

Plural+ Youth Video Festival

The PLURAL+ Austria Award Ceremony celebrates outstanding young filmmakers, who decided to share their opinion on topics like migration or human rights.

William L. Swing praised the contribution of these filmmakers to the UNAOC. He highlighted how well the youngsters managed to shine a light on these complex issues with great empathy. This year's competition has been the first competition on national level.

The awards were handed over to the winners in six categories from 120 submitted short films by the jury members David Wurawa (actor), Elisa Seydl (actress), Sebastian Kraner (PLURAL+ Winner 2010), Katerina Kratzmann (IOM Vienna, Officer in Charge) and Franz Wolf-Maier (Executive Director of the Austrian Integration Fund).

Award winner of the 9-14 Age Category: BREAK DOWN WALLS

Leo and his class (NMS Telfs 3B) were awarded for their "dedication and creativity". It is a movie about a new girl, obviously muslim, that breaks the ice on the school yard by just a simple trick: starting a ball game. A trick that makes it possible for her to explain her background and to clarify stereotypes.

Award winner fo the 15-18 Age Category: BREAK OUT

Break Out is a movie inspired by Shakespeare play Romeo and Juliet. It is not Verona against Capulet, but Austrian against Turkish. The question is once again: Is love stronger than ethnic and cultural gaps?

Award winner of the 19-25 Age Category: SILENT RELIEF

Sometimes it does not need words to spread a message. Rafi and his group from interface received the award for their impact on how to overcome language barriers. A silent movie, that points out the importance to adapt in order to interact but also the imperative to keep ones mother tongue.

Award winner: GET2GETHER

Clara, Stefanie and Viktoria received the award for Most Dedicated Participants for their movie GET2GETHER, an image movie about their a-levels project. Get2gether is a "very original, creative and inspiring" animated movie. The movie focuses on the challenges of unaccompanied refugee minors (UMFs) and seeks to find ways to help them arrive, adapt and unfold in their host country. Their answer is: let's get 2gether in workshops.

Award winner: DIVERSITY

Bernhard Wenger received an award for his movie DIVERSITY. The director shows "that only some pictures and few words are necessary to send out a strong message." Wenger raises the question why we are not able to treat human beings with the same tolerance as ordinary products like bananas from Latin America or a baseball cap from the United States.

Award winner for Best Movie: EQUAL

The award for the Best Movie was given to Lisa and Natasha for the "technical and cinematic quality as well as an amazing screenplay" of their movie EQUAL. A young man, confronted by key words of the migration issue like discrimination, refugee, culture shock, misfit, hopeless tries to escape those stereotypes. He can only achieve that by the help of others that tear the sheets with those words from the walls to the ground.

Quotations

William L. Swing:

“You showed how to think much more creatively about the people who come to our shores.”