



Jury Rapport – Amsterdam 6 september 2020

The jury of the first Humans of Film Festival Amsterdam is proud to announce its two winners.

Due to the pandemic we had to watch the films in close spaces of our homes, but we were presented a selection of films that created a great openness to the world around us. Although we had never met before, the intelligent and insightful programming of Humans of Film enabled us to connect firm and deep for our jury deliberations.

We saw films from all corners of the world, not only dealing with this year's festival theme of The Human Perseverance, but with related themes of memory, testimony, resilience, and creativity as well.

For the Short Film Award we discussed several films, and we would like to mention two that were equally significant and affecting for all of us. Therefore a Special Mention goes to Wild Grass (Doğuş Minsin, 2019, Turkey) and Don't Burst My Bubble (Victoria Malinjod, 2019, United Kingdom). Our award however goes unanimously to a film that brings together the worlds of a raw reality and the power of hope and imagination, the song of a young Senegalese woman living in the Roman suburbs searching for the one identity that is her own in a world of tradition, religion, immigration and the unknown futures that await her. The winner is I am Fatou (Amir Ramadan, 2019, Italy, Egypt).

The prize for the Best Feature was clear from the beginning. We watched a nuanced and balanced journey of a film maker through his childhood memories and the footage he shot as a child and young man of a world that defined his coming of age. As an adult, and confronted with existential questions regarding life and death, he talked with the children that grew up with him in an ashram in India, and his parents and siblings. What does it mean for a child to be denied an identity at an age when it is discovering itself and its 'self'? What is the long-term effect of being rejected as an individual and disallowed any intimate relationships with family and friends? These essential and oftentimes painful questions are asked and sometimes answered with great

delicacy and respect in *The Ashram Children: I am No Body, I Have No Body* (Jonathan Ofek, 2019, Israël).

- De jury: Dana Linssen, Amaris Gonzalez en Cyrus Esfandrai.