

## 37<sup>th</sup> OULU INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL

### Children's Film Competition

Starboy prize given by the Children's jury:  
director Markus Dietrich (*Invisible Sue*)

### ECFA Award

Given by the International Jury: *I Am William*  
(Director: Jonas Elmer)

### Youth Film Competition

Global Future Award given by the Youth Film Competition jury: *The Invisibles*  
(Director: Claus Räfle)

### Finnish Competition

Church Media Foundation prize: *Super Furball*  
(Director: **Joona Tena**)

#### STARBOY PRIZE: INVISIBLE SUE

The Children's jury gave the Starboy prize sponsored by Oulun Energia Ltd to the director of the best film in the Children's Film Competition. The prize consists of 3000 euros and a Starboy statuette made by sculptor **Sanna Koivisto**.

The winner of Children's Film Competition is **Markus Dietrich** with his film *Invisible Sue*.

Jury statement: " *Invisible Sue* has everything one can wish for from a film. It deserved to win **OVERWHELMINGLY**. You could even take it for a Marvel movie. Little bit more romance would have been appreciated."

#### ECFA AWARD: I AM WILLIAM

The ECFA Award was founded by the European Children's Film Association in 2010. It is given to the best European film in the Children's Film Competition by the International Jury – **Julia Fleißig, Ulla Kaislaranta** and **Tobias Wiemann**. The winner is *I Am William* directed by **Jonas Elmer**.

Jury statement: "We travelled across Europe with films, we were out and about in the present and have made trips into the past. The films have affected us in many different ways. They inspired us to sympathise and to reflect, they thrilled us with excitement, and above all they let us experience the stories of various young protagonists.

*The ECFA Winner impresses with its convincing (main) protagonist on all levels, its emotional and sometimes animated visual language and a precise view of society. The director succeeds in bringing a perfect balance of weird humor and serious topics, comedy and drama, (but) with depth, to the screen and thus transports us with playful ease into the multifaceted world of William. William always masters difficulties full of hope, he approaches solutions in an unusual and positive way and in the course of the plot he makes a big step out of his predicament and insecurity. We feel with all the lovingly and detailed drawn characters, whether good or evil, and are convinced of this film all along the line.."*

Special Jury Mention goes to *Gordon & Paddy* directed by **Linda Hambäck**. "We were only able to award one film with the ECFA Award, but there was another work, which was very important to us. A production

*that appeals to the youngest cinemagoers and touches, in the form of a fable, upon essential aspects of life – friendship, courage, respect, teamwork, prejudices – in a child-appropriate way. This crime story features lovingly animated characters, bizarre details and makes a case for growing with one's tasks."*

#### **GLOBAL FUTURE AWARD: THE INVISIBLES**

Awarded by The Finnish 4H Organisation's Association in Oulu, the 1000 euro Global Future Award is given by a youth jury to the best youth film in the festival.

The winner is *The Invisibles* by **Claus Räfte**.

Jury statement: *" This year's International Children's and Youth Film Festival's winner in the youth category was the number one preference of most of the jury. The movie brought up emotions and was compelling. Visually the winning movie was pleasing and skillfully recorded. The pace of the movie was set by the narrators own experiences and thoughts along to plot. Knowing the movie was based on reality gave it tension. The movie emphasized the kindness of strangers despite the cultural differences."*

*"We decided to give an honorable mention to the Movie Silvana by directors Mika Gustafson, Olivia Kastebring, and Christina Tsiobanelis, for praising difference and tolerance."*

#### **CHURCH MEDIA FOUNDATION AWARD: SUPER FURBALL**

The Media Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland grants a 1500 euro prize to a Finnish feature or short film at the festival. This year the recipient was chosen by **Pauli Juusela**.

The award goes to *Super Furball* and its director **Joona Tena**.

Comments by **Pauli Juusela**: *"The purpose of the Church Media Foundation Prize is to support domestic children's and youth films and encourage filmmakers to reflect on Christian responsibility and values. In this film, the values endorsed by the foundation include the love of the neighbour, respect for human dignity, justice, solidarity and the preservation of nature and the environment.*

*Superhero movies are the blockbusters of modern cinema. Often superheroes are ordinary people who encounter something tragic and surprising in their lives. Or they are bitten by a spider – or in this case by a guinea pig.*

*Director Tena's Super Furball is an exceptional superhero, children's own fun hero: fluffy, soft, flying and wearing a gym suit. The film uses a combination of traditional storytelling and animation, not only in depicting its hero, but also the baltic herringss which rebel when a margarine factory is polluting their habitat.*

*The real superhero of the film is Emilia, who is beautifully portrayed by Elli Jäppinen. Emilia realizes that she can be brave just being herself, not only as a Super Furball. As a superhero she solves the environmental problem, as a girl she finds the courage to stand alongside her best friend.*

*Movie has been written humorously and directed briskly. The story is good and its theme is topical. The pollution of the Baltic Sea as an environmental problem is addressed in a way that children can relate to. The topic of school bullying is handled inspiredly as well, It is made clear that also bystanders who enable it are needed to stop bullying. Difficult themes can be treated by means of humour.*

*It was a pleasure to see Ella Jäppinen act naturally. The director gives also the other child actors room to perform."*

**You can find photos on our homepage: [www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef/en/media](http://www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef/en/media)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Artistic Director Anna Asplund, tel. +358 40 5213 960, [anna.asplund@oufilmcenter.fi](mailto:anna.asplund@oufilmcenter.fi)

Festival Manager Mika Anttolainen, tel. +358 44 588 1134, [mika.anttolainen@oufilmcenter.fi](mailto:mika.anttolainen@oufilmcenter.fi)

Festival press officer Juuso Haarala, tel. +358 400 617491, [press@oufilmcenter.fi](mailto:press@oufilmcenter.fi)

[www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef/en](http://www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef/en)

Hallituskatu 7 (2nd floor of Cultural Centre Valve), 90100 Oulu

### **NORTHERN SCRIPT 2018**

Northern Script is a Nordic Short Film Screenwriting Competition for young adults between 18 and 25 years in Finland, Sweden and Norway. The five finalists of the event gathered together in Oulu taking part in the screenplay workshops and Oulu International Children's and Youth Film Festival. The winner is **Juuso Kuusisto** with the script *Race For Life*. It deals with finding oneself from a young boy's point of view. Kuusisto was awarded with a festival trip to Tromsø, Norway, next summer.

The competition is organized by the Media Education Center Metka in cooperation with the Oulu International Festival of Children and Young People, the Euphoria Borealis Association, the Nordic Youth Film Festival in Tromsø, NUFF, and the Festival of Children and Young Films in Malmö with BUFF. Further information: [nosi.fi](http://nosi.fi)