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Premio Ermanno Olmi 2020
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Ermanno Olmi Award

2nd edition - Bergamo, December 10, 2020



The fiction short film *Eggshell* by Ryan William Harris (Italy, Ireland 2020) wins the Ermanno Olmi Award.

The fiction short film *Eggshell* (Italy, Ireland, 2020) by **Ryan William Harris** wins the second edition of the Ermanno Olmi Award, an event aiming to promote short films by young directors. The experimental documentary film *Boys Don't Cry* by **Bobbie Faren Müller** (Denmark, 2020) earns the second place, and third is another fiction film, *Daily Breath* by **Anna Spacio** (Switzerland, 2020). The Special Mention of the jury for the most significant entry concerning the relationship between Humankind and Nature, with a particular focus on the valorisation of ancient crafts and traditions, goes to the documentary film *Pull It, Sharpen It* by **Marta Aitana Schmidt Yanez** (China, Spain 2020). The three winners, selected among close to 100 contestants, are respectively awarded a cash prize of € 1,200, € 500 and € 300.

The jury - composed of Claudio Santamaria (actor), Angelo Signorelli (artistic director of Bergamo Film Meeting), Barbara Rossi (film critic), Monica Corbani (teacher and translator) and Maria Grazia Recanati (art historian) - awarded *Eggshell* with the First Prize «For the powerful depiction of suburban adolescence spent on the fringes and scarred by violence and abuse. The stark contrast between Joey's inner world and the outside, mostly hostile, is portrayed with great narrative immediacy, along with the not-yet-lost connection with the natural world, seen as a regenerative force». *Boys Don't Cry* earned the second prize «For its unique and experimental aesthetics, that follow the "cinéma-verité" tradition expanding it beyond the typical "reality show" format. The self-deprecating and non-



conformist production allows the four young protagonists to fully express their deepest urges and feelings, in a self-affirming and cathartic release». The third Prize goes to **Daily Breath** «For the measured and terse narrative style, capable of portraying, through silence, the sounds of the mountain and the gaze of a young woman, the powerful conflict between the awareness of imminent death and the will to live. The reading, in which the girl indulges while taking care of her old mother, runs in parallel with their daily life, reflecting it like a mirror».

Unanimously, the jury awarded their Special Mention to **Pull It, Sharpen It** «For the bright narrative style in portraying the story of Guo Chunxiang and his "little shop of wonders". Inside "Great Shanghai 1933", among old abaci, tiny Esperanto books with a red cover and a whole paraphernalia of things, the memories of the East and West are preserved, filtered by Guo's expert craft».

During the evening, the four finalist entries were also screened, along with Ermanno Olmi's last feature film *Torneranno i prati* (Greenery Will Bloom Again, 2014) as a tribute to the late director. *Torneranno i prati* is also available for streaming on RaiPlay, courtesy of Rai. Olmi's last feature film starring Claudio Santamaria, *Torneranno i prati* was made on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of World War I, and set among the trenches on the Asiago plateau, stage of many bloody battles and Olmi's place of residence.

The Ermanno Olmi Award is promoted by the City of Bergamo with the support of FIC – Federazione Italiana Cineforum and in collaboration with Bergamo Film Meeting Onlus.

In accord with the Minimum Environmental Criteria - parameters of environmental sustainability for cultural events - signed by the Municipality of Bergamo, the Prize takes part to the experimental European Green Fest project: a commitment to both environment and culture, and a fitting tribute to Ermanno Olmi who, through his works, was always a keen supporter of environmental preservation.

Ermanno Olmi Prize - 2nd Edition

1st PRIZE

Eggshell

by Ryan William Harris (Italy/Ireland 2020), 13'40", fiction

Joey's existence is continuously shifting between the vividness of his childhood imagination and the harsh reality of the Irish suburbs. After building a robot head as an escape from his troubles at home and those of the outside world, Joey is forced to finally face adulthood.

2nd PRIZE

Boys Don't Cry

by Bobbie Faren Müller (Denmark, 2019), 10', experimental documentary

A girl helps four other kids process their difficulty in showing their vulnerability and opening up emotionally in today's society.

3rd PRIZE

Daily Breath

by Anna Spacio (Switzerland, 2019), 15', fiction

Stuck and isolated on the mountains, a girl lives with her sick mother, taking care of her in a daily struggle between doing the right thing and what her heart truly desires.

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SPECIAL MENTION

Pull It, Sharpen It

Marta Aitana Schmidt Yanez (China/Spain 2019) 11', documentary

When Guo Chunxiang was a little boy, his family could not afford any toys. One day, his grandmother gave him seven silver dollars to start his collection. Now he has his own antique shop, "The Great Shanghai 1933", with an enormous collection which goes from antique maps to abacuses.

Ermanno Olmi Award

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