



# 30th Warsaw Film Festival

## October 10-19, 2014

### AWARD OF THE ECUMENICAL JURY

At the 30th Warsaw Film Festival the Ecumenical Jury, appointed by INTERFILM and SIGNIS, awards its Prize to

### **In the Crosswind (Risttuules)** directed by Martti Helde, Estonia, 2014

*Motivation:* The film is a cinematic requiem. Erna is an Estonian woman writing to her arrested husband and telling the story about her deportation to Siberia. With a firm grip of the technical possibilities: specially the walk among the living sculptures, the director lifts the story to a higher dimension - to a contemplation of suffering, human eternal dignity and hope through an artful combination of pictures, words and music. A requiem for all the innocent people from Eastern Europe, who have suffered or died from oppression of the Soviet tyranny. We are not allowed to forget...

*Synopsis:* After Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were incorporated into the Soviet Union, mass deportations of the native population took place. On 14 June 1941 at 3 a.m., the Soviet authorities began the deportation. Tens of thousands of people from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were sent to Siberia, first in lorries, then in cattle wagons. Among them was Erna, a philosophy student and happily married mother of a little girl. Separated from her husband, with her daughter and other women and children she travelled a long and tragic road to remote Siberian territories. There, humiliation, excruciating work, cold and hunger awaited them. She spent 15 years in Siberia. This riveting black-and-white, visually unusual film is based on letters, photographs, memoirs and interviews with witnesses of those events, the main inspiration coming from the diary of Erna, a young Estonian woman. (Festival information)

Jury members:

Rev. Jes Nysten (Jury President, Denmark)

Samuel Petit (France)

Rafał Wiczyński (Poland)