**ONE WORLD HAS ITS WINNERS FOR 2024**

Press Release

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**The 26th edition of the One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival has unveiled its winning films. In the International Competition, the top prize was awarded to 'Life Is Beautiful,' directed by Mohamed Jabaly, whilst Best Director was awarded to Kumjana Novakova for her film 'Silence of Reason.' In the Czech Competition, 'Notes from Eremocene' by director Viera Čákanyová took home the category’s top prize. Audiences also voted for their favourite film with Jarmila Štuková’s 'Is There Any Place for Me, Please?' emerging as the winner. The award ceremony, held on the evening of March 28th at Cinema Lucerna in Prague, marked the conclusion of the festival's Prague segment. This year's edition saw participation from a total of 48 cities across the Czech Republic, and the festival will continue in select regions until April 21st.**

The ceremonial closing of the festival was attended by the President of the Czech Republic, Petr Pavel.

This year's One World Festival showcased a rich array of cinematic experiences, including 96 feature-length films, 10 captivating virtual reality projects, and engaging short films tailored for children. An exciting addition to this year's lineup was the inclusion of narrative films exploring human rights themes, adding depth and diversity to the program. Drawing an international crowd, the festival welcomed over a hundred esteemed guests from around the globe, representing not only Europe but also vibrant cultural landscapes from India, Brazil, Colombia, and the United States.

The Prague segment of the festival witnessed an impressive turnout with 21,000 attendees.

**INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION JURY**

The [International Competition Jury](https://www.oneworld.cz/film-categories/451-international-competition) awarded **two prizes**: the **International Competition Jury Award for Best Director** and the **International Competition Jury Award for Best Film**. The films were judged by prominent film experts from the Czech Republic and abroad, including the project manager for the Baltic Sea Forum for Documentaries, **Zane Balčus**; Danish director **Lea Glob**; and producer and director **Mark Jonathan Harris**.

**The International Competition Jury Award for Best Director went to Kumjana Novakova for her film** [***Silence of Reason***](https://www.oneworld.cz/films/55268-silence-of-reason). The film draws upon archive footage from the Hague Tribunal, providing a platform for the voices of women who endured harrowing experiences of sexual violence and torture during the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"*Although the film deals with a specific historical event, it also speaks to all armed conflicts happening today and the increasingly prevalent use of rape as a weapon of war. The stories of forgotten war victims are slowly and quietly coming to light*,” commented the jury on their decision.

**The International Competition Jury Award for Best Film went to** [***Life Is Beautiful***](https://www.oneworld.cz/films/55804-life-is-beautiful) by director **Mohamed Jabaly**. In this very personal documentary, young Palestinian filmmaker Mohamed sets out on his first journey to Europe, unaware that what was meant to be just a month-long stay in Norway would eventually transform into an involuntary exile, shrouded in uncertainty with no foreseeable conclusion in sight.

"*The documentary tenderly portrays the difficult fate of a filmmaker from Gaza, who, due to the political situation in his homeland, was forced into exile. He finds himself stateless and must face rigid bureaucracy but finds inspirational support within the small Norwegian community. Through its humour and challenging diary format, the film remarkably captures the human dilemma of an individual caught in the grip of political forces beyond his control. It tells a universal story of perseverance, strength, and hope with incredible sensitivity to what unites us*," explained the jury.

**VÁCLAV HAVEL JURY**

In the [Right To Know](https://www.oneworld.cz/film-categories/452-right-to-know) category, the Václav Havel Jury awarded the **Václav Havel Jury Prize for Best Film** to a work that profoundly advances the cause of human rights protection. Comprised of distinguished human rights defenders and representatives from the NGO sector and institutions, the jury featured notable figures such as Libyan journalist and human rights advocate **Noura Al Jerbi**; **Georgiana Gheorghe**, Executive Director of the prominent human rights organisation APADOR-CH; and **Katarzyna Batko-Tołuć**, Program Director of the Civic Watchdog Network in Poland.

**The Václav Havel Jury Prize for Best Film was awarded to** [***Extremists.br***](https://www.oneworld.cz/films/55284-extremists-br), directed by Brazilian documentary filmmaker **Caio Cavechini**. The film offers insight into Brazil’s divided society, where threats and violence are common tactics used by right-wing extremists.

"*The film effectively illustrates how the utilisation of social media and emerging technological platforms can wield manipulative power, fostering societal divisions, fuelling violence, discrediting credible sources, and eroding the foundations of basic democratic institutions. Through a focused examination of a particular state, the film delivers a sobering narrative, highlighting the dire consequences of unchecked disinformation and the urgent need for proactive measures to counter its pervasive influence*," commented the jury on their decision.

**CZECH COMPETITION JURY**

Among the festival’s traditional categories include the Czech Competition, where a jury comprised of representatives from various international festivals selects the best Czech or Czech co-produced documentary from the past and current year. Members of the jury included **Tiina Lokk**, director of the PÖFF film festival; **Maxim Cirlan**, co-founder of the Moldox Documentary Film Festival; and **Andrea Kuhn**, director of the International Human Rights Film Festival in Nuremberg.

**The Czech Competition Jury awarded the prize** for Best Czech or Czech co-produced film from the past and current year to [***Notes from Eremocene***](https://www.oneworld.cz/films/53527-notes-from-eremocene), directed by Viéra Čákanyová. The jury justified the award by stating that it was given to “*an intense yet captivating cinematic essay exploring the irrationality of the human mind when faced with numerous looming catastrophes*.”

**IMMERSIVE FILMS COMPETITION JURY**

The Immersive Films Competition Jury awarded their prize to the virtual reality project that demonstrated the most significant social impact within the [Immersive Films Competition](https://www.oneworld.cz/film-categories/462-immersive-films-competition) category. Evaluation criteria include the innovative use of immersive technology and compelling narratives aimed at raising awareness of human rights issues. This year's jury consisted of game theorist **Tereza Fousek Krobová**, cultural manager **Nela Klajbanová**, and producer and screenwriter **Weronika M Lewandowska**.

Regarding the winning project, [***I Took a Lethal Dose of Herbs***](https://www.oneworld.cz/filmy/56168-i-took-a-lethal-dose-of-herbsi-took-a-lethal-dose-of-herbs) by director **Yvette Granata**, the jury stated: “*We appreciated the film’s exploration of such critical topics as mental health and the right to abortion. It portrays how our environment can significantly impact us and unveils the detrimental effects of relationships that impose a singular perspective on the world, emphasising their toxic nature.*” They added, “*Virtual reality enables the audience to directly experience the harrowing emotions of the main character and completely immerse themselves in a distressing scenario that reflects a reality closer to home than we might wish.*”

**REGIONAL JURY**

Two members of the Regional Jury are nominated by One World Festival’s regional partners. Nominees can be supporters and advocates of One World within a particular city. The jury is then joined by its third member, the holder of the “Golden Projectionist” title awarded by the *Promítej i ty!* platform. The winning film is then included in the *Promítej i ty!* programme during the year.

This year, the three-member jury comprising **Ilona Mach**, **Martin Kuška**, and **Michaela Němcová** decided on the winner, eventually choosing the film [***Tack***](https://www.oneworld.cz/police-nad-metuji/films/55920-tack), directed by Vania Turner. The film follows a Greek Olympic sailing champion whose life takes a turn for the worst after accusing a high-ranking sports official of rape, sparking the first #MeToo movement in Greece.

The jury emphasised that “*this film serves as a powerful reminder for Czech viewers to heed the voices of those marginalised by status, age, or financial background. It also stresses the importance of preventing such atrocities whilst providing unwavering support and protection to survivors, especially children, whose voices are often overlooked and yet they remain profoundly impacted by these injustices. We anticipate the film will also embolden those who have yet to find the courage to come forward and speak out about their own experiences.*"

**STUDENT JURY**

Every year, the festival selects a group of secondary school students who are actively involved in the One World in Schools programme. During the festival, they evaluate and select the best film in the One World for Students category. This year's [Student Jury](https://www.oneworld.cz/awards-and-juries/4-student-jury) consisted of **Ludmila Kozlová**, **Jan Křivan**, and **Karolína Kubíčková**.

The **Student Jury Award** went to [***Rahčan – Ella’s Riot***](https://www.oneworld.cz/films/53613-rahcan-ella-s-riot), directed by Anne Marte Blindheim. "*We were inspired by the ubiquitous hope and steadfast determination to defend one’s past, present, and future*," commented the jury.

**CHILDREN’S JURY**

For the first time in history, the festival awarded a prize in the [Docs For Families](https://www.oneworld.cz/film-categories/461-docs-for-families) category for a short-length film that was shown as part of morning school screenings. The film was chosen by students involved in the year-long One World in Schools educational programme run by People in Need. The jury consisted of **Anna Marie Janíková**, **Martin Kroupa**, and **Zuzana Sokolovská**.

The Children's Jury Prize was awarded to the animated film [***The Girl with Brass Rings***](https://www.oneworld.cz/filmy/55379-the-girl-with-brass-rings), directed by **Sai Naw Kham**. "*The film we’ve chosen is one that we feel can help children accept themselves. The decision wasn’t easy. Every story had its own special charm. But the winning filming managed to capture our attention with its unique, motivating message*," explained the jury.

**THE AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST FILM**

In this year’s edition, the audience also had the chance to decide on the Audience Award winner and vote for their favourite film at the festival. The audience chose from 96 feature-length films, which included documentaries and the newly added fictional films. This year’s Audience Award went to the documentary [***Is There Any Place For Me, Please?***](https://www.oneworld.cz/hradec-kralove/films/55078-is-there-any-place-for-me-please), directed by **Jarmila Štuková**. The film centres on a woman learning how to live again after suffering an acid attack from her former partner that permanently damaged her vision.

**THE ABAKUS FOUNDATION AUDIENCE AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL DEBATE**

This year, audiences were also once again given the opportunity to vote for their favourite post-film debate that they felt best enriched and complemented the screened film. Out of 141 debates, the debate on the film [***Tack***](https://www.oneworld.cz/police-nad-metuji/films/55920-tack) emerged victorious, having been held in the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. The debate was led by **Irena Hůlová** from Amnesty International and lawyer **Daniel Bartoň** and was moderated by **Anna Kotvalová**.

For more information about the festival, visit [www.oneworld.cz](http://www.oneworld.cz).

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