



Shamira Raphaëla wins the Karen de Bok Talent Prize 2018

Amsterdam, Thursday, November 15 2018

Director Shamira Raphaëla has won the Karen de Bok Talent Prize 2018 for her film proposal *Downfall of a Superwoman*. This is the second time the prize has been awarded to an outstanding participant in the IDFAcademy & NPO-fonds workshop. Six talented filmmakers participated in the workshop and their film proposals were judged by a five-member jury.

The prize was awarded by the chairman of the jury, Emile Fallaux. "The jury was pleasantly surprised by the diversity and quality of the film proposals, which were diverse both in terms of cultural orientation and design," said Fallaux. "The proposals varied greatly in theme and form. All of them are worth pursuing. The jury is of the opinion that, although there can only be one winner, all of the films should be made."

"In the winning film proposal, the director combines a great personal sense of urgency with a search for a daring form that will capture the development of both the main character and herself. The filmmaker manages to place an intensely personal story in a universal and perhaps controversial context. There is no question that the film will inspire reflection and discussion. The jury is incredibly curious to see how the project will develop."

The Karen de Bok Talent Prize of €25,000 is awarded to the winner of the IDFAcademy & the NPO-fonds workshop. The workshop, which was led by Marjoleine Boonstra and Tom Fassaert this year, invites six filmmakers to develop their documentary ideas into film proposals. Throughout the process, they are urged to explore new methods of storytelling and test the limits of the genre. Over a four-month period, participants work with a producer to create a trailer. The NPO-fonds provides funding for the filmmaker to continue developing the documentary proposal in collaboration with a public broadcasting company. Later on, additional funds can be requested for production.

Last year's prize was awarded to Marina Meijer for her film proposal, *C'est les autres*. The film is currently in production after being receiving funding from the NPO-fonds. In addition, Meijer's newest film *O amor é único* was selected for the 2018 IDFA Competition for Dutch Documentary.

The prize is named after Karen de Bok, long-time program developer and editor-in-chief of television at the VPRO. She passed away in January 2017. "As editor-in-chief, Karen de Bok had a special eye for talented, innovative film makers," said Hanneke Bouwsema, general secretary of the NPO-fonds. "Filmmakers felt seen, challenged and stimulated by her. We are delighted by the fact that, through this prize, her name remains associated with the fostering of talent."

– End press release –

Editors' Notes

Press

For more information, please visit www.idfa.nl/en/info/press or contact our press office:

International Press Officer

Eveliina Petäjäaho / eveliina@idfa.nl / +31 20 262 0766

Dutch Press Officer

Jaïr Tchong / jairtchong@idfa.nl / +31 20 262 0766

About IDFA

IDFA (International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam) offers an independent, inspiring meeting place where audiences and professionals can see a diverse, high-quality program. The diverse nature of the event applies to the form and content of the films as well as to the cultural backgrounds of the filmmakers. IDFA offers an alternative to mass entertainment and uniformity, confirming that there is an increasing need among audiences for high-quality films that delve deep and urge us to reflect. Since 2007, the festival's New Media program IDFA DocLab has been showcasing the best interactive non-fiction storytelling and exploring how the digital revolution is reshaping documentary art.

In addition to the festival, IDFA has developed several professional activities, contributing to the development of filmmakers and their films at all stages. At the co-financing and co-production market IDFA Forum, filmmakers and producers pitch their plans to financiers; at Docs for Sale new documentaries are on offer to programmers and distributors; the IDFA Bertha Fund supports filmmakers and documentary projects in developing countries and the IDFAcademy offers an international training program for up-and-coming documentary talent.

IDFA 2018 takes place November 14-25 in various locations in Amsterdam.

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