



FESTIVAL
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Experimental feature *Don't Think It Will Ever Pass* wins 26th FSF Portorož

The **26th Festival of Slovenian Film Portorož** wrapped up tonight after nearly a week of screenings that showed what's new in Slovenian cinema, together with a wealth of industry and social events. Hosted in the Main Hall of Avditorij Portorož by actor, director, screenwriter and pianist Jure Ivanušič and Toni Cahunek, the Closing Gala saw live music appearances by Ivanušič, who was joined by bass player Jošt Drašler and percussionist Žiga Kožar.

The event gave out the 2023 Vesna Awards and other festival awards. The main award, Vesna for best feature film, went to *Don't Think It Will Ever Pass* (Tomaž Grom), an experimental feature that also won the award for best original music (**Tomaž Grom**). The Vesna awards for best feature-length fiction film and best screenplay (**Marko Šantić, Goran Vojnović** and **Sara Hribar**) went to Marko Šantić's *Wake Me*. For the roles of Rok and Damjan in this film, **Jure Henigman** and **Jurij Drevenšek** were awarded the Vesnas for best actor in a leading role and best actor in a supporting role, respectively, while **Lija Ivančič** was awarded for best make-up.

The Vesna Award for best director went to **Ivan Gergolet** for *The Man Without Guilt*, which also won the Slovenian Art Cinema Association Award and the IRIDIUM Award for best feature debut. Janez Burger's *Observing* won three awards: the Vesna for best actress in a leading role, which went to **Diana Kolenc** for her role of Lara, the Vesna for best production design, won by **Špela Jelovčan** and **Vasja Kokelj**, and the Vesna for best sound, shared by **Julij Zornik** and **Igor Popovski**.

Vesna Pernarčič won the Vesna Award for best actress in a supporting role for her role of Špela in *Role Model*, a film by Nejc Gazvoda for which **Katarina Šavs** was awarded for best costume design. **Sara Gjergjek** was awarded the Vesna for best editing in Maja Prettner's *Woman of God*, also the winner of the Association of Slovenian Film Critics Award. **Marko Brdar** won the Vesna for best cinematography in *Safe Place*, Juraj Lerotić's feature that was also announced the best minority co-production.

Other winners include Petra Seliškar's *Body* as best documentary, *How I Learned to Hang Laundry* (Barbara Zemljič) as best short fiction film, *Little Women* (Nika Jurman) as best animated film, and *Alenka* (Kristian Bernard Irgl) as best student film. Two additional Vesna Awards for special achievements were presented to feature documentary *Pero* (Damjan Kozole), and short film *Soil* (Alex Cvetkov). The jury chose not to present the Vesna for best experimental film. Finally, the winner of the Association of Slovenian Film Critics Award and the Audience Award (with an average score of 4.82) is Maja Prettner's feature documentary *Woman of God*.