

**25<sup>TH</sup> JI.HLAVA INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL**  
**AWARDS 2021**

**OPUS BONUM**  
**Best World Documentary Film 2021**

Winner:

[Lines](#) (dir. Barbora Sliepková / Slovakia, 2021)

Jury statement:

***For the exceptional way in which concepts such as beauty, intimacy and space are intertwined through a specific cinematic framework that unanimously pushed us to reflect on the visual representation of social and economic contradictions and connections within an urbanised society.***

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Special mention:

[When You Are Close to Me](#) (dir. Laura Viezzoli / Italy, 2021)

Jury statement:

***For sensitive and intimate space that the camera can perceive beyond the preconceptions to go deeper into humanity.***

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Best Central and East European Documentary Film 2021:

[You Are Ceausescu To Me](#) (dir. Sebastian Mihăilescu / Romania, 2021)

Jury statement:

***For playfully reconstructing Romanian history by making use of reenactment to analyze those staging it in a self reflective narrative.***

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Special mention for Best Central and East European Documentary Film 2021:

[When Flowers Are Not Silent](#) (dir. Andrei Kutsila / Poland, 2021)

Jury statement:

***For daring to raise and support women's voices expressing tough and sensitive topics of the people that live under oppressive regimes.***

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Best editing:

[Dark Light Voyage](#) (dir. Tin Dirdamal / Mexico, Vietnam, 2021)

Jury statement:

***For taking us through this cinematographic trip in which time and space merge to challenge the traditional documentary form.***

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Best cinematography:

[\*\*You Are Ceausescu To Me\*\*](#) (dir. Sebastian Mihăilescu / Romania, 2021)

Jury statement:

***For creating a simple lively relationship between the space and the characters which was able to frame very difficult historical and political story.***

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Best debut:

[\*\*Lines\*\*](#) (dir. Barbora Sliepková / Slovakia, 2021)

Jury statement:

***For achieving a complex and perfectly well crafted work.***

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Original approach:

[\*\*No Desire To Hide\*\*](#) (dir. Rikun Zhu / China, 2021)

Jury statement:

***This film that took us with a raw and uncompromise approach to knowing the debts of the intimacy of the young Chinese generation***

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Best sound design:

[\*\*Lines\*\*](#) (dir. Barbora Sliepková / Slovakia, 2021)

Jury statement:

***For the way in which the sound and music are combined, revealing this urban symphony.***

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Student Jury Award:

[\*\*YOON\*\*](#) (dir. Pedro Figueiredo Neto, Ricardo Falcão / Portugal, 2021)

Jury statement:

***The student jury of Opus Bonum section has decided to award YOON. The film enables audiences to experience at close range the journey from Portugal to Senegal that the protagonist Mbaye made on his own despite all the hardships and pressures. The anxious atmosphere is heightened by and the lonely journey is accompanied by recordings of phone calls from relatives and people to whom Mbaye delivers parcels. YOON means journey - not just a geographical one, but also a mental one. The film sensitively balances these two levels.***

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## **CZECH JOY**

### **Best Czech Documentary Film 2021**

Winner:

[\*\*Brotherhood\*\*](#) (dir. Francesco Montagner / Czech Republic, Italy, 2021)

Jury statement:

***The microcosm of a Bosnian pastoral family surprisingly opens up topics that impact all of us. Without being literal or making the slightest compromises in audiovisual expression.***

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Special mention:

**[Ordeal](#)** (dir. Zuzana Piussi / Slovakia, Czech Republic, 2021)

Jury statement:

***Zuzana Piussi shows us that engaged cinema makes a difference. The good Darth Vader of Czechoslovak documentary film. May the Force be with us!***

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Special mention:

**[Preparations for Film T](#)** (dir. Milan Klepikov / Czech Republic, 2021)

Jury statement:

***A special mention is given by the jury to the film with the largest number of endings. The fatality of the future mixes playfully with ease here, letting our imaginations run wild.***

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Best editing:

**[Out in Force](#)** (dir. Martin Mareček / Czech Republic, 2021)

Jury statement:

***A careful composition of contradictory meanings forms a debate that cannot be ignored. May the Force be with documentary editors.***

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Best sound design:

**[Love, dad](#)** (dir. Diana Cam Van Nguyen / Czech Republic, 2021)

Jury statement:

***An animated documentary calls for spectacular sound rendering. In a concept by Viera Marinová, fragility, sobriety, and creativity reign supreme.***

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Best cinematography:

**[Brotherhood](#)** (dir. Francesco Montagner / Czech Republic, Italy, 2021)

Jury statement:

***Images created by Prokop Souček are proof he's one of the best cinematographers of his generation. Using a visual intensity not commonly seen in documentary films, he allows us to immerse ourselves in the world of the film's characters.***

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Student Jury Award:

**[Leaving Beginnings Behind](#)** (dir. Linda Kallistová Jablonská / Czech Republic, 2021)

Jury statement:

***Out of all the films we had the opportunity to see, the documentary Leaving Beginnings Behind appealed to us the most. It's a film that managed to tell with incredible ease an***

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*otherwise highly fascinating story of hope and the future. Through the camera lens, we had the chance to witness the world of those who wish to live their dream freely, which we're often separated from by an extremely difficult journey.*

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## **TESTIMONIES** **Best Film Testimony 2021**

The best film about nature. Winner:

[\*\*How to Kill a Cloud\*\*](#) (dir. Tuija Halttunen / Finland, Denmark, 2021)

Jury statement:

***The film wisely connects all the thematic lines drawn by this year's Testimonies section: nature, politics, and knowledge. Through the story of Finnish meteorologist Hannele Korhonen, we follow efforts to influence natural events as well as the contradictory ethical dimension of political and scientific dilemmas, which often transcend the limits of our own imagination. However, the answers to foreboding questions remain written in the clouds.***

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The best film about nature. Special mention:

[\*\*From the Wild Sea\*\*](#) (dir. Robin Petré/ Denmark, 2021)

Jury statement:

***In both a receptive and skillfully figurative manner, the film recalls the core values of nature and the importance of caring for it. We follow a series of intense scenes from a rescue station for marine species and are directly confronted by the silent anguish of sea animals, oftentimes a result of human activity.***

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The best film about knowledge. Special mention:

[\*\*Dark Red Forest\*\*](#) (dir. Jin Huaqing / China, 2021)

Jury statement:

***This documentary filled with captivating visuals leads viewers to contemplation, all while raising issues following a spiritual path to knowledge. The spiritual imagery presented on film serves as an open invitation for us to visit the intimate setting of these Tibetan nuns and witness their unique experience of sacred service. The film is pervaded by a cyclical motif of transience and demise that leads to a crackdown from Chinese government officials and eventually the forced shutdown of one of the oldest nunneries in Tibet.***

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The best film about politics. Special mention:

[\*\*Gorbachev. Heaven\*\*](#) (dir. Vitaly Mansky / Czech Republic, Latvia, 2020)

Jury statement:

***The generously calm yet engaging pace of the film allows for an immediate encounter with the protagonist, whom we perceive not only as a political icon but also above all as a real-***

*life aging man whose own notion of power and the meaning of life is both inspiring and piercing.*

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**FASCINATIONS**  
**Best Experimental Documentary Film 2021**

Winner:

[\*In and Out a Window\*](#) (Richard Tuohy, Dianna Barrie / Australia, 2021)

Jury statement:

*Intense light impulses have an immediate effect, inducing an incredible physiological experience. The intoxicating vibrations of the image attack and trigger feelings of anxiety, claustrophobia, vertigo... Even a beautiful view from a window becomes unbearable. Locked in our homes we each wished for it to be over. It's good to know that the film has an end... Let this pandemic time also have an end.*

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**FASCINATIONS: EXPRMNTL.CZ**  
**Best Czech Experimental Documentary Film 2021**

Winner:

[\*Beautiful Solution\*](#) (dir. Eliška Cílková / Czech Republic, 2021)

Jury statement:

*The director poses a burning environmental question: can we achieve climate balance without aggressive practices? Through the composition of gentle terrain sound atmospheres and the poetic visual structure of the work, she offers the possibility of a harmonious return to natural processes.*

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**AUDIENCE AWARD 2021**

Winner:

[\*Heaven\*](#) (dir. Adéla Špaljová, Tomáš Etzler / Czech Republic, 2021)

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**SHORT JOY**  
**Best Short Documentary Film 2021**

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Winner:

**Open mountain** (dir. Maria Rojas Arias / Colombia, Portugal, 2021)

This section's jury was general public, which has voted online for the films in competition.

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**SILVER EYE AWARDS 2021**  
**(awarded by the Institute of Documentary Film)**

**Silver Eye Award feature length category 2021**

Winner:

**Mara** (dir. Sasha Kulak / France, 2021)

Jury statement:

***The jury has unanimously decided to award a film that elaborates Mythology to confront an urgent political context with bravery unifying the fight for freedom and the constitution of beauty.***

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Special Mention:

**Orpheus** (dir. Vadim Kostrov / Russia, 2021)

Jury statement:

***For seeing the risk of experiencing with life and filmmaking in modern Russia.***

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**Silver Eye Award for the best short documentary 2021**

Winner:

**Sounds Of Weariness** (dir. Taymour Boulos / Belgium, Lebanon, Hungary, Portugal, 2021)

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Jury statement:

***We're awarding the film that reminds us of the importance of having public spaces, which serve as a meeting hub for human interaction where you can share your own experiences and ideas with others. An intimate and personal reflection is told in a subtle way, adding to the contemporary discussion about migration and mental health issues. The winning film's aesthetic of using a floating camera helps to create an overall outstanding audiovisual piece.***

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**CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD CINEMA AWARD 2021**

Jana Ševčíková

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**THE BEST FESTIVAL POSTER AWARD**

**Festival Identity**

Winner:

***One World. International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival 2021***

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**Audience Choice**

Winner:

***40. Istanbul Film Festival 2021***