Press release

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**Matevž Luzar's *Orchestra* wins the 25th FSF Portorož**

The **Festival** **of Slovenian Film Portorož** wrapped up its 25th edition with great attendance. Over a little less than a week, the festival **line-up of 108 films** and some additional screenings attracted more than **6.500 visitors**, while other festival events, both industry and social, also received good attendance. Curated by Brane Rončel, the Festival Nights line-up of concerts featured the UK-based saxophone player Camilla George. Hosted by the actor, director, screenwriter and pianist Jure Ivanušič and Toni Cahunek, the Closing Gala saw live performances by Ivanušič in addition to the saxophone player and composer, Vasko Atanasovski, the double bass player and master of improvisation, Jošt Drašler, and the drummer Žiga Kožar. The presenters of Vesna Awards – statuettes having been designed by Ivana Potočnik and hand-made of crystal glass by Steklarna Rogaška – included the culture minister Asta Vrečko, who gave out awards for best feature film, the Piran mayor Đenio Zadaković, who presented the audience award, and the director of the Slovenian Film Centre, Nataša Bučar, who gave out the best director and best screenplay award. Now in its 25th year of awarding Slovenian cinema, the event also saw an address by its director, Bojan Labović.

In total, 63 films were in the running for Vesna Awards. The Vesna Award for best film went to ***Orchestra***, directed by Matevž Luzar, which also won the Vesna Awards for best screenplay (**Matevež Luzar**) and best cinematography (**Simon Tanšek**). **Sara Kern** won the Vesna Award for best director for *Moja Vesna*. For the role of Moja in this film, **Loti Kovačič** was awarded the Vesna for best actress in a leading role. The Vesna Award for best actor in a leading role went to **Petja Labović** for the role of Anton in *Riders*.

The awards for best actress and actor in supporting roles went to **Alenka Kraigher** (*The Space Among Us*), and **Jonas Žnidaršič** (*Grandpa Goes South*), respectively. **Gregor Strniša** won the Vesna Award for best original music (*Wracked Piano*), **Andrej Nagode** **and** **Matic Drakulić** the Vesna Award for best editing (*Riders*), **Robert Černelč** for best production design (*The Birdbreeder*), **Monika Lorber** for best costume design (*The Happiest Man in the World*), **Mojca Gorogranc Petrushevska** for best make-up (*The Happiest Man in the World*), and **Samo Jurca** for best sound (*Riders*). ***The Happiest Man in the World*** is also the winner of the Vesna Award for best minority co-production.

The best documentary film is ***Competition*** (dir. Miha Mohorič), while ***That's How the Summer Ended*** (dir. Matjaž Ivanišin) was announced the best short fiction film, ***The Legend of Goldhorn*** (dir. Lea Vučko) the best animated film, **www.s-n-d.si** (dir. Sara Bezovšek) the best experimental AV work, and ***Pentola*** (dir. Leo Černic) the best student film. Two Vesna Awards for special achievements were presented to ***Disappearing*** (dir. Andrina Mračnikar), and ***x1-Eschaton*** (dir. Juš Premrov).

Dominik Mencej’s feature ***Riders*** won the Audience Award. The Slovenian Art Cinema Association presented its award to ***Moja Vesna***, while the Association of Slovenian Film Critics gave out its award forbest Slovenian feature film in the Official Competitionto ***Wracked Piano*** (dir. Miha Vipotnik).TheIRIDIUM Award for best feature debut went to ***Riders***.