



24. - 29. October 2017

## **GRANIT – THE HOF DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD 2017**

*Hof, 28 October 2017* – For the third year in a row, the prize for the best documentary film among the German productions was awarded. The award is donated by the Hermann and Bertl Müller Foundation and endowed with 7,500 euros.

**GRANIT – THE HOF DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD 2017:  
THE LEGEND OF THE UGLY KING by Hüseyin Tabak**

### **The jury's statement:**

Filmmaking means perseverance, hanging on, and tenacity. Even when the path seems long and stony and one's courage and initial energy seems to dwindle, one has to continue to find, time and time again, new strength to carry on. We have to keep on going and have stamina to not lose sight of the idea which initially inspired us.

Making documentary films is a long process, one which takes years, demands patience and perseverance until one can convince committees and commissioning editors, get the financing in place and finally finish the shoot. But if you think we are then relieved of everything – on the contrary – for then begins the laborious work of editing, a task which can easily take an entire year. Particularly when archive material is to be used, which has to of course be found, viewed and cleverly integrated. The search for the composition of the film is one of the greatest challenges for documentary films; it is a challenge which demands our openness to allow for the new without forsaking the original idea.

Or even not, when we have to cut things out because they in fact really don't fit it, when the images and sound produce a different rhythm than was originally planned in the exposé because the reality of the material actually produces something else. When you have gone through so much and taken on so much yet still managed to keep on going until a film comes together, a film which takes its audience on a trip and sends them into a new world – then, and only then, have you achieved your goal as a filmmaker. And you tell everyone who thought they knew better, who warned you and suggested that you not even try to make the film, then you can tell them: the film won an award in Hof. For this perseverance and the convincing results, the GRANIT Award 2017 of the Hof International Film Festival goes to Hüseyin Tabak for his film THE LEGEND OF THE UGLY KING.

### **The jury's decision:**

With film excerpts from Güney's films, cleverly interwoven with family, friends, and accomplices in front of and behind the camera, the director Hüseyin Tabak presents a touching image of a great film artist who as a political legend is admired by his fellow countrymen to this day.

We are honoring a passionate film, one which, with all the means of cinema – images, sound and music – brings its protagonist to life on the screen without making a hero of him.

Beyond that, THE LEGEND OF THE UGLY KING is not only a film which sheds light on life and the past, but encourages its audience, and in particular ourselves as filmmakers, to take a stand.

**The award:**

The name GRANIT came from the idea that documentary filmmakers are often faced with great burdens, extensive research and long preparation time. They often have to wait what seems like forever for just the right shot and, not seldom, find themselves in dangerous situations, in short: they have to be as hard as granite. Additionally, granite is a typical stone type from the region surrounding Hof. The design of the award was created in cooperation with the European Academy for Sculpture in Wunsiedel and is based on a concept by Mohamed Naguib, an award-winning Egyptian sculptor and instructor at the University of Alexandria.

The Hermann and Bertl Müller Foundation was established in 1995 by Bertl Müller in memory of her deceased husband, the entrepreneur Hermann Müller, with the aim of supporting culture, art and the preservation of historical monuments in her second hometown of Hof. ([www.mueller-stiftung-hof.de](http://www.mueller-stiftung-hof.de))

Information on the Hof International Film Festival and press accreditation forms are available at [www.hofer-filmtage.com/en](http://www.hofer-filmtage.com/en) and [www.facebook.com/hoferfilmtage](https://www.facebook.com/hoferfilmtage).

For further inquiries, please contact the press office at +49-89-2366120.

Best regards

Ana Radica

Hof International Film Festival - Press

Tel. +49-89-2366120

[ana.radica@hofer-filmtage.de](mailto:ana.radica@hofer-filmtage.de)