

Press release – EMBARGO until 22h (Berlin time) 27 October 2023

## **PRIX EUROPA stands up for public service broadcasting**

### Ukrainians awarded as European Journalists of the Year

On Friday evening, the PRIX EUROPA 2023 Awards were presented at Berlin's town hall Rotes Rathaus. 16 productions were honoured as the Best European Audio, Digital Media and TV/Video Productions of the Year. A total of 181 programmes from 27 countries had been nominated. The 227 jurors, a diverse crowd of media professionals, held their breaths as one award-winner after the other took the stage. In addition, two young talents were decorated as the PRIX EUROPA Rising Stars. The finale of the evening saw emotions run high with the celebration of the European Journalists of the Year 2023.

Berlin's Governing Mayor Kai Wegner opened the festive gala, hosted by Tolga Akar. PRIX EUROPA President and Director General of Bayerischer Rundfunk Dr. Katja Wildermuth followed with a pledge: "Free, independent quality journalism is now more necessary than ever. Our democratic dialogue depends on a common factual basis. And we need a common understanding of our values. How else are we to build bridges between opposing positions, foster dialogue, maintain trust in democratic institutions and processes, and thus hold society together?" Her stance is also reflected in this year's PRIX EUROPA slogan: "Public service media - excellence and impact in all genres". All laudatory speakers of the evening come from European public service broadcasters.

The prize-giving started with the series awards: The Best European Audio Investigation Series of the Year is called *The Mystery* and comes from Denmark. The title Best European Audio Documentary Series went to the Norwegian radio production *Shit Town, Trondheim*. The Best European Audio Fiction Series is *Before-After: Anna Lindh 2003* from Sweden. The Belgian production *Miracle N°71* was elected Best European TV/Video Factual Series. In the TV/Video Fiction Series category there was an amusing side effect: the Best European TV/Video Fiction Series was awarded to *This Is Not Sweden* from Spain and the Best European TV/Video Mini-Series is from Sweden and called *Blackwater*.

The award for the Best European Audio Music Programme went to Finland for the *Music Documentary: Ánnámáret*. Next, the PRIX EUROPA IRIS Award for Best European Video Programme of the Year about Cultural Diversity went to the Netherlands for the documentary film *Shabu*. The Best European Online Media Project is *The Bomb* from Norway, and *Chess Game* from the Czech Republic was awarded as the Best Interactive Media Project.

Then the young talents took the stage: last year's winners Elena Dikomitis from the Netherlands and the German Alexandra Kurt announced this year's winners of PRIX

EUROPA Rising Star Awards for Audio and Video: two Germans, Irene Schulz for her audio project *Kleine Klaus 16* and Bernhard Wohlfahrter for his video project *Lucky Day*.

The investigative prizes followed: *RTÉ Documentary On One: Blackrock Boys* from Ireland was elected Best European Audio Single Investigation. The award for the Best European TV/Video Investigation went to the United Kingdom for the production *BBC Eye: The Monkey Haters*. The title Best European Audio Single Documentary went to France for *Open Hearts* and *Lyra* from the United Kingdom won as the Best European TV / Video Documentary. The prize for the Best European Audio Fiction went also to the United Kingdom for *Dear Harry Kane* and the Best European TV Movie was *Elaha* from Germany.

The Awards Ceremony ended with a big surprise: rbb Director General Ulrike Demmer announced who would take home the European Journalist 2023 Award. She began her laudatory speech by saying, "Most of us who are here tonight cannot - thankfully! - imagine what it is like to work in a war, let alone to work and live in a war." She then addressed all Ukrainian journalists who, despite the fear for their own lives, never tire of informing their own people. "Every day you build a bastion of human spirit against the horrors of war", Demmer continued, before announcing that this year's award goes to the journalistic staff of the public service broadcaster Suspilne Ukraine - UA:PBC. The trophy was received by the astonished journalists of the Ukrainian media organisation, who had previously travelled to Berlin to participate in PRIX EUROPA as jury members.

## **PRIX EUROPA 2023 - History**

PRIX EUROPA was founded in 1987 by the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the European Cultural Foundation. It is now organised by a strong alliance of currently 22 European public broadcasters. Previous hosts include Amsterdam, Strasbourg, Barcelona, Porto, Reykjavik and Marseille. In 2023, PRIX EUROPA returned to Berlin after three years in Potsdam, and is hosted by rbb and supported by the state of Berlin. The competition is an important platform for European media professionals and promotes young talent across borders.

## **PRIX EUROPA 2023 – In Numbers**

- Festival director: Susanne Hoffmann
- PRIX EUROPA President: Director General of Bayerischer Rundfunk (BR) Dr. Katja Wildermuth
- 611 submissions from 31 European countries
- 181 media programmes from over 240 European media organisations from 27 countries
- 9 competition categories plus 1 young talent competition
- 561 participating media professionals, including 227 jury members

- 18 jury coordinators

### **The PRIX EUROPA 2023 - Awards**

- 16 PRIX EUROPA Awards for the Best European Audio, Digital Media and TV/Video Productions 2023
- 1 European Journalist of the Year 2023 Award
- 2 PRIX EUROPA Rising Stars Awards for young talent (Audio and Video)
- The PRIX EUROPA trophies awarded are made by the Dutch artist Anthon Hoornweg. They are small bronze statues in the shape of a bull.
- Official prize designations at: <https://www.prixeuropa.eu/awards-2023-copy>

### **PRIX EUROPA 2023 – Basic information**

- Founded in 1987, PRIX EUROPA 2023 is the 37th edition of the festival
- Festival Venue 2023 is the Haus des Rundfunks in Berlin
- Opening on Sunday, 22 October 2023
- Competition from 23 to 26 October 2023
- PRIX EUROPA 2023 Awards Ceremony 27 October, 8 to 10 p.m., at Rotes Rathaus in Berlin

### **PRIX EUROPA 2023 - From home**

- Excerpts of all award-winning productions on [www.prixeuropa.eu](http://www.prixeuropa.eu)
- Awards ceremony as video-on-demand at [rbb-online.de/prixeuropa](http://rbb-online.de/prixeuropa)
- Broadcast of the PRIX EUROPA 2023 Award Ceremony on Tagesschau24 on Saturday, 28 October from 2 to 4 a.m.

### **PRIX EUROPA 2023 - Press contact**

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The PRIX EUROPA 2023 Festival Catalogue is available online:

<https://www.prixeuropa.eu/festival-catalogue-2023>

Photos and other press material on: <https://www.prixeuropa.eu/new-page>