



Akademie des
Österreichischen Films

Media Information

5th Austrian Film Award 2015 – an Award with Charisma Five Years of Being a Showcase Outside and a Platform Inside

On Wednesday night, the Austrian Film Academy awarded the 5th Austrian Film Award in 14 categories and sincerely congratulates all prize winners, Andreas Prochaska's "Das Finstere Tal" ("The Dark Valley") took home eight awards in total. Erni Mangold "Der letzte Tanz" ("The Last Dance") was selected Best Actress and Murathan Muslu received the Award Sculpture for being Best Actor "Risse im Beton" ("Cracks in Concrete").

The list of all prize winners and films is available at www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at

The gala, which took place in the Vienna City Hall again this year, had, beside many moments of joy, a special moment dedicated to the memory of the two great filmmakers and film prize winners Florian Flicker and Michael Glawogger. On the occasion of its little jubilee, Federal President Dr. Heinz Fischer attended this film industry event with 1,300 guests for the first time. Isolde Charim held a decidedly political celebratory speech.

The birthday girl of the week, Erni Mangold, was happy about her distinction of being Best Actress but was also delight about all guests present in the hall singing a birthday serenade for her, and a wheelbarrow filled with 88 roses.

Well-informed and witty as usual, Karl Markovics guided the audience through the night, which was staged by Markus Schleinzer. Stage designer Katharina Wöppermann, who was among the nominees again this year, turned the City Hall into a golden space, and Thomas Benesch ensured perfect lighting. They are all members of the Academy and commit themselves to the Austrian Film Academy on a voluntary basis. The Presidents of the Academy, Ursula Strauss and Stefan Ruzowitzky were absent this year, and were excused by Karl Markovics. They had the best excuses of the world: film and love.

So Monika Willi and Martin Gschlacht, members of the Academy Board, opened the event and appealed to the audience: "Thus let us bring all our willingness to talk and all our convictions to bear to guarantee this glamorous industry we are envied for internationally further on a bright future—and to solve the open questions of a quota



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system for Austrian filmmaking with a better, because more precise, broadcast law as well as those concerning the issues around the FISA funds.”

Among the 1,300 guests, there were representatives of politics and the media, Federal President Heinz Fischer, Federal Minister Josef Ostermayer, Andreas Mailath-Pokorny, Vienna City Councilor for Culture and Science, State Secretary Harald Mahrer (as representative of Vice-Chancellor Reinhold Mitterlehner), Rudolf Scholten, Head of the Austrian Kontrollbank AG, Alexander Wrabetz, CEO of Austrian national public service TV-broadcaster ORF, ORF Program Director Kathrin Zechner, and ORF III Managing Director Peter Schöber.

A special moment dedicated to the memory of Florian Flicker and Michael Glawogger

An empty stage, standing ovations, long-lasting applause for two great Austrian filmmakers.

“We filmmakers, are also influenced by a different and very sad topic this year: With Michael Glawogger and Florian Flicker, we lost two close friends, two of our best filmmakers, both film prize winners, and both snatched from this life much too early. The award ceremony of the Austrian Film Award 2015 shall also be commemorative of these two great figures of Austrian film”, Stefan Ruzowitzky, President of the Austrian Film Academy, said in the television program accompanying the night of the Austrian Film Award.

Images are a central medium

“Images are the central medium in the controversy between a pluralistic and anti-pluralistic world. For this reason, all those who work with images are so challenged. People like you. Filmmakers, artists, satirists, cartoonists—suddenly they are all standing at the front line. They all have to face the following questions: Which visual politics do we pursue? Which images do we produce—and which not? The age of post-heroism is over. With this in mind: Je suis Charlie! Nous sommes Charlie!” the philosopher and writer Isolde Charim said in her speech.

The Academy celebrates its 5th ‘children’s birthday party’

In addition to the gala, the Academy aims to provide a platform for the Austrian film industry throughout the year to help develop Austrian filmmaking.

The promotion of young filmmakers is a priority issue. “Thus all our members are affected by the financial framework conditions of Austrian filmmaking too, which is why the issue of the ORF budget for the Austrian film industry and the adjustment of



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film funding on the part of some federal states are issues that prey on the minds of all of us. And so we are trying to create further opportunities for us filmmakers to meet and discuss things in addition to being allowed to examine the entire cinematic output per year.

All this allows us to consider the fundamental question: What is Austrian film capable of? It has created an internationally acknowledged brand, which at the same time makes an economic upturn possible. Whenever Austrian film entertains the people, captivates them emotionally, and is insightful, innovative, and stirring, it will be successful. With its story-telling verve and social relevance, it can formulate our identity and carry it into the world as Austrian identity. The Austrian Film Academy will go on trying to strengthen our identity by reflecting and celebrating our work”, the two Chair persons, Josef Aichholzer and Karina Ressler said.

Night of the Nominees

There was for the second time a Night of the Nominees on the evening prior to the award ceremony, this time in the Lower Austrian state theater. Markus Schleinzer and Tanja Petrovsky guided their guests through the informal night in the course of which all attending nominees got a chance to speak briefly. Governor Erwin Pröll emphasized once more the importance and economic efficiency of film funding on federal state level. “For every euro invested in this, four euros return to the region.” Moreover, there was a birthday cake for Erni Mangold.

The Sculpture

The spiral-shaped aluminium Award Sculpture, which is 37 cm high and weighs 3.3 kg was created by the Austrian artist VALIE EXPORT. Each statuette is signed by the artist and thus an original artwork.

The ORF is a cooperation partner

ORF once again provided extensive support for the Austrian Film Award, with specials and coverage of the award ceremony. ORF III covered the gala live and shows Julian Pölsler’s “Die Wand” (“The Wall”) - the film adaption of Marlen Haushofer’s novel, which was nominated in five categories in 2013, on 30 January, at 8.15 pm. ORF eins presented a TV night fully dedicated to Austrian filmmaking on 29 January. After the premiere of the ORF/Austrian Film Institute production “Bad Fucking” by Kurt Palm (directed by Harald Sicheritz) at 8.15 pm, the Austrian Film Award took center stage in “Achtung! Sondersendung zum österreichischen Film” at 10.05 pm. In addition to this, “Achtung! Sondersendung zum Österreichischen Film”



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provided a first preview of the cinema year 2015. At 10.25 pm, this was followed by the ORF premiere of Ulrich Seidl's "Paradies: Glaube" ("Paradise: Faith").

The Academy extends its warmest congratulations to all prize-winners and expresses its sincere gratitude to all academy members who contributed to the success of these nights, and all supporters and sponsors.

The Austrian Film Academy is supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture/Austrian Film Institute, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth/ FISA - Film Location Austria, FFW Film Fund Vienna, the Department of Culture of the City of Vienna, the Department of Culture of the Government of Lower Austria, the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, WKO /F&MA (Film and Music Austria), WKO Vienna as well as sponsors (VDFS, VAM, AKM, Erste Bank, Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein, Vienna Film Commission, Satel Film, and many more), cooperation partners and members.

<http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/partner.html>

You can find the prize winners at

<http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/2015/preise.html>

<http://www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at/presse.html>

Photos of the Award Ceremony

<http://bilderserver.skyunlimited.at/index.php/Filmpreis/sterreichischer-Filmpreis-2015/#>

Photos of the Night of the Nominees

<http://bilderserver.skyunlimited.at/index.php/Filmpreis/Abend-der-Nominierten-2015/#>

Video link – Documentation of the Austrian Film Award Ceremony 2015

<http://vimeo.com/kino5/filmpreis2015>

Link to: Flickr Photo Channel

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/oesterreichische-filmakademie/collections/72157650123805699/>

ORF special about the Austrian Film Award 2015

"Abend des österreichischen Films mit "Achtung! Sondersendung", 29 January 2015!

<http://programm.orf.at/?story=32898>



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WINNERS 5. AUSTRIAN FILM AWARD 2015

BEST FEATURE FILM	
Das Finstere Tal	P: Helmut Grasser, Stefan Arndt, Andreas Prochaska D: Andreas Prochaska
BEST DOCUMENTARY	
We Come As Friends	P: Hubert Sauper, Gabriele Kranzelbinder D: Hubert Sauper
BEST SHORT FILM	
Rote Flecken	Magdalena Lauritsch
BEST ACTRESS	
Erni Mangold	Der letzte Tanz
BEST ACTOR	
Murathan Muslu	Risse im Beton
BEST DIRECTOR	
Andreas Prochaska	Das Finstere Tal
BEST SCREENPLAY	
Jessica Hausner	Amour Fou
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY	
Thomas W. Kiennast	Das Finstere Tal
BEST COSTUME DESIGN	
Natascha Curtius-Noss	Das Finstere Tal
BEST MAKE UP	
Helene Lang, Roman Braunhofer	Das Finstere Tal
BEST SCORE	
Matthias Weber	Das Finstere Tal
BEST FILM EDITING	
Karina Ressler	Amour Fou
BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN	
Claus Rudolf Amler	Das Finstere Tal
BEST SOUND EDITING	
Dietmar Zuson, Christof Ehardt, Tschangis Chahrokh	Das Finstere Tal

www.oesterreichische-filmakademie.at



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