

Press Release



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The Audentia Award 2016

STRASBOURG, 16/03/2016 – The Council of Europe's Eurimages Fund has joined forces with Istanbul Film Festival to present the first edition of the **Audentia Award** for best female director, during the 35th edition of the festival, which will be held from 7 to 17 April.

The award, a cash prize of 30 000 euros, has been instigated by Eurimages alongside a raft of other measures to promote greater gender equality in the European film industry.

Audentia – meaning "courage" or "bravery" in Latin – reflects two vital qualities for any woman wishing to pursue a career in film directing. With the *Audentia Award*, Eurimages intends to celebrate women who have had the courage to make that choice, by giving their work greater visibility and inspiring other women to follow in their footsteps.

15 films have been pre-selected from across all categories and all films by female directors to compete for the first edition of the Prize:

Det vita folket (White People) by Lisa Aschan (SE, DK, FIN)
À peine j'ouvre les yeux (As I Open My Eyes) by Leyla Bouzid (FR, TN, BE)
La montagne magique (The Magic Mountain) by Anca Damian (RO, FR, PL)
Evolution by Lucile Hadzihalilovic (FR, BE, ES)
Ha'har (Mountain) by Yaelle Kayam (IL)
Wild by Nicolette Krebitz (DE)
3000 Layla (3000 Nights) by Mai Masri (PS, FR, JO, LB)
Pesn pesney (Song of Songs) by Eva Neymann (UA)
Auf Einmal (All of A Sudden) by Aslı Özge (Germany)
Toz Bezi (Dust Cloth) by Ahu Öztürk (TR, DE)
Kasap Havası (Wedding Dance) by Çiğdem Sezgin (TR)
Chevalier (Athina) by Rachel Tsangari (GR)
Jajda (Thirst) by Svetla Tsotsorkova (BG)
Ana Yurdu (Motherland) by Senem Tüzen (TR, GR)
Yemekteydim ve Karar Verdim (We Were Dining and I Decided) by Görkem Yeltan (TR)

The patroness of the first edition has been chosen for her outstanding courage and commitment to advancing the cause of gender equality in the film industry. **Anna Serner (CEO of the Swedish Film Institute)** is a pioneer who has rendered visible the invisible, and under her leadership, the Swedish Film Institute has achieved parity in the allocation of public funding.

The first *Audentia* prize recipient will be announced on **Friday 15 April** and will receive a statuette during the Istanbul Film Festival awards ceremony. For forthcoming editions a different international festival will be selected on a yearly basis.