



Press release 28.10.2022

## **Celebration of European Quality Media at PRIX EUROPA 2022 Awards**

After an intense week of "Media that matter", the Best European TV-, Radio- and Digital Media Programmes of 2022 were honoured at the Awards Ceremony on Friday evening.

Winners from Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The highlight of the festive gala in Potsdam's Schinkelhalle was the nomination of the Russian media-maker in exile Galina Timchenko as European Journalist of the Year. The co-founder, managing director and editor of the Riga-based independent online medium Meduza, was received with standing ovations. She addressed stirring words to the audience: "I would like to mention just one simple thought: every war starts with the silencing of independent journalism, with the restriction of free speech. Freedom of expression always falls as a first victim of coming war. Let's try not to let that happen again."

Last year's winner, the Belarusian journalist Darya Chultsova, reminded the audience that her colleague Katsiaryna Andrejeva is still in prison and will be for another eight years. Darya made it clear that she was on stage also for Katsiaryna and was convinced that "no matter how much time she will spend behind bars, she will still accomplish many wonderful things. Until then, I will do my best to work for both of us." Darya received the award belatedly, since she herself was imprisoned until September this year as a result of her reporting on protests against the Belarusian ruler Alexander Lukashenko.

The winning productions went to nine countries and do, indeed, deal with subjects that matter. The award for best television fiction film went to the German ZDF production "The Conference" about the infamous Wannsee-Conference in 1942 where the Holocaust was planned. Based on the real participants and the minutes of the gathering, the cold bureaucratic tone of the "meeting followed by breakfast", at which the so-called "final solution of the Jewish question" was decided, makes the audience's blood run cold. The best television fiction series also deals with serious issues: the Norwegian "Afterglow" shows how life changes for everyone after somebody is diagnosed with cancer. The documentary series "Belgium's Stolen Children" won the award for best television programme on cultural diversity. Three people who were taken away to Belgium as children from their African mothers delve into their painful past in connection with Belgian colonial history. The best television current affairs programme takes viewers directly into the current war in Ukraine: "War Crimes: the Faces of the Executioners" from France is a search for clues on the ground in the war zone with the aim of finding the truth. In the television documentary category the Swedish-German co-production "The Most Beautiful Boy in the World"



(SVT and ZDF/ARTE) carries the day. It tells the tragic life story of former boy icon Björn Andrésen, cast by Luchino Visconti for "Death in Venice". The best documentary series is also co-produced by ARTE with the German broadcaster Radio Bremen. Its thought-provoking title and content: "Who are we allowed to eat?"

The award-winning radio productions put predominantly women on centre stage: "Your fear doesn't matter here - How family courts undermine women's protection" was awarded the prize for best radio current affairs. In the German production women, who are exposed to extreme domestic violence, tell us their story. The best radio play comes from Norway and successfully puts the listener in two minds: Is the single mother at the centre of "The Friend" delusional or is it the people around her whose perceptions are skewed? The Belgian production "The Buffalo Bitches" was declared best radio fiction series and has rarely-heard protagonists: two female hooligans. The best radio documentary also comes from Belgium: In "Pearl", women who have been victims of genital mutilation talk about their experiences and their attempts to re-appropriate their bodies and sexual desire – or to discover it in the first place. The best radio documentary series from Sweden, "Ekerö Swindler", goes on the trail of Internet fraudsters. The British BBC took home the award for this year's best European radio music production "Add to Playlist".

In the digital media category one PRIX EUROPA trophy went to the Finnish audio game "Sexy Pants and Other Problems" which takes users into the LGBTQI+ community in Helsinki. The other Taurus Trophy was awarded to the Portuguese multimedia production "For You, Portugal, I Swear!" which lends a voice to black ex-soldiers of the Portuguese army in Guinea-Bissau.

In addition, the winners of the new-talent awards PRIX EUROPA Rising Stars were announced. These two audience awards, which could be voted for from home, elicited a great response from all over Europe. The two award winners, a student from the Netherlands and one from Germany, will have the opportunity to take part in next year's PRIX EUROPA.

The Awards Ceremony concluded with the announcement by moderator Tolga Akar that PRIX EUROPA will be held in Berlin again in 2023. The Governing Mayor of Berlin, Franziska Giffey, stated on Friday that the city of Berlin is looking forward to hosting this European media event and its numerous international participants. Dr. Katrin Vernau, Director General of the hosting broadcaster RBB, said that PRIX EUROPA is a stimulating environment for European media professionals and the historic rbb "Haus des Rundfunks" an ideal meeting place for creative journalistic minds.

PRIX EUROPA is supported by a strong alliance of currently 26 members of European public broadcasters and other European institutions, under the patronage of the European Parliament. The festival was previously held in Amsterdam, Strasbourg, Barcelona, Porto, Reykjavik, Marseilles and again and again in Berlin.



Potsdam has hosted the festival from 2019 to 2022, next year it will be the city of Berlin again together with the local broadcaster Rundfunk Berlin Broadcaster. The festival was founded in 1987 on the initiative of the Council of Europe with the aim of strengthening the European media landscape. Since then, it has developed into the showcase of European quality media. Every year, well over a hundred European productions take part in the competition. They make PRIX EUROPA an important platform for professional exchange and the promotion of young talent, gathering hundreds of media professionals from all over Europe every year.

The Awards Ceremony was streamed live and is still available as video-on-demand on the PRIX EUROPA homepage. You will also find clips of all the winning productions on [www.prixeuropa.eu](http://www.prixeuropa.eu).

### **PRIX EUROPA 2022 - Press contact**

Annika Erichsen  
PRIX EUROPA Press Office  
[press@prixeuropa.eu](mailto:press@prixeuropa.eu)  
+49 30 97993 10913  
[www.prixeuropa.eu](http://www.prixeuropa.eu)

More press pictures on: <https://www.prixeuropa.eu/new-page>