

inter*film*

international interchurch
film organisation

Regulations of the INTERFILM Award for Promoting Interreligious Dialogue

Preamble

From 2011 onwards, in agreement with the Presidium of La Biennale di Venezia and the Director of the Mostra del Cinema, an INTERFILM Jury will award a prize at the Mostra d'Arte Cinematografica in Venice. The name of the prize will be "INTERFILM Award for Promoting Interreligious Dialogue".

In presenting this award INTERFILM underlines its vision of linking cinema and church, cultures and religions. This vision is based on the power of cinema to communicate ideas, stories, and human experience across political, cultural, and religious borders, and on the Christian faith in God's love and mercy for all humankind by respecting other faiths. In this, INTERFILM shares the same openness as the member churches of the World Council of Churches (WCC) for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue.

The award will support films which empower understanding, respect, sympathy and peace between people of different origins, histories and beliefs in place of conflict, violence, and suppression. Witnessing rising tensions and deep-rooted prejudice between religious groups in several regions of our world, INTERFILM intends the award to be a sign for the better: for sharing our hopes and our anxieties, for acknowledging the other as our neighbour, and for trusting in the power of artistic imagination to overcome suspicion and hostility.

Criteria

The award winner is a film which best suits the aims stated in the preamble to these regulations. In particular, it is a film which

- 1.1 is of high artistic quality
- 1.2 conveys a deep understanding of religious traditions and practices
- 1.3 invites people to deal with the meaning, history and origin of different religions
- 1.4 allows audiences to share spiritual experiences
- 1.5 advocates for the rights of religious minorities
- 1.6 fosters reconciliation between religious communities in conflicts, past or present
- 1.7 sensitively portrays the problems and the prospects of religious communities in secular societies
- 1.8 relates religious beliefs to such fundamental human rights as freedom, equality, and justice, either critically or approvingly, bearing witness to the shortcomings but also to the merits of religious communities in regard to these rights.

The award winner does not need to cover all of these criteria, except the general ones and the first (1.1). The order of the criteria does not imply a ranking.