Laurent Richard is European Journalist of the Year

12 European productions awarded at PRIX EUROPA 2018

Standing ovations for Laurent Richard, the French investigative journalist and founder of Forbidden Stories, a non-profit organisation with the mission of continuing the work of silenced journalists, who was honoured last night as European Journalist of the Year. After witnessing the terrorist attack on Charlie Hebdo in Paris, identifying the corpses of his dead colleagues, he decided to devote himself to keeping alive their stories. In his speech at the festive gala in the Schinkelhalle (Potsdam) he dedicated the award to all murdered or imprisoned colleagues. “We are sending a strong message to enemies of the press: even if you have killed the messenger, you will not kill the message”, said Richard.

Many of the other 12 PRIX EUROPA award winners also carried a message. The best European television investigation “Human Smugglers”, one of three winning productions from Denmark, gives a human face to those helping migrants enter the European Union. The Swedish App “SVT-Sprakplay”, winner in the online category, offers a very practical perspective on the subject of migration by enabling its users to learn Swedish by watching SVT Programmes by offering language-learning features for Swedish to 18 common immigrant languages. True to this year's festival slogan “Reflecting all Voices”, the German documentary “The Cleaners” hears from the work and lives of those people in Manila who “clean” the Internet. Two Italian miners express their love for the mine and the mountain in “The Upside Down”, the best radio documentary. The Hungarian TV drama “Eternal Winter” takes a historic look at the ravages of war during the Second World War, while the French television movie “The Age of the Stateless”, winner of TV IRIS, the best European television programme about cultural diversity, follows the disarrayed lives of three migrants in Europe today. The Netherlands convinced the Digital Audio jury with “Hunted”, a personal piece about the nature of the Dutch educational system, viewed by a Swedish mother. The Belgian television series “Sense of Tumour” shows, how black humour can provide light relief in times of illness. “The Chosen One”, radio fiction winner from the United Kingdom, delves into the world of a religious commune in India with a thrilling plot based on real events.

Denmark topped the list with three winners, an encouraging result for the Danish Broadcasting Corporation – DR, which is currently undergoing drastic budget cuts. The
Swedish public broadcasters came away with two awards, while Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy and The Netherlands each took away one Taurus Trophy. DR was also among the 21 European public broadcasters from the PRIX EUROPA Alliance, whose representatives signed the Potsdam Declaration today. “It is clear that the time to stand up for media freedom and strong public service media is now. Our countries need good quality journalism and the audiences need strong collective platforms.”

Potsdam did not only host the PRIX EUROPA 2018 Awards Ceremony, it will also be hosting the whole PRIX EUROPA Festival week from 2019.

The Awards Ceremony was moderated by Shanli Anwar, a German radio host with Iranian roots, and accompanied by the renowned Theremin-player Carolina Eyck. The event was streamed live on the rbb homepage.

PRIX EUROPA was founded in 1987. Every year the influential tri-media festival honours the best TV-, Radio- and Online productions from the European continent. The festival distinguishes itself from similar events through its big open jury groups. The winners are determined in open discussions and through individual voting. PRIX EUROPA 2018 took place from 13 to 19 October in Berlin and Potsdam.

PRIX EUROPA is organised by an alliance of 21 European broadcasters, EU- institutions and the federal states Berlin and Brandenburg. Since 1997 rbb has hosted the festival in its Haus des Rundfunks in Berlin. Since 2017 the patron of the festival is the European Parliament. Current President of PRIX EUROPA is Cilla Benkő Lamborn, Director General of SVERIGES RADIO.

Any questions?
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Laurent Richard:
Forbidden Stories: www.forbiddenstories.org
http://niemanreports.org/articles/collaboration-is-really-our-best-protection/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LXnrbaSLEo&t=3s

Potsdam Declaration
https://www.prixeuropa.eu/news/2018/19/10/potsdamdeclaration

Awards Ceremony as video on demand: rbb-online.de/prixeuropa