

# 56<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival for Children and Youth Zlín

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## Ecumenical Jury of INTERFILM and SIGNIS



We as an ecumenical jury saw very colorful selection of films from all parts of the world, which gave us a complex view on children problems and joys worldwide. We admired the artistic and aesthetical qualities of selected films. And we were also very glad that all of those films for children and youth show great respect for childhood and young audiences.

We decided to give our Prize to a film in the section of International Competition of Feature Films for Children, "Abulele" by director Jonathan Geva, Israel 2015, for the following reasons: "Abulele" is a film that deals with strong and relevant themes such as grief and prejudice in a manner, which is refreshingly open to a young audience. With a good balance of humour and drama "Abulele" impresses with its nuanced depiction of characters. The audience is continually confronted with the prejudices we may form of certain characters and learn that people (and creatures) are always more than they seem at first glance.

We also decided to award a film in the section of International Competition Feature Film for Youth with our commendation, "Learn By Heart" (La vie en grand) by Mathieu Vadepied, France 2015 with the statement: "Learn By Heart" is a beautifully made social drama with a compelling and charming lead character. We follow the troubled but hopeful journey of a young boy trapped in bad circumstances desperately trying to do good for all those around him. The film underlines the importance of altruism for the improvement of life.

*Delphine François, Vít Poláček, Astrid Skov-Jakobsen*



**Delphine François, Paris (France)**

Delphine François (\*1987) is a writer, living and working in Paris. She has a bachelor's degree in French literature and theology from the University of Strasbourg and a master degree in French literature from the Paris Sorbonne University. She's later studied cinema at Paris Sorbonne University, directed her 89show on cinema (Le Cercle/Canal+).



**Vít Poláček, Prague (Czech Republic)**

Vít Poláček (\*1985) is screenwriter, director and historian working as freelancer on several projects. His script A Girl Reading Letter At An Open Window was awarded with an award for unrealized scripts in 2011 in the competition of Film foundation of RWE, Czech Republic. He is co-author of Tomasz Mielnik's film The Journey To Rome (2015). He did historical researches for several films including Fair Play presented in 2014 in Karlovy Vary. He worked as assistant of director in the social theatre group KunstZ in Antwerpen, Belgium. He studied screenwriting and script editing on FAMU and culture history on Arts faculty of Southbohemian University in České Budějovice. Member of the Ecumenical Jury at KVIFF 2015.



**Astrid Skov-Jakobsen, Hellerup (Denmark)**

Astrid Skov-Jakobsen (\*1989) is a graduate from the University of Copenhagen wherefrom she has a BA in Film and Media Studies and a Master's degree in Media Studies. Throughout her studies, Astrid has been a contributing film reviewer for several online Danish publications. Since graduating last year she has worked in communications and brochure development at a destination management firm in a recently completed project employment. Her true passion continues to be writing about the wonders of storytelling in film.

The World Association for Catholic Communication SIGNIS (the former OCIC) and the International Interchurch Film Organisation INTERFILM are present together at numerous film festivals in Ecumenical Juries. The first time an Ecumenical Jury was present at Locarno in 1973, then in Cannes in 1974, Montreal (1979), Leipzig (1990), Berlin (1992), Karlovy Vary (1994), Mannheim-Heidelberg (1995), Cottbus (1999), Kyiv (1999), Yerevan (2007), Warsaw (2010), Miskolc (2011), Saarbrücken (2015) and others.

At Zlin Film Festival an Ecumenical Jury is present since 2000. The Ecumenical Jury has a particular perspective on the films. It awards its prizes (as well as commendations) to directors who have shown genuine talent and succeeded in portraying human experience that is in harmony with the gospel or in sensitizing viewers to spiritual, human or social questions and values. It honors works of artistic quality which witnesses to the power of film to reveal the mysterious depths of human beings through what concerns them, their hurts and failings as well as their hopes. To be present at the IFF for Children and Youth Zlin prove a special interest of the Ecumenical Jury for stories on the life of children, her own dignity and rights.