



## From *My Mexican Bretzel* to *Lorelei*: The Prize Winners of the 69th IFFMH

Seite 1 von 6

*My Mexican Bretzel* wins the €25,000 International Newcomer Award and the FIPRESCI Award +++ Audience and Student Award to *Lorelei* +++ *Single Cycle* receives first Rainer Werner Fassbinder Award +++ Prizewinners reflect the diversity of the competition



Nuria Giménez Lorang © Franck Alix | Sabrina Doyle © Visit Films

Exceptional winners in an exceptional festival year: on the last day of the digital edition, the International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg (IFFMH) announces this year's winners. The "eccentric, entertaining debut" and formal experiment *My Mexican Bretzel* has won the main prize, endowed with the biggest monetary reward. A total of six prizes in the international ON THE RISE competition have been awarded by four juries and the audience. The selection was made up of 14 debut, second and third fictional feature films by outstanding directors.

"We are delighted that the juries' decisions so fully reflect the breadth of the programme," says Festival Director Sascha Keilholz, commenting on the awards. "From the hybrid essay film, to the poetic melodrama, to the neo-neorealist fairy tale nightmare, all the way to the intense social study, the prize winners comprise a



wonderfully diverse array of voices from the world of cinema. Congratulations to them – and many thanks to the juries!”

Seite 2 von 6

The award ceremony will become available in video format on Sunday, 22 November at 11:00 a.m., featuring official greetings and contributions from the juries and prize winners, and viewable on <https://expanded.iffmh.de/>. The film programme, including all winning films, can still be streamed until 3:00 a.m. The full jury statements can be found at: <https://www.iffmh.de/press/>

## INTERNATIONAL JURY

Jury members: Jessica Kiang, Jan Bonny, Mathilde Henrot

### International Newcomer Award – Best Director (€25.000)

#### **MY MEXICAN BRETZEL**

Director: Nuria Giménez Lorang, Spain

Excerpt from the jury’s statement: “This year’s ON THE RISE competition was very impressive, but nothing had as much fun and delivered as much joy in interrogating just what a film can be, and can do, as this hugely eccentric, entertaining debut that tricks you without cheating you, dazzles you without showing off, and lies to you so that, in every way that matters, it's absolutely truthful.”

The INTERNATIONAL NEWCOMER AWARD, the main prize of the IFFMH, is sponsored by the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation.

### Rainer Werner Fassbinder Award – Best Script (€10.000)

#### **SINGLE CYCLE** (Original title: YÈ YÍ JÌ YÈ)

Director: Zhang Qi, People’s Republic of China

Excerpt from the jury’s statement: “Knowing what to reveal and what to withhold is a skill most writers take time to learn. But this beautiful, haunting and strange first film from China strikes that balance perfectly. [...] *Single Cycle* is a wonderful mystery that is all the more satisfying for being impossible to solve.”



The RAINER WERNER FASSBINDER AWARD\* is presented in collaboration with the Rainer Werner Fassbinder Foundation.

Seite 3 von 6

**Special Mention**

**COME CLOSER** (Original title: DER SIEBZEHNTE)

Director: Saskia Walker, Ralf Walker, Germany

Excerpt from the jury's statement: "None of the films in this very strong section risked quite as much as this one. There's a reckless intimacy to this story of a couple, played by the directors themselves, exploring and exploding the boundaries of their relationship in sometimes witty, often messy, but always frank and honest ways."

**Special Mention**

**BEGINNING** (Original title: DASATSKISI)

Director: Dea Kulumbegashvili, Georgia, France

Excerpt from the jury's statement: "It is hard to believe that this provocative, profoundly disturbing drama from Georgia could possibly be a debut. There is a precision and a formal confidence that would be remarkable in a seventh film, let alone a first."

+++

**FIPRESCI JURY**

Jury members: Dr. Christina Stojanova, Schayan Riaz, Ernesto Diezmartínez

**FIPRESCI AWARD**

**MY MEXICAN BRETZEL**

Director: Nuria Giménez Lorang, Spain

Excerpt from the jury's statement: "This year at the International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg we saw a great selection of films that were representative, very well-balanced and showed a lot of promise. It was a difficult decision to choose a winner out of these films. In the end, we chose a title that playfully questions the notion of what is real, what is fake, and what it means to



construct a story. [...] Reinforced by the subjective stream of consciousness, the film forcefully confronts us with questions endemic to our times.”

+++

## ECUMENICAL JURY

Jury members: Gergely Hajnal, Michael Kranzusch, Uta Losem, Mina Radovic, Rianne Wijmenga-van Dijk

### ECUMENICAL AWARD (€2.500)

**UNA PROMESSA** (Original title: SPACCAPIETRE)

Director: Gianluca & Massimiliano De Serio, Italy, France, Belgium

Excerpt from the jury's statement: "Framed by a scene of familial warmth and tenderness and told through an intensely personal aesthetic, *Una Promessa* shows the deeper significance of love in a world of poverty, humiliation, and death. The film leaves us with a strong statement on human dignity and the need for breaking the circle of exploitation and violence."

### Special Mention

**THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE** (Original title: KOSHTARGAH)

Director: Abbas Amini, Iran

Excerpt from the jury's statement: "The film places an internal moral crisis at the heart of the narrative [...]. The film asks us, how can we be human in inhumane circumstances and in that sense bears a universal message that echoes well beyond the borders of Iran."

+++

## STUDENT JURY

Jury members: Sabrina Mertens, Nico Hagel, Ruth Lang Fuentes

### AWARD OF THE STUDENT JURY (€5.000)

**LORELEI**



Director: Sabrina Doyle, USA

Seite 5 von 6

Excerpt from the jury's statement: "In her debut, the director and screenwriter crafts a compelling film through expressive images, a multi-layered plot and a strong portrayal of social problems with great attention to detail. [...] The whole cast impresses with strong performances."

### Special Mention

#### SHITHOUSE

Director: Cooper Raiff, USA

Excerpt from the jury's statement: "*Shithouse* is a very honest and humane film with great ideas, strong acting and an endearing humour [...]. The fact that Cooper Raiff, who is only 23 years old, was simultaneously the scriptwriter, director, producer and leading actor is highly remarkable."

+++

### AUDIENCE

#### Audience Award (€5,000)

#### LORELEI

Director: Sabrina Doyle, USA

The **Audience Award** goes to the film in the competition with the best ratings from the audience. The criteria - be they rational, emotional or aesthetic - are entirely in the hands of the audience. The wisdom of the masses, also called swarm intelligence, decides - the most popular film wins.

+++

\*The name forms "Fassbinder", "Rainer Werner Fassbinder" and "RWF" (as a word and logo) are registered trademarks of the Rainer Werner Fassbinder Foundation, Berlin.

You can find press materials in our press download area:  
<https://www.iffmh.de/presse-und-fachbesucher>



If you have any questions, please contact Gloria Zerbinati at [gloria.zerbinati@gmail.com](mailto:gloria.zerbinati@gmail.com) or +33 (0)7 86 80 02 82. For German language inquiries, please contact our partner agency Agentur Filmpresse Meuser, Anne Schütz, [a.schuetz@filmpresse-meuser.de](mailto:a.schuetz@filmpresse-meuser.de), Tel. 069-405 804 - 19, or Carola Schaffrath, [c.schaffrath@filmpresse-meuser.de](mailto:c.schaffrath@filmpresse-meuser.de), Tel. 069 - 405 804 - 17.

The Festival thanks its sponsors and partners.

MANNHEIM

Heidelberg

  
Baden-Württemberg  
MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT, FORSCHUNG UND KUNST

 Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung  
für Kultur und Medien

 MFG  
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG



Rainer Werner Fassbinder  
Foundation

  
MANFRED  
LAUTENSCHLÄGER  
STIFTUNG