FESTIVAL OF SLOVENIAN FILM 2023 Awards

Experimental documentary *Don’t Think It Will Ever Pass* wins Best Feature at the 26th Festival of Slovenian Film

by Marko Stojiljković

10/10/2023 - Marko Šantić’s *Wake Me* has picked up the most individual Vesna Awards, including one for Best Fiction Feature



Producer Špela Trošt and director Tomaž Grom, the team behind *Don’t Think It Will Ever Pass*, with their awards

The 26th edition of the Festival of Slovenian Film ended with something of a surprise at the awards ceremony that took place at the Portorose Auditorium on the evening of Sunday 8 October. The reason is that the overall Vesna Award for Best Feature-length Film (of any type) went to a modestly budgeted experimental documentary essay, **Tomaž Grom**’s *Don’t Think It Will Ever Pass*, over some other, more prominent films that might have been seen as the favourites for the prizes. On top of the main award, Grom was awarded one more Vesna, for Best Original Music, for the same film.

In terms of the number of awards, the clear winner was **Marko Šantić**’s fiction feature *Wake Me* [+]. In addition to dominating its category, it was crowned for Best Script (Šantić and his co-writers **Sara Hribar** and **Goran Vojnović**), Best Actors in a Lead Role (**Jure Henigman**) and Supporting Role (**Jurij Drevenšek**), and Best Make-up (**Lija Ivanič**).

Other films that won multiple gongs were **Janez Burger**’s *Observing* [+], which pocketed three Vesnas, for Best Lead Actress (**Diana Kolenc**), Best Production Design (**Špela Jelovčan** and **Vasja Kokelj**) and Best Sound (**Julij Zornik** and **Igor Popovski**), plus **Nejc Gazvoda**’s *Role Model* [+], **Maja Prettner**’s documentary *Woman of God* and **Juraj Lerotić**’s *Safe Place* [+], with two Vesna Awards each. The laureate of the Vesna for Best Directing, **Ivan Gergolet**’s *The Man Without Guilt* [+], was also the most successful when it came to the other, non-Vesna awards, scooping the Iridium Award for Best Feature Debut and the Art Kino Network of Slovenia Award.

Here is the full list of award winners:

Vesna Awards

Best Film
Don’t Think It Will Ever Pass – Tomaž Grom (Slovenia)

Best Fiction Feature Film
Wake Me [+] – Marko Šantić (Slovenia/Croatia/Serbia)

Best Director
Ivan Gergolet – *The Man Without Guilt* [+] (Slovenia/Italy/Croatia)

Best Script
Marko Šantić, Goran Vojnović, Sara Hribar – *Wake Me*

Best Female Lead Role
Diana Kolenc – *Observing* [+] (Slovenia/Croatia/Italy/North Macedonia)

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Best Male Lead Role
Jure Henigman – *Wake Me*

Best Female Supporting Role
Vesna Pernarčič – *Role Model* [+] (Slovenia/Czech Republic/Italy/Serbia)

Best Male Supporting Role
Jurij Drevenšek – *Wake Me*

Best Cinematography
Marko Brdar – *Safe Place* [+] (Croatia/Slovenia)

Best Original Music
Tomaž Grom – *Don’t Think It Will Ever Pass*

Best Editing
Sara Gjergek – *Woman of God* (Slovenia)

Best Production Design
Špela Jelovčan, Vasja Kokelj – *Observing*

Best Costume Design
Katarina Šavs – *Role Model*

Best Make-up
Lija Ivanič – *Wake Me*

Best Sound
Julij Zornik, Igor Popovski – *Observing*

Best Minority Co-production
Safe Place – Juraj Lerotić

Best Documentary
Body [+] – Petra Seliškar (Slovenia/North Macedonia/Croatia/France)

Best Short Film
How I Learned to Hang Laundry – Barbara Zemljič (Slovenia)

Best Animated Film
Little Women – Nika Jurman (Slovenia)

Best Student Film
Alenka – Kristijan Bernard Irgl (Slovenia)

Vesna Awards for Special Achievement
Soil – Alex Cvetkov (Slovenia/North Macedonia)
Pero [+] – Damjan Kozole (Slovenia)

Vesna Audience Award
Woman of God – Maja Prettner

Other awards

Art Kino Network of Slovenia (AKMS) Award
The Man Without Guilt – Ivan Gergolet

FIPRESCI Award
Woman of God – Maja Prettner

Iridium Award for Best Feature Debut
The Man Without Guilt – Ivan Gergolet

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