“Toni Erdmann” - winner of the 10th LUX Film Prize

The German-Austrian-Romanian co-production “Toni Erdmann” has won the 2016 European Parliament LUX Prize, President Martin Schulz announced at a ceremony in the Chamber in Strasbourg on Wednesday. The film explores a complex relationship between a father and daughter in contemporary corporate culture.

Mr Schulz congratulated the three finalists, including the winning film director Maren Ade and her crew, and said: “I convey my heartfelt congratulations to the team of the winning film "Toni Erdmann." This film, which is a combination of dark comedy and hilarious drama, describes the difficult, tender and sometimes absurd relationship between a young woman living as an expatriate and her father. It poignantly describes how family relationships change and affect us in an ageing and competitive society. This film offers no easy answers but, between waves of hilarity, it encourages us to search for what needs to be protected and cherished.”

Parliament's Vice-President Antonio Tajani (EPP, IT), who is in charge of the organisation of the LUX film Prize, said: “The Lux Prize works by countering, symbolically and concretely, the principal weakness of our cinema, which is distribution. Whereas North America has a single cinema market, Europe’s is fragmented by physical and linguistic barriers. European cinema mirrors what Europe and its institutions should be: a successful synthesis of our strong points, as an industry founded upon innovation, creativity and values.”

Culture and Education Committee chair Silvia Costa (S&D, IT) said "One hundred films in ten years have been promoted in cinemas throughout Europe, thanks to the LUX Prize which gave a voice and eyes to the history of Europe. With the LUX Prize, many independent directors and their young authors have reached public in other countries thanks to the subtitling in the 24 official EU languages. The Prize has enhanced the diversities and richness of European cinema, its themes, sensibilities and languages. Betting on and investing in the European cinematographic narrative is a key step in building the 'Europe of culture' in which we believe. Our commitment for the future is to foster the Prize, bringing the finalist films even outside Europe, starting from the Mediterranean countries."

The other two films shortlisted for the 2016 prize were “À peine j´ouvre les yeux/As I open my eyes” (France, Tunisia, Belgium, United Arab Emirates) by Leyla Bouzid and “Ma vie de courgette/My life as a courgette” (Switzerland, France) by Claude Barras. The winner is decided every year by a ballot of MEPs.
Parliament pays the costs of translating and subtitling each of the three films on the final shortlist in the EU's 24 official languages. In addition, the winning film will be adapted for the visually and hearing impaired and will receive support for international promotion.

The three films on the shortlist for the LUX Prize are screened in the 28 European Union countries during the LUX Film Days event, from September to December. The aim is to enhance the circulation of European films across EU, to share the diversity of European cinema with as many Europeans as possible and to spark discussion about major societal issues raised in the films selected.

Procedure: Award ceremony - LUX Prize

Further information
Webpage of Lux Prize
Award of the 2016 LUX Prize - extracts from the ceremony
Award of the 2016 LUX Prize- interview of the laureate
2016 LUX Prize: interviews of the directors of the official selection

À Peine J'ouvre les Yeux (As I Open My Eyes) by Leyla Bouzid
Ma Vie de Courgette (My Life as a Courgette) by Claude Barras
Toni Erdmann by Maren Ade

Political groups
News pages of the EPP group
News pages of the S&D group
News pages of the ECR group
News pages of the ALDE group
News pages of the GUE/NGL group
News pages of the Greens/EFA group
News pages of the EFDD group
News pages of the ENF group
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“Toni Erdmann” by Maren ADE is the winner of the 10th edition of the LUX Film Prize