

# INTERNATIONALES FRAUEN FILM FEST DORTMUND+KÖLN

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## FREDA by Gessica Généus wins the International Debut Feature Film Competition at the 39th IFFF Dortmund+Köln 2022

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The film about the life of student Freda in crisis-riven Haiti  
receives the festival's main prize worth € 10,000

choices Audience Award goes to NICO by Eline Gehring

ECFA Short Film Award goes to KIKI LA PLUME by Julie  
Rembauville and Nicolas Bianco-Levrin

Luka Lara Steffen wins this year's Shoot – KHM & IFFF  
Dortmund+Köln Award for Female Artists of the Academy of  
Media Arts Cologne

The 39th edition of IFFF Dortmund+Köln came to an end on the evening of  
the 3rd April with a festive awards ceremony at the Filmforum NRW. Around  
100 films from 35 countries were screened at various cinemas in Cologne,  
and 60 film-makers attended the event and were finally able to present their  
films to live audiences again. Many well-attended performances gave the  
cathedral city a vibrant festival event. A cross section of films from the  
programme can be viewed online via the festival's video-on-demand platform  
until 10 April. A selection of films was also shown in Dortmund, which will  
host the 40th anniversary of IFFF Dortmund+Köln in 2023.

In an initial sum-up, IFFF director **Dr Maxa Zoller** reported an exceptionally  
positive festival:

*»This festival was a real tour de force. When prestigious guests meet a  
culture-hungry audience, the energy in the room rises and some wonderful  
encounters occur. After two years of the pandemic, this will be an  
unforgettable festival for us«.*

**Martin Röilly**, manager of Cologne's Odeon cinema also confirmed that IFFF  
Dortmund+Köln had kick-started the post-COVID era. He was delighted with  
the festival week in his cinema: *»The festival Saturday was the busiest  
Saturday we've had in two years. Odeon was a place where people could  
meet and talk about films again.«*

## Debut Feature Film Award for FREDA

The Debut Feature Film Award worth € 10,000 honours a high-energy drama that interweaves documentary footage of the violent protests against President Jovenel Moïse in 2018 with the story of the university student Freda. Under Moïse's presidency, huge sums of public money related to the Petrocaribe oil deal with Venezuela were embezzled. Director and actress Gessica Génés takes an unsentimental look at how women, in particular, suffer from the consequences of economic decline, social and political injustice and colourism in Haiti's patriarchal society.

The jury's statement:

*»FREDA is a masterful debut which from the very first scene – so stunningly enacted – draws audiences into a world of uncertainty, where no one knows whether they will live to see the next day. While many people leave the country, one young woman decides to face up to her responsibilities and together with the women in her family grows from her experiences. With great tenderness and attention to detail, this film shows just how profoundly the systematic disintegration of a society shaped by colonialism affects human relationships.«*

This year's international jury was made up of novelist, playwright and film-maker **Tsitsi Dangarembga**, cinematographer **Christine A. Maier** (German Camera Award 2021) and film-maker **Ula Stöckl**.

IFFF Dortmund+Köln not only honours the work of new film-making talent with its Debut Feature Film Award in Cologne, it also aims to give women film-makers the opportunity to produce other projects after their first feature film.

## Choices Audience Award for NICO

The **choices Audience Award** went to the German feature film **NICO** by **Eline Gehring**. It tells the story of nurse Nico (Sarah Fazilat) who comes back to life after a racist attack. The prize is endowed with 1,000 euros and is donated by the Cologne magazine choices. Actress **Javeh Asefdjah** accepted the award in the evening.

Like many others from the festival program, this film is also available online in Germany on the festival's VoD platform (geoblocked) up to and including April 10, 2022. All festival films with a length of more than 60 minutes and not older than two years took part in the audience voting.

## ECFA Short Film Award

IFFF Dortmund+Köln has awarded this prize to the best children's short film since 2020. The non-monetary ECFA Short Film Award is given to a European short film for children by three jurors made up of members of the European Children's Film Association. Films up to 30 minutes long from the festival's Programme for Kids and Young Adults were nominated for the award. Director **Juliette Klinke**, curator **Gudrun Sommer** and **Gert Hermans** from the JE.F Festival Antwerp, who made up the jury, selected the French animated film **KIKI LA PLUME** by **Julie Rembauville** and **Nicolas Bianco-Levrin**.

The jury's statement:

*»With its clear and simple story, the award-winning film also appeals to the youngest festivalgoers and at the same time encourages discussion and interpretation. A coherent universe is created through the successful combination of live action and animated images. Both techniques are magnificently interwoven on the screen. The jury honours a film that does not suggest conformity, but instead gives us the courage to fly.«*

## 2022 Shoot – KHM & IFFF Dortmund+Köln Award for Female Artists of the Academy of Media Arts Cologne

This award aims to discover emerging artists and introduce them to a wider audience. It was presented for the third time in Cologne. Worth € 1,000, it is funded by the Office for Gender Equality of the Academy of Media Arts Cologne.

Members of the jury were cinematographer Conny Beißler, co-director of the European Media Art Festival Osnabrück Katrin Mundt, and the Artistic Director of IFFF Dortmund+Köln Dr Maxa Zoller. She presented the award to the artist Luka Lara Steffen, explaining the choice as follows:

*»She has an eye for the essential. Luka Lara Steffen takes a clear stance in her work – politically and artistically. She tackles her subjects systematically and is not afraid to confront very different perspectives with each other.«*

The winners of the **National Competition for Women Directors of Photography** were announced before the start of the festival. **Constanze Schmitt** received the Director of Photography Award for a documentary film, **Roxanna Reiss** for the feature film category. **Antonia Kilian** received an Honourable Mention.

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We are happy to provide pictures of the award ceremony.

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**Festival promoters**

Ministry of Art and Science of the State of NRW, City of Cologne, City of Dortmund / Kulturbüro; Film- und Medienstiftung NRW; Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth; the Commissioner of the Federal German Government for Culture and Media; NEUSTART KULTUR; Kulturstiftung der Länder; KULTUR.GEMEINSCHAFTEN

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