offer a place of refuge for the lonely in their travelling hotel. In the rooms of the Hotel Vaip, the guests' find their deepest desires fulfilled and even surpassed. But this comes at a high price.

Jury-Laudatio: «This film brought us into an imagining of what the worst of life after the pandemic could be. It showed us a unique universe and was intentional in its use of color and aesthetic. We hope all those surprises and troubling ideas stay in the realm of fantasy. The **Fantastic Swiss** award goes to **Matta and Matto** by Bianca Caderas and Kerstin Zemp.»

SPECIAL MENTION SWISS JURY

On Hold Delia Hess, CH 2024

A young woman is stuck in the queue of a telephone hotline. A surreal, episodic short film about the absurdities of urban life and the feeling of paralysing stagnation.

Jury-Laudatio: «This filmmaker successfully showed us the absurdity of today's big city life that we all can relate to. This was a great observation piece that connected seemingly unrelated things using wonderful rhythm and a great soundtrack. Therefore we'd like to give a **Special Mention to On Hold** by Delia Hess.»

AUDIENCE AWARD SWISS COMPETITION

Dieter Rolf Broennimann, CH 2024

Dieter, an ill sculptor, hasn't really been able to work for a long time. Simple tasks elude him. His thoughts frequently transport him away from his workshop into another, fantastic world, into mysterious landscapes.

SWISS YOUTH AWARD

Sans voix Samuel Patthey, CH 2024

Dan spends a lot of time in his flat. His daily life is accompanied by the electronic music pumping through his headphones. But when the young man goes outside, he feels disconnected from the world around him and only finds solace in nightclubs. One day, he catches the eye of a baby who will change his perception of the world around him.

Jury-Laudatio: «This film portrays a cycle of loneliness and, most importantly, how engrossing it can be. It may appear easy to escape this cycle through the abuse of drugs and alcohol, but through the absence of the main character's face, we understand that ultimately what he truly lacks is the ability to see a future for himself. However, the film is not without hope, as it also demonstrates that there is always a way out of the tunnel. Because of the film's message and how it's portrayed through animation, we chose Samuel Patthey's **Sans Voix** for this year's **Swiss Youth Award**.»

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SWISS YOUTH AWARD SPECIAL MENTION I

The Car That Came Back From the Sea Jadwiga Kowalska, PL/CH 2023

Full of exuberance and frivolousness, six friends drive to the Polish Baltic coast and back in a small, beaten-up car. During their trip, their car and their country fall apart. Nevertheless, life goes on.

Jury-Laudatio: «This film captivated us because of the characters' points of view: they are young, naïve, and aware of the perils of their country, but they still feel the need to have fun and better their situation. The film deals with an incredibly serious topic, yet remains funny throughout. Because of the perfect balance between these two aspects, we want to give a **Special Mention to The Car that Came back from the Sea** by Jadwiga Kowalska.»

SWISS YOUTH AWARD SPECIAL MENTION II

La Perra Carla Melo Gampert, CO/CH 2023

Breasts plump, bum tight, plumage smooth. She's ready for her date. But her daughter clings onto her – she doesn't want her to go. Very soon, however, this fledgling pubescent will give in to her sexual desire and experience disappointment. In the conflict-ridden world the two women inhabit, men evade partnership and fatherhood. The family dog is her only support.

Jury-Laudatio: «This film deals with a brutal topic, but does so in a very nuanced and realistic way. You can't help but feel uncomfortable when you are confronted with themes of generational trauma and the objectification of women. Most specifically, with the way that society reduces women to a category: the mother, the nanny, the bitch. The film resonated greatly with the jury, and we could not stop talking about it, which is why we believe that Carla Melo Gampert's **La Perra** also deserves a **Special Mention.**»

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KIDS FILM COMPETITION

The children's jury is made up of six children between the ages of 8 and 12 and is supervised by the Zauberlaterne children's film club. Since 2010 the children's jury has awarded the prize for the best children's film.

Kids Jury: Antonio, Dina, Marie-Lou, Leona, Lev, Oumar, Shon

BEST KIDS

Bubbles Lezhi Xiao, CN 2023

You can be lonely even when you're surrounded by people. This Chinese cartoon sensitively broaches the topic of connection from the perspective of a young girl seeking contact with her mother.

Jury-Laudatio: «Because we recognise ourselves in the main character,
Because the emotions are well portrayed in the images,
Because the story remains exciting throughout the film,
Because it shows the importance of the bond between mother and daughter,
And because we are impressed by the main character's determination to fight against negative feelings,

... the Kids Jury awards the **Best Kids** award to **Bubbles** by Lezhi Xiao.»

SPECIAL MENTION KIDS

Cave of Warmth Shamir Raiapov, KG 2023

In this Kyrgyz film, the daughter of a hunter and a young wolf are looking for their parents. When they find them, they face a difficult decision. The film poetically questions the possibility of peace against a backdrop of intergenerational conflicts.

Jury-Laudatio: «Because the beautiful way the film is drawn immediately immerses us in the story,
Because the film tells a lot in a short time,
Because friendship wins despite everything,
Because it shows that history does not have to repeat itself,
and because it is a story of mutual reconciliation,

...the kids jury awards the **Special Mention** to **Cave of Warmth** by Shamir Raiapov.»

YOUNG AUDIENCE

THE SWINEHERD Magnus Iglund Møller, Peter Smith, DK 2023

A princess and a swineherd are bored. Boredom leads to creativity – but does the King agree with the way in which the princess and the swineherd entertain themselves? The 3D computer-animated film retells an old Danish fairy tale in an amusing way.

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SWISS ANIMATION INDUSTRY AWARD

Jury: Régine Cavicchioli, Lukas Frischknecht, Guillaume Mégroz

SWISS ANIMATION INDUSTRY AWARD

The undesirables ?! / Les indésirables ?! Gianni Maranzano, CH 2023

Jury-Laudatio: «This year's **Swiss Animation Industry Award** goes to a spot that showcases creative excellence in every aspect. With compelling storytelling and writing, stunning narration, refreshing humor, and admirable mixed-media art direction, every detail—from the rich visuals and playful animation to the sound design—has been meticulously crafted. Most notably, the originality of the concept and the innovative approach to the subject make this work truly outstanding. It not only fulfills the brief but is also highly entertaining.»

SPECIAL MENTION CRAFT

Campagne d'information sur le harcèlement Guillaume Mégroz, CH 2024

Jury-Laudatio: «We are delighted to present a **Special Mention** to this film for its exceptional execution. The complex theme is conveyed with subtlety through remarkable stylistic choices, blending a unique aesthetic with nuanced silhouettes and graceful animations for storytelling. Every aspect of the art direction contributes to making it one of the standout gems among this year's entries.»

SPECIAL MENTION CONCEPT

Peta - Kill The Tradition Niel Stubbings, CH 2024

Jury-Laudatio: «We are super excited to celebrate another remarkable project from this year's competition. Initially, we were pleasantly surprised by the high quality and craftsmanship of the piece. Our excitement only grew as we discovered its mission. By addressing a challenging cause with humor and precise, well-considered writing, we quickly and unanimously agreed on the film's innovation and originality. For the boldness of pitching a singing turkey song to clients and the flawlessly executed direction, we are delighted to award it our **Special Mention**.»

SPECIAL MENTION MOTION DESIGN

HEC – ACTC Lorenzo Monti, CH 2023

Jury-Laudatio: «This explanation video takes a challenging topic and through brilliant motion design, transforms it into something not just understandable but truly captivating. With carefully crafted visuals and attention to every detail, this film doesn't just explain—it draws you in. The seamless blend of design and storytelling makes it a pleasure to watch, encouraging viewers to revisit it and discover something new each time. For its outstanding ability to simplify the complex and make it fun to watch, we are proud to give this **Special Mention**.»