**PR: The Estonian Film Sauna Day Won the 65th International Film Festival BRNO16**

**This year's BRNO16 International Festival, taking place on October 2–6 at Kino Art and KUMST Brno, announced its winners! The film created by the directorial duo of Anna Hints and Tushara Prakash received the main award.**

The International Jury consisting of David Bonneville, Jelena Maksimović, and Afsun Moshiry awarded the main prize of the 65th BRNO16 to the film **Sauna Day**: „*The spatial intimacy, body interactions and human relationships leave an undeniable sensation under our skin. The subtle yet subversive, emotionality is brought to us in a ritual culture with a flavour of history, which opens an ambiguous nature of masculine desire that slowly unfolds.The radiant cinematography and well crafted filmic language have left their mark on our cinematic consciousness. The prize for the best film unanimously goes to* ***Sauna Say*** *by Anna Hints, Tushar Prakash*.“

This year, the jury of three members also gave Honorable Mentions, one to the film **Lemon Tree** by director Rachel Walden and another to the short film **3MWh** by Marie-Magdalena Kochová. Kochová also received an Honorable Mention from the Czechoslovakian 16 jury. Gyula Gazdag, Lenka Tyrpáková, and Kristína Žilinčárová also announced the winner of the Czechoslovakian 16 competition: „*The jury of Czechoslovak 16 2024 awards a fictional short that depicts the inner life of a young female protagonist and deals with her moment of crisis in a sensitive and subtle way, written and directed by Eliška Přádová, entitled The Lodge –⁠⁠⁠⁠⁠⁠ Chata.*“

On Saturday evening, the FAV Student Jury Award was also announced, with Jan Kryštof Kux, Mariia Ivanova, and Zbyšek Plaňanský serving on the jury this year. „*The Student Jury awards its prize to the film* ***The Mysterious Adventures of Claude Conseil.*** *We were moved by the human story of the everyday life of an elderly lady who, along with her husband, is passionate about ornithology. The film weaves together the ordinary lives of bird sound enthusiasts with a reflection on how seniors can perceive social media. The protagonist responds to them with an endearing dose of naivety, which eventually leads to an unforgettable musical collaboration. The film amused and pleasantly surprised us with the hope that not every famous singer is self-centred. This film's warmth deserves to be expanded into a feature-length version,*“ the jury commented on their selection.

The audience cast their votes to grant the prize to the short film **Be Somebody** by Polish director Michal Toczek. He captivated the festival audience last year with his film **A Dead Marriage**, thus winning the Audience Award at BRNO16 two years in a row.

The 66th International Film Festival BRNO16 will take place again next year at the beginning of October at Kino Art and at other festival venues.

BRNO16 is organised by TIC BRNO, a contributory organisation, namely Kino Art.

Further information: www.brno16.cz | <https://www.facebook.com/BRNO16festival>

**Festival patronage, funding and partnerships:**

The mayor of the statutory city of Brno, Markéta Vaňková, took over the festival patronage. The festival is held thanks to the financial support of the statutory city of Brno, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, and the South Moravian Region. A big thank you goes to all supporters and partners.

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