

One World

International Human Rights Film Festival 2025

ONE WORLD 2025 CLOSING CEREMONY: HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATION, AWARDS CEREMONY AND SHORT-TERM EVACUATION

Eyewitness accounts of the war in Ukraine, the fight against the patriarchy, and the unraveling of extramarital affairs. The grand finale of the 27th Annual One World International Human Rights Film Festival took place on March 20th at Cinema Lucerna in Prague. The main highlight of the evening was the announcement of **this year's** winning films. The festival will continue in regional locations until April 27th, 2025. In Prague, the festival will continue with the follow-up program, Prague Echoes.

Immediately after the ceremony, the Police of the Czech Republic passed on information to the One World team that a bomb had been reported on the premises of the Lucerna Palace. The entire complex was subsequently temporarily evacuated, but the suspicion was not confirmed.

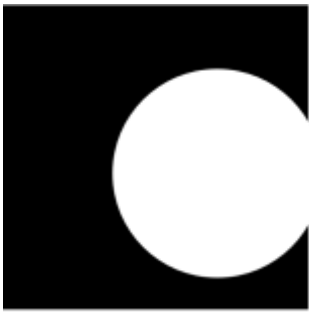
However, the ceremony itself, which is an annual celebration of human rights, went off without a hitch. The twenty-seventh One World has filled the cinemas of Prague in recent days. For the visitors, the festival was a safe space in which every opinion is of equal value. Only the festive toast and the usual buffet did not take place as usual.

The program showcased a total of 84 documentaries, 11 narrative films, 9 immersive films, and 6 short films for families. Over 100 special guests from around the world took part in 129 debates in various formats. More than 22,000 viewers attended the Prague leg of the festival.

International Competition Jury

[The International Competition](#) presents films from around the world that address current global events and pressing societal issues. The International Competition jury, consisting of three prominent film figures from both the Czech Republic and abroad, traditionally awards two prizes: the International Competition Jury Award for Best Film and the International Competition Jury Award for Best Director.

The International Competition Jury Award for Best Film went to [Songs of Slow Burning Earth](#). Director Olha Zhurba's audiovisual mosaic captures the



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transformation of Ukraine during the war, now an everyday reality for its people.

“With uniqueness and care, the film gave us a deeper understanding of what war does to people and how they find hope among the rubble. With cinematography that goes beyond the images and with great editing, the film goes beyond the heartbeat” the jury said, explaining their decision to award Best Film to *Songs of Slow Burning Earth*.

The International Competition Jury Award for Best Director was awarded to director Elizabeth Lo. Her film [Mistress Dispeller](#), which explores an extramarital affair and the subsequent intervention of a mistress tamer, examines love, loyalty, and privacy invasions in the context of modern China.

“We had a chance to see the tensions in the atom, which reflect the society on a larger scale beyond a nation or a state. The director was able to capture all the aspects of the family life with a clear vision and an eye for detail” said the International Competition Jury on Elizabeth Lo’s direction.

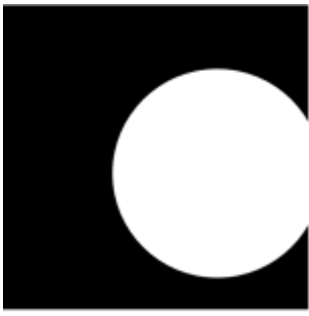
Václav Havel Jury

Every year, the [Right to Know](#) category gives space to stories that would otherwise remain untold. The jury, made up of three prominent human rights figures, recognizes films that make a significant contribution to the protection of human rights.

The Václav Havel Jury Award for Best Film was awarded to [The Brink of Dreams](#). This documentary, directed by duo Nada Riyadh and Ayman El Amir, tells the story of a community of Egyptian girls who challenge societal stereotypes through theatrical performance.

“No matter if they come from a small place, it still has a global urgency. There is always a way to draw the attention to urgent issues utilizing art and culture in the fight for basic human rights. Art would always give you an opportunity to dream even in the hardest conditions and inspire younger generations” said the jury about the award-winning film [The Brink of Dreams](#).

Czech Competition Jury



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The [Czech Competition](#) showcases a diverse selection of domestic projects that explore themes beyond the country's borders. The winner is selected by three representatives of international film festivals.

The Czech Competition Jury Award for Best Film from the past or current year went to [The Other One](#). Directed by Marie-Magdalena Kochová, the film offers a sensitive portrayal of 18-year-old Johana and the world of "glass children"—siblings of children with disabilities, whose own needs are often unintentionally overshadowed within the family.

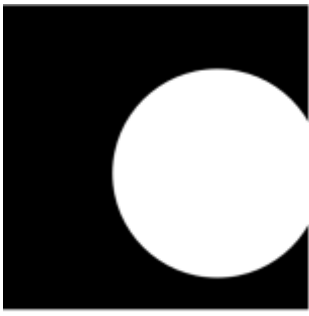
“Nonintrusive yet intimate cinematography observes this family from an unusual center in which an often overseen character becomes the main protagonist. The filmmaker sticks to a clear, restrained cinematic style which allows the audience to follow the character’s introspective endeavour. Through empathy the director offers a deeply emotional exploration of this family’s lived reality” the Czech Competition Jury explained their decision.

Immersive Films Competition Jury

The [Immersive Films Competition](#) showcases virtual reality films that enhance the viewing experience by creating the illusion of direct engagement, offering encounters that would otherwise be unfathomable. A three-member jury of artists, theorists, journalists, and experts in immersive media, gaming arts, and virtual reality selects the project with the most significant societal impact.

This year’s Immersive Films Competition Jury Award went to [RAPTURE II – Portal](#). Directed by Alisa Berger, the film offers a brutal testimony of the Russian occupation of Ukraine and conveys the sorrow stemming from the loss of one’s home.

“The piece transcends mere documentation to become a haunting meditation on loss, memory, and our sacred connection to place—reminding us that home is not merely a physical but foundational to human dignity.” the jury said about the winning project [RAPTURE II – Portal](#).



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The Regional Jury

The Regional Jury consists of two representatives nominated by the regional partners of One World. Nominees can be supporters and friends of the festival in the respective city. The jury is then joined by the recipient of the Golden Projectionist title, awarded as part of the [Get Your Audience](#) platform.

This year's Regional Jury Award went to [Democracy Noir](#). Directed by Connie Field the film tells the stories of three women who resist government corruption under Viktor Orbán, the devastation of nature, and budget cuts in healthcare and education.

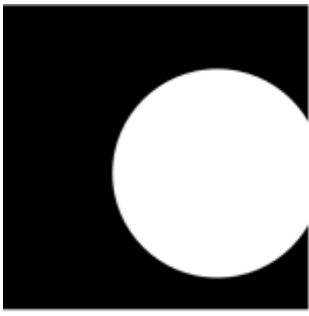
"The awarded documentary powerfully illustrates how easily the media and judiciary can be manipulated, opposition silenced, and the rule of law dismantled. It also vividly portrays the real-life consequences, including the dire state of healthcare, the brain drain of young people, and the threats faced by LGBTQ+ individuals" explained the regional jury about their choice.

The Student Jury

The Student Jury awards the Student Jury Award for Best Film in the One World in Schools category, aimed at older primary school students and secondary school students. The winner is decided by three active high school students who have participated in the One World at Schools project.

The Student Jury Award went to [Mr. Nobody Against Putin](#). The film tells the story of former Russian teacher Pavel Talankin, offering a testimony about daily life during the war and uncovering the mechanisms of Russian propaganda in schools during the so-called "special military operation."

"The film that resonated with us the most depicted an environment we are most familiar with and where we have spent much of our lives. It tells the story of a person who, trapped within the system, sacrificed what was most precious to them. Freedom is a gift, and we are grateful that the film's protagonist fights not only to ensure that their own office remains a place of democracy, but also to protect the broader world around them" said the Student Jury about [Mr. Nobody Against Putin](#).



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The Children's Jury

The **Children's Jury Award** is given to short films featured in the [One World in Schools](#) category. The winner is selected by students involved in One World's year-long projects in schools.

This year's **Children's Jury Award** went to *With Grace*. Directed by Julia Dahr and Mwende, the short film tells the story of a Kenyan family from a farming village, who are increasingly affected by the impacts of climate change.

"The film's main message also resonated with us: we should appreciate what we have because not everyone in the world has an easy life. This theme is important, and we believe that we should help those in need" explained the Children's Jury about their choice of *With Grace*.

The Audience Award for Best Film

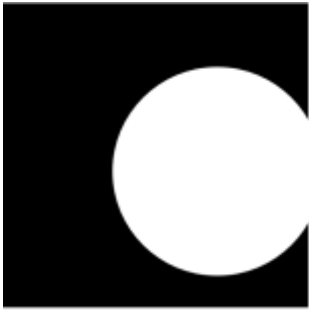
Every year, the audience of One World is given the opportunity to choose their favorite film. After every screening, viewers can cast their votes on tablets on their way out, rating films on a scale of one to five stars.

This year's Audience Award went to [Writing Hawa](#). Documentary filmmaker Najiba Noori created an intimate portrait of her beloved mother, while also telling the story of women's emancipation in her native Afghanistan.

The Abakus Foundation Audience Award for Exceptional Debate

An integral part of the festival since its inception, post-screening debates in various formats have allowed the audience to engage in meaningful discussions. This year, attendees were once again given the opportunity to vote for the exceptional debate that most enriched their experience and complemented the film. After each debate, attendees could cast their vote on tablets on their way out, rating the debate on a scale of one to five stars. The award was supported by the Abakus Foundation.

The Abakus Foundation Audience Award for Exceptional Debate was presented to the expert post-screening debate following the film [Zurawski v Texas](#), held on March 14th, 2025, at the Cinema Hall in the Chamber of Deputies



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of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. The debate featured Americanist Jan Beneš, with **Magdalena Dušková** moderating.

One World Online: The Best of One World Festival in Your Living Room

In early May, the streaming platform [One World Online](#) will offer a selection of 10 films from this year's festival. To access them, simply create an account at [oneworldonline.cz](#) and choose the film you want to watch. Prices range from 30 to 90 CZK. Once purchased, the film can be streamed from anywhere within the Czech Republic for 48 hours.

One World Online is for everyone who cares about the world and human rights. We also offer select films with descriptive subtitles and audio descriptions for accessibility.

Where to Go for Prague Echoes

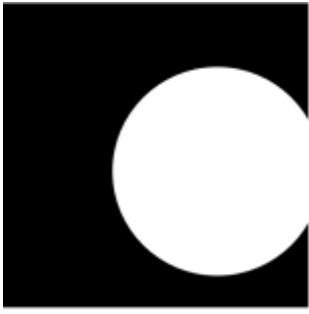
- Kino Kavalírka (March 21–29, 2025)
- Modranský biograf (March 25 – April 9, 2025)
- KC Půda in Suchdol (March 21 – April 25, 2025)
- Velký Mlýn in Libeň (March 25 – April 25, 2025)
- Community Hall Pod Normou in Vinoř (March 25 – April 8, 2025)

One World in All Four Corners of the Czech Republic

From March 12th to April 27th, 2025, the festival will take place in a record 57 cities across the Czech Republic. The festival will also visit new locations, including Vrchlabí, Humpolec, and **Černošice**. In Prague, the festival will be followed by Prague Echoes, which this year will expand to five screening venues.

Jury Composition

- International Competition Jury: film dramaturge and photographer Lyse Ishimwe Nsengiyumva, filmmaker and artist from Gaza Mohamed Jabaly, director, producer, and educator Peter Kerekes



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- Václav Havel Jury: activist Lester Álvarez, editor-in-chief and head of the Investigative Center of Jan Kuciak **Lukáš Diko**, Egyptian human rights defender Samar Elhussieny
- Czech Competition Jury: documentary film dramaturg at the Bergen International Film Festival Håkon Tveit, director of the industry program at the Millennium Docs Against Gravity Festival Anna **Szczypińska**, head of the programming department at the International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam Joost Daamen
- Immersive Films Competition Jury: Head of the Game Design Department at FAMU Andrej Sýkora, artist Ester Geislerová, curator and cultural manager Anna Szylar
- The Regional Jury: Jan **Hajžman** from Plzeň, Adéla Kamenská from Český Krumlov, and Zlatá promítačka's **Iveta Dočkalová** from Železný Brod
- The Student Jury: Anna **Baláčková**, Julia Heczková, and Petr Suchánek
- The Children's Jury: **Eliška** Babicová, Viktorie Jirgesová a David **Gallovič**

For detailed festival information and downloadable materials, visit www.oneworld.cz.

Watch this **year's** festival trailer [here](#).

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