



BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2017

Berlin, the bustling capital of Germany, is a world center of art and culture. In the heart of this great city lies the home of the prestigious Berlin International Film Festival, Berlinale. This year, the 67th Berlin International Film Festival was held from 9th February to 19th February, and it was as glorious as it always is. With numerous awards given for different categories, styles and age-groups, Berlinale 2017 lived up to the hype it has garnered since its inception in 1951, and went even further.



When people talk about international film festivals, Berlinale is a name that is bound to pop up. It is more than just an important award ceremony, it is an event that provides opportunities to young talents and opens up a world of possibilities to those who dare to dream. This year, Berlinale 2017 sold over 335,000 tickets and had over 20,000 professionals and celebrities visiting from 122 countries. The event itself annually features about 400 films, with most belonging to European origins. Seven main sections divide the entirety of the event, each focusing on different criteria of the vast world of films. For example, the section 'Panorama' exclusively features films

which highlight controversial issues such as LGBT. Another section, 'Forum', is for documentaries that experiment with a variety of genres. The variety of ways a film can be viewed from is a major point of emphasis in the Berlinale.

Just like its predecessors, the Berlin International Film Festival 2017 was galore with prizes. The most coveted prize of them all, the Golden Bear, is only given to the best of the best films in a respective category. Of course, the runner-up award, the Silver Bear, is of no short caliber. Notable achievements in acting, directing, short film production or other contributions are usually awarded the Silver Bear. This year, the International Jury consisted

of the Jury President Paul Verhoeven, the renowned producer Dora Bouchoucha Fourati, the Danish artist Olafur Eliasson, the actresses Maggie Gyllenhaal and Julia Jentsch, the Mexican actor Diego Luna and the Chinese film director Wang Quan'an. With such a star-studded jury, the awards were expected to be given to the most worthy winners. And that certainly was the case, with "Testről és lélekről (On Body and Soul)" winning the 'Golden Bear for Best Film'. The award was given to the producer of this Hungarian drama, Ildikó Enyedi. The movie had received considerable praise throughout the event so it winning the most prestigious award wasn't a surprise.

"Testről és lélekről (On Body and Soul)" also grabbed two other awards at the event, both from the independent juries; the 'Prize of the Ecumenical Jury' and the 'Prize of the FIPRESCI Jury'.

The prizes that followed were the Silver Bear for various important categories. The most notable one of these, the 'Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize' went to "Félicité" by Alain Gomis. The international jury further awarded Georg Friedrich for "Helle Nächte (Bright Nights)" and Kim Minhee for "Bamui haebyun-eoseo honja (On the Beach at Night Alone)". They won the 'Silver Bear for Best Actor' and 'Silver Bear for Best Actress', respectively. Aki Kaurismäki was awarded the 'Silver Bear for Best Director' for his film, the Finnish comedy-drama "Toivon tuolla puolen (The Other Side of Hope)". The 'Silver Bear for Best Screenplay' went to Sebastián Lelio and Gonzalo Maza for their work in "Una mujer fantástica (A Fantastic Woman)", a Chilean drama. Furthermore, the 'Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution', an award for roles in camera, editing, music, costume or set design, was given to Dana Bunescu for the Romanian drama "Ana, mon amour", directed by Călin Peter Netzer. A special award named the 'Silver Bear Alfred Bauer Prize', which is given to feature films that opens new perspectives, was awarded to "Pokot (Spoor)" by Agnieszka Holland. "Pokot (Spoor)" is a Polish crime film which revolves around mysterious deaths of hunters in a remote mountain.

Two very prominent awards receive much importance in the Berlinale events; the 'GWFF Best First Feature Award' and