

Freundeskreis Wolfgang Längsfeld Preis 2023

The Load by Miranda Namicheishvili

Shota Rustaveli Film and Theatre Georgia State University/ Tblisi / Georgia tafu.edu.ge



Miranda Namicheishvili



Laura Lybaschenko - Miranda Namicheishvili

Alica Bednáriková – Marco Serafini

Die Jury des Wolfgang-Längsfeld-Preises:

Jury statement:

As members of this year's Wolfgang Längsfeld Jury, we had the task of selecting the most unique short film from filmacademies worldwide. With her movie "The Load," the director Miranda Namicheishvili presents a narrative on migration in a very unique manner.

The film centers around Mate, a young man from Georgia, who's undergoing preparations to reach his ambitious goal: to get to America locked up inside a wooden box. Quickly, he discovers that he is not the only one with this dream, as he encounters other passengers hidden in the cargo ship.

Miranda's use of simple camera techniques, natural lighting, and a very specific setting, crafts a chamber drama with an extraordinary atmosphere. The exceptional synergy between the acting, cinematography, and music creates a captivating and uniquely cinematic style.

This film stood out to us, not just for its visual style and innovative narrative approach, but also for its touching story. It's a tale of resilience and human connection in the face of hardship. The film approaches the subject of migration through a humanistic lens, rather than just a political one. We experience the treacherous journey through the eyes of our protagonist—a person with humor, pain, fear, and, of course, feelings. While respecting the subject's seriousness, the filmmaker also works with comedic elements, offering a multifaceted perspective.

Through its powerful cinematic metaphor of refugee situations, "The Load" compels us to ponder: perhaps as a society, it's time to start thinking outside the box.

Jury Begründung:

Als Mitglieder der diesjährigen Wolfgang-Längsfeld-Jury hatten wir die Aufgabe den originellsten Kurzfilm von Filmschulen weltweit auszuwählen. Mit ihrem Film "The Load" präsentiert die Regisseurin Miranda Namicheishvili eine Erzählung über Migration auf eine ganz besondere Art und Weise.

Im Mittelpunkt des Films steht Mate, ein junger Mann aus Georgien, der sich darauf vorbereitet sein ehrgeiziges Ziel zu erreichen: in einer Holzkiste eingeschlossen nach Amerika zu gelangen. Schnell entdeckt er, dass er nicht der Einzige mit diesem Traum ist, denn er trifft auf andere Passagiere, die sich im Frachtschiff versteckt haben.

Durch den Einsatz einfacher Kameratechniken, natürlicher Beleuchtung und eines sehr spezifischen Schauplatzes schafft Miranda ein Kammerspiel mit einer außergewöhnlichen Atmosphäre. Die außergewöhnliche Synergie zwischen Schauspiel, Kameraführung und Musik schafft einen fesselnden und einzigartigen Filmstil.

Dieser Film hat uns nicht nur wegen seines visuellen Stils und seiner innovativen Erzählweise überzeugt, sondern auch wegen seiner berührenden Geschichte. Es ist eine Geschichte über Widerstandsfähigkeit und menschliche Verbundenheit im Angesicht der Not. Der Film nähert sich dem Thema Migration durch eine humanistische und nicht nur durch eine politische Brille. Wir erleben die tückische Reise durch die Augen unseres Protagonisten - einer Person mit Humor, Schmerz, Angst und natürlich Gefühlen. Die Filmemacherin respektiert die Ernsthaftigkeit des Themas, arbeitet aber auch mit komödiantischen Elementen und bietet so eine vielschichtige Perspektive.

Durch seine kraftvolle filmische Metapher der Flüchtlingssituation zwingt uns "The Load" zum Nachdenken: Vielleicht ist es an der Zeit, dass wir als Gesellschaft anfangen, über den Tellerrand zu schauen.

Jury 2023:

Alica Bednáriková (Winner 2022, Academy of Performing Arts, Bratislava, Slovakia)

Marco Serafini (director, producer, Student HFF, 1975 – 1979, Abt. III)

Laura Lybaschenko (Student HFF, 2020 -2023, Abt. VI)

Marco Serafini hatte einen Tag vor der Ceremony nochmal über Wolfgang Längsfeld recherchiert und ist dabei auf folgenden Nachruf des Professors Giorgio Dolidze der ‚Shota Rustaveli Theatre and Film Georgia State University (TAFU, Georgien)‘ gestossen:

The Georgian Film School, which I led as the director for 25 years, was the first Georgian institution to receive the official membership status of an international association back in 1988, even before the restoration of our country's independence. This achievement is largely thanks to Prof. Wolfgang Längsfeld. He was the one who initially supported the Georgian Film School. He provided us with the first video camera, the first tripod, and the first editing table, which were not only very expensive but also of a technical standard that could not be found in Georgia or the entire Caucasus at that time. I could list more details of how he supported us to make film studio work possible in the first place.

Wolfgang Längsfeld was also the first recipient of an honorary doctorate from our school.

*Thank you for everything, dear brother, friend, and colleague!
Entire generations of students from the 1980s and 1990s, and all those who have at least once participated in the International Festival of Film Schools that you founded, bow down to you with admiration and gratitude.*

Rest in peace. Amen.

Prof. Giorgi Dolidze Tbilisi, Georgia February 17, 2012

Marco Serafini and Professor Wolfgang Längsfeld:

Good evening. My name is Marco Serafini

I have been asked to share a few words about my former professor, Wolfgang Längsfeld. I first met him in 1975, and despite his age of only 38, he appeared quite old to me because I was an extremely young student at the time. He stood in front of our class at HFF and warmly welcomed us, explaining that we would be spending four or more years studying here, with the possibility of earning a diploma. However, he was also very clear that there were no guarantees for our future once we graduated from HFF.

After that initial introduction, I never saw him in front of the class or in a teaching role again. I can't recall him conducting classes; instead, he preferred to observe our rushes, films, and lectures from the back of the room, being reserved and quiet. His method of teaching as unusual but very helpful.

He truly enjoyed socializing with us students, and his greatest strength was connecting people. He brought renowned filmmakers to HFF, including Douglas Sirk, Michael Ballhaus, Laszlo Benedek, and Peter Przygodda. These professionals, with their real-world experience, opened doors to our future. He excelled at forging connections, and in 1981, he established the International Film School Festival.

Even today, this festival continues to be significant for international networking. This year, I had the opportunity to get to know two exceptionally talented students: Laura Lybaschenko from HFF and Alica Bednáriková, who won the Wolfgang Längsfeld Prize in 2022. We have chosen this year's winner. Thank you very much, Wolfgang. Now, I am nearly 30 years older than when I first met you... time flies.

Marco Serafini, Munich, 18th November 2023