

PRESS RELEASE

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Filmbüro Baden-Württemberg e.V., Friedrichstr. 23 a, 70174 Stuttgart

„German Star of India“ for director Umesh Vinayak Kulkarni, „Vihir – The Well“ convinced the jury in Stuttgart.

STUTTGART – Saturday night the feature film „Vihir – The Well“ by Umesh Vinyak Kulkarni was awarded the „German Star of India“ of the seventh Indian film festival „Bollywood and beyond“ at the SI-Centrum Stuttgart. Nina Sabnani received the prize for the Best Short Film for her animated film „Tanko Bole Chhe – The Stitches Speak“. In the category documentary film, Anandana Kapur was awarded for „The Great Indian Jugaad“. Lutz Kronermann received a special commendation of the jury for his documentary „Dharavi – Slum For Sale“.

For his feature film debut „Road to Sangam“, Amit Rai honored with the „Director’s Vision Award“.

Out of the 50 festival entries a total of 30 films were running in the competition for the prestigious prizes, endowed with overall 6.000 Euros. The prizes were awarded in a glamorous gala dinner hosted by the Filmbüro Baden-Württemberg.

The festival organizer of the Indian Film Festival „Bollywood and beyond“ is among the top international addresses for the Indian film industry.

The festival winner in the category Best Feature Film, „Vihir – The Well“, takes its viewers on a poetic quest to discover various different ways and perspectives to discover a meaning in life.

The story of two cousins is a sensitive display of family boundaries and friendship, the jury acknowledges. The combination of philosophic element, the expressionist photography and the dramaturgy of the film results in a convincing portrait of society. „The director manages to tell the story in a very quiet yet touching manner“, the jury writes in their justification. The „German Star of India“, endowed with 4.000 Euros, is donated by the main sponsor and Honorary Consul to the Republic of India, Andreas Lapp.

The winning film in the documentary category is all about Jugaad – the comprehensive and stretchable concept for the never-ending inventiveness, especially of the underprivileged, in helping themselves through daily life. The jury: „A film that conveys humanity and the joy of living. Its universally applicable message is the praise of the talent for improvisation“.



A special commendation of the jury goes to the documentary 'Dharavi – Slum For Sale' by German director Lutz Kronermann. It takes a stand without being manipulative, the jury commends.

Traditional embroidery provides the picturesque medium for Nina Sabani's animated documentary 'The Stitches Speak', the winner in the short film category. According to the jury the film manages to create a unique congruence between form and content. The embroidery provides the protagonists with a means to express their experiences and a way into the future and thus becoming the base for the trickfilm technique. In doing so, the traditional craft is transferred into modern life. A special commendation went to 'The Road Home' by Rahul Gandoha. A boy's quest for his identity, raised as the son of Indian parents in London and now sent off to a boarding school in the Himalayas, changes perceptions of ethnic belonging.

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