

Press release
Portorož, 16 September 2018

Historic moment for Slovenian cinema

On Saturday 15 September, the 21st Festival of Slovenian Film closed with the awards ceremony to present the highest Slovenian national film accolades. As many as 111 films were screened over six festival days, of which 52 were in the running for Vesna awards.

[My Last Year as a Loser](#) by screenwriter and director Urša Menart wins this year's Vesna award for best feature film after the Vesna awards for best director were won by Hanna Slak last year for *The Miner* and Maja Weiss in 2002 for *Guardian of the Frontier*. This is a historic moment for Slovenian cinema: never before in the history of Vesna awards has the main prize been presented to a female author.

My Last Year as a Loser also won Vesna awards for best screenplay and best actress in a supporting role (**Živa Selan**). Vesna for best director went to **Darko Štante** for [Consequences](#), the film that also won Vesna awards for best actor in a leading role (**Matej Zemljič**) and best actor in a supporting role (**Timon Šturbej**). Vesnas for best actress in a leading role (**Judita Frankovič Brdar**), best original music (**Jura Ferina, Pavao Miholjevič, Vladimir Godár**), best production design (**Matjaž Pavlovec**), and best costume design (**Sanja Džeba**) were awarded to [Erased](#), a film directed by Miha Mazzini. Three films won two awards each: [History of Love](#) by Sonja Prosenc (Vesna awards for special original achievement and best cinematography – **Mitja Ličen**), [How Much Do You Love Yourself?](#) by Nina Blažin (Vesna awards for best editing – **Zlatjan Čučkov** and best documentary), and [Gaja's World](#) by Peter Bratuša (Vesna awards for best make-up – **Nataša Sevčnikar** and special achievements). Ian Soroka's [Greetings from Free Forests](#) won the award for best sound (**Julij Zornik**), and [The Final Day of Rudolf Nietzsche](#) by Blaž Kutin the award for best short film. Vesna for best minority co-production was awarded to [Winter Flies](#) by Olmo Omerzu, Vesna for best animated film to [Koyaa – Wild Sunbed](#) by Kolja Saksida, Vesna for best student film to [Voyage Voyage](#) by Lun Sevnik, and the second Vesna for special achievements to [Days of Madness](#) by Damian Nenadić.

My Last Year as a Loser by Urša Menart was also presented with the IRIDIUM Award (postproduction services in the amount of EUR 5,000) and a special mention by the Film Critics' Jury. The Film Critics' Jury award went to *Consequences*.

The best films of the Youth Wing section are [Metum](#) (collective project) and [What a Man Feels](#), directed by Urh Pirc. The winning film in audience votes was *Consequences* by Darko Štante with the average grade of 4,75.

The awards ceremony was attended by Slovenia's new culture minister Dejan Prešiček. Accompanied with music by Marina Martensson and Tomi Purich trio, the evening was hosted by Karin Sabadin.

This year's edition of the festival was added two new venues, the Monfort Exhibition Space and the Komuna cinema. The latter is also hosting the screenings of the winning films today and tomorrow, 16 and 17 September.

Over six festival days, the event enjoyed good attendance. With a focus on the Competition and Panorama programmes, the Festival of Slovenian film offered an overview of what Slovenian cinema has produced in the past year, and provided a critical venue to bring together filmmakers, film professionals, international guests, and other film lovers.

The awards ceremony was sponsored by Abanka and Porsche Slovenija.

Photos of the closing night and the awards ceremony will be available [here](#).

The list of winners with jury commentaries is available [here](#).