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Ermanno Olmi Award - 3rd Edition

Bergamo, December the 2nd, 2021

***Autoritratto con arma* (Self-Portrait with a Weapon) by Giovanni Ortoleva (Italy, 2021) wins the Ermanno Olmi Award**



Autoritratto con arma (Self-Portrait with a Weapon, Italy, 2021) by **Giovanni Ortoleva** wins the third edition of the Ermanno Olmi Award, an event aiming to promote short films by young directors. Runner-up is ***Stephanie*** by Leonardo van Dijn (Belgium, 2020), and third place goes to ***Finis terrae*** by Tommaso Frangini (USA, Italy, 2020). The jury's special mention for the most significant film dedicated to environmental issues (very relevant today and in Ermanno Olmi's body of work) goes to ***Intertidal. Barene*** by **Collettivo Confluenze** (Italia, 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 Emanuela Martini (film critic), Annamaria Materazzini (Bergamo Film Meeting Onlus), Cecilia Valmarana (head of RaiMovie), Giuseppe Previtali (professor of film studies at the University of Bergamo) and Sara Luraschi (filmmaker) - awarded the first prize to ***Autoritratto con arma*** «For its unique style and excellent cinematography: a directorial debut that develops, with extraordinary essentiality, the narrative completeness typical of a feature film. A coming-of-age story that brilliantly showcases the skills of its leading actor, dragging the viewer into a world in which men of different generations and ways of life face one another and collide». ***Stephanie*** wins second place «For the captivating narrative punctuated by outstanding editing and splendid framing that, alternating between close-ups and background, tells the story of a body that seems to belong to no one, not even to the little protagonist». Finally, the third prize goes to ***Finis terrae*** «For the enigmatic

atmosphere that, creeping into the natural background, gives the narration a philosophical value. By relating time and loss, the film reframes some classic cinematic concepts in a unique perspective, giving life to something completely original and new».

Unanimously, the jury awarded their special mention to ***Intertidal. Barene***: «An ode to the indispensability of the bond between humankind and nature: the dancing bodies dissolve in the lagoon landscape that welcomes them, becoming a single entity. Human islands that preserve the richness and beauty of a world made up of diversity and eternal movement».

The event included a screening of the four finalist works and a tribute to Ermanno Olmi with a screening of a restored copy (by Cineteca di Bologna) of *Il tempo si è fermato* (Time Stood Still), his debut feature film portraying the problematic relationship between man and the mountain through small everyday gestures, awarded in 1959 with the Golden Gondola at the X International Documentary Film Festival in Venice.

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. With the support of Fondazione MIA. In accord with the Minimum Environmental Criteria - parameters of environmental sustainability for cultural events - signed by the Municipality of Bergamo, the Prize takes part in the experimental European GreenFest 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.

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1st PRIZE

Autoritratto con arma (Self-Portrait with a Weapon)

by Giovanni Ortoleva (Italy 2021, 11') - fiction -

Giuliano, a divorced family man, takes his 14-year-old son Giovanni on his first hunting trip. That day the boy will find the strength to disobey his father for the first time.

2nd PRIZE

Stephanie

by Leonardo van Dijn (Belgium, 2020, 15') - fiction -

Stephanie smiles amidst the cheers of the crowd. The 11-year-old gymnast has just won her first international title. Crushed by the attention and pressure, the young woman realizes that the game has just begun.

3rd PRIZE

Finis terrae

by Tommaso Frangini (USA, Italy 2020, 15') - fiction -

Two friends decide to go camping together to rekindle their relationship. The barren wilderness that surrounds them will highlight their differences and the distance that separates them.

SPECIAL MENTION:

Intertidal. Barene

by Collettivo Confluenze (Italy, 2020, 14 '50') - experimental -

The Venice lagoon is a dynamic ecosystem going through a daily struggle for survival. A performative action on the sandbanks, thin intertidal zones, creates a game of contrasts between fragility and resilience, translating landscape and sound dimension on a human scale.

Ermanno Olmi Award

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