

The LUX Prize brings European values to Bulgaria

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In such an important year for European values as 2019, the LUX Prize keeps working to raise awareness all across the continent. In the wake of the 2019 European Elections, which will take place from 23 to 26 May, the European Parliament's award is going to Bulgaria to play an important role in both the events of the European Capital of Culture Plovdiv 2019 and the 23rd Sofia International Film Festival (7-28 March).

The European Capital of Culture Plovdiv 2019 programme will organise the project The Cinema Factory - Time Travel. Presenting contemporary inspirational films from Europe, both fiction films and documentaries, and showcasing the widest possible range of stories that can make Europeans aware of the world they live in. One of the programme's focus is to present a selection of LUX Prize-approved films from the latest years, hosting an introduction before every screening with invited filmmakers, to discuss the upcoming European elections in May and the importance of being part of the political life of Europe.

The LUX Prize films selected for the programme are **Benedikt Erlingsson's** *Woman at War*, **Almudena Carracedo** and **Robert Bahar's** *The Silence of Others*, **Peter Brosens** and **Jessica Woodworth's** *King of the Belgians*, **Sean McAllister's** *A Syrian Love Story*, **Pavel Koutecký** and **Miroslav Janek's** *Citizen Havel*, **Stephan Komandarev's** *The World Is Big and Salvation Lurks around the Corner*, and **Petar Valchanov** and **Kristina Grozeva's** *The Lesson and Glory*. Directors such as Sean McAllister, Jessica Woodworth, Stephan Komandarev, Petar Valchanov, Kristina Grozeva and Almudena Carracedo already confirmed to participate in the events.

On the other hand, the Sofia International Film Festival, regular partners of the LUX Prize, will screen a wide selection of films during its 23rd edition (from 7 to 28 March). **Benedikt Erlingsson's** *Woman at War* (2018 LUX Prize winner), **Maren Ade's** *Toni Erdmann* (2016

winner), **Pawel Pawlikowski's** *Ida* (2014 winner), Petar Valchanov and Kristina Grozeva's *The Lesson and Glory*, Almudena Carracedo and Robert Bahar's *The Silence of Others*, **Malgorzata Szumowska's** *Mug*, **Alice Rohrwacher's** *Happy as Lazzaro*, **Sergei Loznitsa's** *Donbass*, **Lukas Dhont's** *Girl* and **Ali Abbasi's** *Border* will grace the Bulgarian capital.

The festival will also host a LUX gala presentation for students, oriented to the city's young audiences, with a free screening and a discussion that will be moderated by 2 of the 28 Times Cinema members – LUX ambassadors.

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