



## AWARDS 2018

### GOLDEN COMMA (Documentary)

#### **Mother at Arms** (Nu Nu Hlaing, Myanmar)

A powerful portrayal of the hardships suffered by a woman in an armed struggle where even the disability her child is born with is caused by the adverse conditions she lives in. And yet, she continues to be committed to the movement at the same time as she loves and cares for her daughter. The emotional appeal of the film lies in conveying how both mother and daughter draw strength from each other. This is a brilliant first film by a director who, without being intrusive, engages with her subject through vivid visual frames that remain etched in a viewer's mind for a long time.

### SILVER COMMA (Documentary)

#### **The Return** (Nesli Ozalp Tuncer, Turkey)

A film about several generations of women of a family whose lives have been uprooted from their home in Greece forcing them to emigrate to Turkey. The filmmaker successfully depicts their longing for their roots, to reclaim their past, to relate it to their present and to draw strength from it for the future. The film views conflicts between countries from women's perspective which is truly significant. It makes a brilliant use of animation and virtual reality to imaginatively narrate parts of their experience. The most striking aspect of the film, however, is that it narrates the experience of generations of women very effectively within a span of nineteen minutes which is an extraordinary achievement.

### SPECIAL MENTION OF THE JURY (Documentary)

#### **1. After Word** (Mallika Visvanathan, India)

An excellent imaginative attempt at recapturing and reclaiming the small, hidden histories related to a place. The book sellers on the street with old books dating back almost a hundred years and an almost extinct species of typists sitting with their almost obsolete ancient typewriters by the roadside in Daryaganj, Delhi, create a sense of history and one's sense of belonging to a place. They also create a sense of continuity. As old books pass onto new hands, one person's life becomes part of another person's life. The film is extremely evocative and finely nuanced in creating connections between time, place and people.

#### **2. Dreams on Wheels** (Vedika Kruti, India)

A film about a strong and hard-working woman auto-rickshaw driver who fights against patriarchy in her personal and professional life in a town in Haryana, India. The film excels in paying close attention to the details of her daily life: her household chores, bringing up of children, relationship with good-for-nothing husband, professional struggles with male counterparts and bonding with women colleagues and commuters, all of which reveal her gritty character. She is also capable of taking a critical view of her situation which, combined with courage and determination, opens up possibilities of a better future. The film thus succeeds in dealing with the question of women's empowerment in a complex way through the wealth of details.



## AWARDS 2018

GOLDEN COMMA (Fiction)

**The Gentle Sadness of Things** (Deniz Telek, Turkey)

In a subtle manner the film depicts universal human emotions through an extremely well-crafted film language.

SILVER COMMA (Fiction)

**Gray Umbrella** (Mohammad Poustindouz, Iran)

The metaphorical representation of the inner turmoil of a person is captured with a unique experimental approach.

SPECIAL MENTION OF THE JURY (Fiction)

**1. Eye Test** (Sudha Padmaja Francis, India)

The interesting structure of storytelling wherein the eye test acts as a pivot to a thread of events across time and unresolved memories.

**2. The Midwife** (Ezgi Ay, Turkey)

The mature philosophical approach in depicting a range of emotions and complexity of human interactions developed through socio-cultural belief systems.

**3. As I Lay Dying** (Le Quynh Anh, Vietnam)

The surrealist landscapes of the film and experimental structure depicting split identities and multiple fantasies leaves it open for interpretation.

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

**Nirnay** (Vijay Kumar, India)

**Prof. Satish Bahadur Lifetime Achievement Award**

**For Outstanding Contribution to Film Education in South Asia.**

**Dr. Shahidul Alam**

(Bangladesh)