



SHORT LIST PRIX ITALIA 2009

TV PERFORMING ARTS

PERFORMING ARTS

France - FR3

LA VIE PARISIENNE

Director: François Roussillon

Netherlands - NPO

WINGS OF WAX

Director: Hans Hulscher

Switzerland - SRG SSR IDEE SUISSE

LA TRAVIATA AT ZURICH MAIN STATION

Director: Adrian Marthaler, Felix Breisach

Special Mention:

Italy – RAI

SONG OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE MASSACRED

Director: Felice Cappa

MUSIC & ARTS DOCUMENTARIES

Denmark - DR

ADAM FISCHER AND THE MUSIC

Director: Benjamin Hesselholdt

France - ARTE FRANCE

PIOTR ANDERSZEWSKI, UNQUIET TRAVELLER

Director: Bruno Monsaingeon

Germany - ZDF

THE RADICAL GARDENER

Director: Hermann Vaske

Norway - NRK

BALDUR'S DREAMS

Director: Sondre Hallavardson Bjorgum

Special mention to:

Czech Republic - CTV

THE LAST OF MOHICANS

Director: Ondrej Havelka

REPORT OF THE PERFORMING ARTS JURY

This year we had 27 programs in total, 12 in the Performing Arts sub-category, of which we had to remove one out of the competition because it did not belong to our section. We had 15 in the Music and Art documentary sub-category. We moved one program (The radical gardener, ZDF) from the Performing Arts to Music and Art documentary.

The general impression of the Jury is that there was a big variety in quality, but fortunately also a big range of approaches in style and subjects. Nevertheless most programs in the Performing Arts focused on classical music and ballet. We missed other musical genres such as jazz, world music and also more modern dance.

In the Music and Arts documentaries we had a rich collection of different programs, dealing with national subjects, which proved to be also interesting for a wider international audience. The Jury would appreciate if broadcasters would choose their entries more carefully and would like to encourage producers also to support more experimental formats.

Nominations for Performing Arts:

La vie Parisienne (France 3) - FRANCE

A contemporary and modern adaptation of a classical French opera by Jacques Offenbach. Already the opening sequence with the innovative graphics invites the audience directly on stage and leads immediately to joyful, entertaining and charming performance of the wonderful singers and actors. The Jury was also struck by the technical quality, the photography and the editing. A successful example of modernising a classical opera.

Wings of Wax (NPO) – THE NETHERLANDS

An original choreography by Jiri Kylian for Nederlands Dans Theater and made for camera. Kylian has succeeded in creating a work of great beauty and expressiveness, by demonstrating that he can create magic with movements. Breathtaking choreography and dancing. An excellent mixture of baroque and modern music, and a camera work, which is always perfectly framed and at the right spot of the action. The perfection of this production proves impressively that television can be art.

La Traviata at Zurich Main station (SRG, SSR, IDEE Suisse)

La Traviata in Zurich's main station brings Verdi's tragic love story from the opera house to a daily stage. A courageous, challenging TV-experiment, realised with great technical expertise and artistic skill. One of the biggest and most successful events in cultural TV of the year. A symbiotic and fruitful collaboration between an opera house and television, bringing the most intimate moments into the most cold and crowded public space you can imagine. A real operatic adventure.

The special mention:

Song of the Jewish People massacred (RAI)

The Jury would like to give this program a special mention for rediscovering a book of poetry, written in a concentration camp by Yizhak Katzenelson. A very moving production of a vivid performance with original music dedicated to the survivors.

Nominations for Music and Art Documentaries

Adam Fischer and the music (DR) - DENMARK

The film follows Adam Fischer and Danish National Chamber Orchestra during the recording of a Mozart symphony. The Jury was impressed by the fascinating and charismatic personality of the conductor. Usually you wait for more music, here we waited for his mature, humorous and wise opinions on life, music and art. An unusual approach, an innovative way of portraying an artist in many ways. Obviously produced within a reasonable budget, still with perfect balance in the use of graphics, photography and editing, it creates a surprisingly entertaining and inspiring piece of art.

Piotr Anderszewski, unquiet traveller (ARTE France) - FRANCE

Structured like a “train-movie” from Warsaw to Budapest in a special train with the famous Polish – Hungarian pianist: Piotr Anderszewski. The ambitious production of high visual quality takes you into an outstanding young artists inner world. Anderszewski, exceptionally communicative and amusing character leads to extraordinary moments of great value. An elegant photography and editing carries the audience from his provisional home in a train carriage to the big concert stages and from his homeland in Poland to the Atlantic coast of Portugal. A highly professional production in every regard.

The radical gardener (ZDF) - GERMANY

A film documenting an exciting time of radical change which investigates the radical borderlines of art and advertising. A refreshing program asking provocative and uncomfortable questions what contemporary art is about. A huge range of high standard protagonists and celebrities giving challenging answers to this crucial question. Edited with good pace and rhythm, the documentary associates rich visuals with inspiring interviews.

Baldur's dreams (NRK)

A film about the enigmatic Norwegian Composer Geirr Tveitt and his composition “Baldur's dreams”. A national subject of great interest made fascinating also for an international audience. An unbelievable story of an eccentric artist coming from the mythological North playing with the reality. Lack of original archive materials has inspired the filmmaker to find a creative way of using a new black and white imaginative and consequent aesthetics.

The special mention:

The last of the Mohicans (CT)

A portrait of 96 year old Czech swing composer Jiri Traxler, one of the last witnesses of the pre-war Czechoslovak music life. The jury would like to give a special mention to this program which shows the 20th century Czech history from the unusual point of view of a jazz musician. It gives a narrative lightness to even the darkest moments, bringing back the swinging style of the period in a very convincing way.

ARILD ERIKSTAD (NRK)
PRESIDENT OF THE JURY



SHORT LIST PRIX ITALIA 2009

TV DOCUMENTARY

CULTURAL AND GENERAL INTEREST

Finland – YLE

RECIPES FOR DISASTER

Director John Webster

Sweden – SVT

THE QUEEN AND I

Director Nahid Persson

United Kingdom – CH4

AFGHAN STAR

Director Havana Marking

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Denmark – DR

CIA'S EUROPEAN CONNECTION

Director Jacob Mikkelsen, Mette Aaby

Germany – ARD

GAZPROM, THE COLOSSUS – GERMANY AND THE GAS FROM THE EAST

Director: Hubert Seipel

Japan - NHK

CHINA IN A TORRENT: THE PATIENT PARADE

Director: Jin Takayama

REPORT OF THE TV DOCUMENTARY JURY

As a jury, we've seen more than 40 documentaries, on subjects ranging from life as a transvestite in Rio to the lost tribe of the Amazon; from the new Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam to Somalian pirates. In essence, in two days, we travelled the whole world.

We divided our jury in two, so that one group watched current affairs documentaries and the other watched cultural documentaries - with the brief to shortlist a maximum of six in each category.

In general, we were concerned about the overall standard of entries. As a jury, we believe the standard of films would improve if the entry criteria are clearly defined. While many important issues are tackled, we would love to see greater emphasis on storytelling. However, on a positive note, we feel that some of our shortlisted entries combine unique access with compelling storytelling.

CURRENT AFFAIRS DOCUMENTARIES

Denmark – CIA's European Connection

For years, the American intelligence agency has been running a covert rendition programme, involving the kidnapping of terror suspects by the CIA on European soil. This documentary follows two investigative journalists trying to prove that CIA aircraft have flown through Danish airspace, even though the Danish government have consistently denied this has ever happened. The documentary contains strong journalism and compelling research, and its lightly immersive style helps the viewer engage with a subject that is often dealt with in a very dry way.

Germany – Gazprom the Colossus – Germany and the Gas from the East

Hupert Seipel took his camera to the gas fields of Siberia and got access to Gazprom's headquarters in Moscow. The documentary depicts with remarkable pictures how important the energy giant was and is for Russia and its strategy – and for the careers of Vladimir Putin and Gerhard Schroeder. This is a well-constructed film with a lightly provocative tone, which effectively encapsulates how world economy and politics intertwine. Seipel gained extraordinary access to both Putin and Schroeder, and their own relationship raises important, and frightening, issues about Russia's relationship with Germany. Effective use of music and archive help tell the story in an engaging way.

Japan – China in a Torrent: The Patient Parade

The strains on China's health care system are beginning to show. From all over the country patients flock to the large public hospitals where they queue all through the night waiting to be called. The majority of people don't go to a hospital for medication or assistance unless their case becomes severe. This film follows one family's desperate attempt to raise enough money to get their son treated for an eye condition, intercut with access to one of the country's private healthcare developers. It's an extremely well cast film, and placing the emotional case against the system manages to tell the story of the last ten years of growth in China, and throws forward to a dystopic future.

CULTURAL DOCUMENTARIES

Finland – Recipes for Disaster

Director John Webster convinces his wife and two small children that the whole family should go on an oil diet, yet without having to give up their middle class suburban lifestyle. It's a comedy of errors in which they find themselves both questioning their values and putting their will power and ultimately their happiness to the test. The immersive style, a genuinely likeable cast and interesting use of archive and graphics, means everyone can engage with a global issue that too many of us sweep under the carpet. The film is packed with many charming, authentic scenes, which entertain first, and educate second; by the end, you want to make changes, no matter how small, to your own life.

Sweden – The Queen and I

It's 30 years since filmmaker Nahid Persson Sarvestani participated in the revolution to overthrow the Shah and the Monarchy regime in Iran, and now, disillusioned by the Islamic revolution that betrayed her trust and forced her into exile, Persson Sarvestani gains access to her former enemy number one, Farah Diba, the Shah's wife. The Queen and I is a surprisingly honest, very original film, with many twists and turns, as the filmmaker searches relentlessly for the truth. She gets caught up in her emotions and finds her loyalties and fundamental beliefs challenged, and the viewer is invited along on the ride. It's a very layered film that throws out some of the conventions of filmmaking, but Persson Sarvestani is transparent about her process throughout. As a subject, Farah Diba is a gift – charismatic and compelling, and her ability to charm leaves you asking so many questions after the credits roll.

UK – Afghan Star

The third series of Afghan Star was watched by a third of the population of Afghanistan. Over 11 million people, in voting for their favourites, experienced a taste of democracy. This documentary follows the Afghan people choosing their winner, and is a truly compelling film. Director, Havana Marking, overturns familiar images of contemporary life in Afghanistan to focus on the universal story of teenage dreams. The access gained to ordinary Afghan people who find themselves in extraordinary situations, is impressive, and the stories captured are important ones. But Marking's light touch and unpatronising tone makes for a film that entertains as much as it informs. Scenes where young people discuss sex, love and relationships feel revelatory, and the unfolding narrative is riveting – when we weren't laughing, we were on the edge of our seats.

MARGJE DEKONING (NPO)



SHORT LIST PRIX ITALIA 2009

TV DRAMA

TV MOVIES AND MINI SERIES

France - ARTE FRANCE
SKIRT DAY
Director: Jean-Paul Lilienfeld

Italy - RAI
THE VICEROYS
Director: Roberto Faenza

Spain - TVE
THE KING: THE HARDEST DAY
Director: Silvia Quer

SERIES AND SERIALS

Korea (South) - MBC
BEETHOVEN VIRUS
Director: Jae-gyu Lee

Norway - NRK
BLU SKY BLU (ep.1)
Director: Eva Dahr

United Kingdom - BBC
CRIMINAL JUSTICE:EP.1
Director: Otto Bathurst

REPORT OF THE TV DRAMA JURY

Introduction

This year we had 31 entries, the majority of them coming from Europe, while we would like to single out 5 entries from the Far East: China, Japan and South Korea.

Among those entries we had 20 single plays and mini-series and 11 serials. It was decided to move one program (Whitechapel, ITV) from single plays to serials sub-category.

We would like to underline that 8 fictions focused on the particularly deep conflict between today's teenagers and the adult world.

The jurors noticed that there were 6 entries dealing with historical facts, this number does not justify a category in itself, although they felt it was quite difficult to compare them to contemporary fiction.

Subcategory: Series and serials

Beethoven virus (South Korea, MBC)

Beethoven virus is a successful attempt to make an educational series about a philharmonic orchestra. It's a story filled with positive thinking with an original approach, questioning how good guidance and commitment are important to fight against injustice and adversity.

Blue sky blue (Norway, NRK)

Original and positive approach to describe a family trying to find a new way to improve their living by leaving the city for a small island. It deals with problems that society is facing nowadays in many countries: single-parenthood, population growing old, countryside demographical desertification. Outstanding acting and realistic photography.

Criminal justice (UK, BBC)

The series offers a deep and complex insight into the UK judiciary system. It avoids the traditional path (policemen's point of view) by focusing on the indicted's story.

Tense, well-casted, emphasizes the role that solicitors have in misguiding justice by selling stories to the jury – neglecting truth.

Very good acting and consistent in action filming.

Subcategory: TV movies and mini-series

Skirt day (France, ARTE France)

Very original plot to broach the hardships of teaching in some rough and tough high schools with immigration, religion and gender issues. Avoiding any simplifications, the film holds on to the question of the future of this mixed class, that is held hostage by their teacher. Remarkable camera work and editing help to deliver a good story. Well rendered drama construction.

The viceroys (Italy, RAI)

Sumptuous and lavish reconstruction of the nineteenth century Sicilian aristocratic society, adapted from "I viceré" by Federico De Roberto. We follow the Uzeda family story, in which conservatism seems to prevail and hate is used as a trademark for educating the youngsters.

Excellent set decoration, wardrobe, good casting.

The king: the hardest day (Spain, TVE)

We follow by the hour the intimacy of the king of Spain's reaction to a military coup organized by his right wing generals.

Six years after being crowned, Juan Carlos faces a dilemma between his belief in democracy and the pressure he feels from his former classmates, as he progressively understands they organized the coup in his name.

Good acting and rhythm make it an appealing mini-series about the solitude of political power.

Report drafted by TV Drama jurors Edlira Roqi, Harold Valentin, Luis Nestor Ribeiro (named President of this jury), Monica Londei, Wanda Zwinogrodzka on the 25th September 2009.



SHORT LIST PRIX ITALIA 2009

RADIO DRAMA

ORIGINAL RADIO DRAMA

FRANCE FRANCE SRF

FARBEN

DIRECTOR MARGUERITE GATEAU

GERMANY ALLEMAGNE ARD

THE IMPOSSIBLES

DIRECTOR PAUL PLAMPER, JULIAN KAMPHAUSEN

NORWAY NORVEGE NRK

A MAN OF ACTION

DIRECTOR LASSE KOLSRUD

ADAPTED DRAMA

CZECH REPUBLIC REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE CR

WOYZECK

DIRECTOR ALES VRZAK

GERMANY ALLEMAGNE ARD

MY BODY IN NINE PARTS

DIRECTOR GOETZ NALEPPA

SWEDEN SUEDE SR

THE TRIAL

DIRECTOR BENGT OHLSSON

ADAPTED DRAMA SPECIAL MENTION

UNITED KINGDOM ROYAUME-UNI BBC

LANDSCAPE

DIRECTOR PETER KAVANAGH

RADIO DRAMA JURY REPORT

ORIGINAL DRAMA

RADIO FRANCE– Farben

A fascinating radiophonic exploration on the themes of anti-semitism, feminism, the ethics of scientific exploration and their disastrous unexpected consequences, set in an historical context of 19th and 20th Century Europe. Outstanding performances and direction combined with wonderful sound design make this work achieve its fullest potential even to the extent of the feeling that the sound entered the pores like the sulphur gas that is at the heart of the play.

ARD – The Impossibles

A controversial moral dilemma dealing with the difficulties that might arise when a family wants to have a child that is freed from the possibility of inheriting a disease from its parents.

It poses the question about what actually is meant by a happy and successful life by following the imagined journeys of three separate embryos gained by medically assisted fertility. Perfectly realized natural sound, impressively convincing performances and subtle use of sound atmospheres all add up to a satisfying and thought-provoking drama dealing with one of today's important ethical issues.

NRK – A Man of Action

What drives an ordinary man to violence? After a night on the town, a brutal rape is a catalyst for a young man's need for revenge. To assuage his guilt about his failure to act at the time, he is drawn into a dangerous and frightening scenario which ends in tragedy. The use of music in this piece carries the listener from scene to scene almost seamlessly. In a world where increasing violence is becoming the norm, this play examines one of the world's current problems with necessary power.

ADAPTED DRAMA

CR – Woyzeck

A perfectly balanced adaptation of what has become recognised as one of the world's great texts. This work for radio concentrates on the passion that is at the core of this moving and frightening tale of love gone wrong. The mix of sound, music and remarkable performances is beautifully realised with finely judged direction and production.

ARD – My Body in Nine Parts

How do you cope with the shock of discovering that one ear is more efficient than the other when you're flirting with a younger woman? Can one of your toes be as angry as Foucault? In this wonderful radio version of his celebrated prose text, Raymond Federman offers an exploration of his own experience of ageing in the rhythms of freeform poetry incorporating jazz, a dance of languages and the amusing joy of irony. Federman's distinctive French/American accent gives it an extraordinary veracity.

SR – The Trial

Kafka's classic text is brought to life in such a precise manner in this radio version that it proves the work is just as powerful, terrifying and funny now as it ever was. Its insights into the nature of power and the impossibility of gaining victory over an all-encompassing bureaucracy still hold true in the modern world. The delightfully clever mix of modern music, performances verging on the underplayed and intelligent direction combine to bring out the bewilderment of an innocent man accused of an unnamed crime.

SPECIAL MENTION

BBC – Landscape

For outstanding courage in delivering a work that will live on as a tribute to the power of the naked word when performed perfectly, unadorned by any of the usual conventions of radio.

Jasenko SELIMOVIC
President of the Jury



SHORT LIST PRIX ITALIA 2009

RADIO DOCUMENTARY

GERMANY ALLEMAGNE ARD
LOST IN MUSIC – THE CORNEL CHIRIAC STORY
DIRECTOR PATRICK BANUSH

IRELAND IRLANDE RTE
THIS IS MARIA MACRAE
DIRECTOR PETER WOODS

NORWAY NORVEGE NRK
A FOREIGN LEGIONNAIRE THROUGH LOVE AND WAR
DIRECTOR KJETIL SAUGESTAD

NORWAY NORVEGE NRK
OPTIMIST, PESSIMIST, PENSIONER
DIRECTOR LARS-HELGE MYKLEBUST

POLAND POLOGNE PR
GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY
DIRECTOR PATRYCJA GRUSZYNSKA RUMAN

UNITED KINGDOM ROYAUME-UNI BBC
BETWEEN THE EARS: STARING AT THE WALL
DIRECTOR SARA JANE HALL

SPECIAL MENTION

IRELAND IRLANDE RTE
THIS IS MARIA MACRAE

POLAND POLOGNE PR
GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY

RADIO DOCUMENTARY JURY REPORT

I would like to start by introducing the Radio Documentary Jury to you. We are Dick Miller from CBC, Canada, Susanna Sommer from DR, Denmark, Francesca Modica from RAI, Italy, Ottoline Rijks from NPO, Netherlands, Kare Johan Lund from NRK, Norway, Anna Sekudewicz from PR, Poland and I am Lorelei Harris, from RTE, Ireland. An eighth member of our jury, Miles Warde from BBC, UK had to reclude himself from the jury for personal reasons.

The jury chose to exclude one programme from the radio documentary competition on the grounds that it had been entered into the wrong category. Over the week, we therefore listened to thirty radio documentaries before arriving at a longlist of ten programmes. We heard a large number of programmes which dealt with history and others that dealt with a variety of moral issues. We were happy to observe an improvement in the technical quality of work submitted by some of our colleagues, though it is notable that a large number of the programmes we heard continue to talk about their subject rather than showing it to us.

Without further ado now I wish to proceed to our shortlist of six programmes. In no particular order, the jury has shortlisted the following programmes:

1. Staring At the Wall (BBC). The programme presented a montage of voices of people living in proximity to Pentonville Prison in North London and, in so doing, sought to explore ideas of enclosure, freedom and imagination. The jury admired the central idea in this programme and the rich mix of voices and accents we heard. We were greatly relieved to have one programme in the competition which dealt with its topic with a light hand and a sense of humour.
2. Lost In Music – The Cornel Chiriac Story (ARD). The programme presents the biographical story of Romanian DJ, Cornal Chiriac, who came to represent a voice of freedom to a generation of young people in his homeland. The jury was impressed with the deft way in which the programme maker used music and a small story to explore a great period of repression and historical injustice.
3. This Is Maria Macrae (RTE). The programme investigates the story of Maria Macrae as she searches her way through the Irish social welfare system for her missing siblings. The jury was deeply moved by this programme as it gave voice to a woman and a family who have been badly served by the wheels of bureaucracy and a system in freefall.
4. A Foreign Legionnaire Through Love and War (NRK). The programme tells the story of Arvid Gulbaek Oblensky who joined the Foreign Legion at the age of 15. A fairytale of love and war, the jury were moved by the central character and the sensitivity with which he was portrayed .
5. Optimist, Pessimist, Pensioner (NRK). The programme explores the emotional impact and existential dilemmas of impending retirement on the lives of two men: the radio producer and a gravedigger. The jury rejoiced in the high quality of the technical production of this programme and were impressed by the dramaturgical development throughout the piece.
6. Guilty-Not Guilty (PR). The programme tells the story of Stanislaw Rachwal, inmate of Auschwitz and political activist who was sentenced to death after WW11 for her anti-communist activities and was forced to confront her Nazi tormenter while in prison. The jury was stunned by the depth of moral confrontation this programme imposes on all who listen to it and by the elegant manner in which it was produced.

This, then, is the Radio Documentary shortlist. Without prejudicing the out come of the competition, the jury would like to make Special Mention of two programmes on the shortlist:

1. This Is Maria Macrae (RTE). The jury wishes specially to commend this programme for courage in journalism and for the social impact our work can bring to bear on dark corners of society.
2. Optimist, Pessimist, Pensioner (NRK). The jury particularly admired the technical production and high standard of sound work to be found in this programme.

Lorelei Harris
President of the Jury



SHORT LIST PRIX ITALIA 2009

RADIO MUSIC

COMPOSED WORK

FINLAND FINLANDE YLE

CREATION GAME

DIRECTOR JOVANKA TRBOJEVIC

FRANCE FRANCE SRF

DAY 54

DIRECTOR PIERRE JODLOWSKI, MARGUERITE GATEAU, PATRICK LERISSET

GERMANY ALLEMAGNE ARD

DIALOGHI

DIRECTOR STEFANO GIANNOTTI

WORK ON MUSIC

CANADA CANADA CBC/SRC

THE NERVE – EPISODE 1, WIRED FOR SOUND (MUSIC AND BRAIN)

DIRECTOR PIETROPAOLO, CHRIS BROOKES, JOWI TAYLOR

NORWAY NORVEGE NRK

SHORT AND CLASSIC

DIRECTOR TORUN KIRBY TORBO

POLAND POLOGNE PR

THE FORGOTTEN'S PRAYER

DIRECTOR DOROTA HALASA, KATARZYNA MICHALAK

WORK ON MUSIC SPECIAL MENTION

ITALY ITALIE RAI

BARCACCIA WINDS

DIRECTOR PATRIZIA TODARO

RADIO MUSIC JURY REPORT

Shortlist - Work on music (in alphabetical order)

Canada – Canadian Broadcasting Company: The Nerve

The Program offers essential questions of musical reception in an original way. It presents different professional perspectives of both musical and medical knowledge. Program leads the listeners to the roots of music perception. It combines scientific information with entertainment and amazing radio phonic elements. The authors achieved a gradual development of tension through careful choice of musical material.

Norway - Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation: Short and Classic

New, fresh and spontaneous approach to classical music in a perfect timing. The newly developed magazine contains a scale of program elements from Esso petrol stations TOP10 –list to musicological columns. The program succeeds to present the whole world of classical music through to the images of popular culture. This dynamic program is a good response for searching the tools to find younger audiences.

Poland – Polish radio: The Forgotten's Prayer

Carefully tuned program. A strong story with many aspects. One tiny musical composition opens a window to the questions of musical history, genre, different cultures and gender. Clever, elegant solutions to narrate the story. Different layers of narration expire in a natural way until the final discovery. Emotionally touching program.

Shortlist – Composed work (in alphabetical order)

Finland – Finnish Broadcasting Company: Creation Game

Technically excellent work with a clear form and playful elements. The richness of electronic music is an appropriate medium for illustrating the virtual world of computer games.

It's a complete work of art in which music can stand as a independent element. The dialog of two playing children turns into the very serious warning about development and future of mankind.

France – Radio France: Day 54

An ambitious radio phonic composition with very strong intellectual impact.

The literary world of Georges Perec is precisely reflected in the whole work.

Natural and effective combining of different elements: electronic music, jazz, written orchestral score and different languages. Language becomes music and music becomes language in this program.

Germany – ARD Suedwestrundfunk: Dialoghi

Very communicative work with ironic wit. The sequence of 50 short dialogs plays with basic acoustical elements. The work stresses music as process of communication, and opens the elementary questions of music making. It marks the passage between musical and non-musical world showing that music is almost everywhere.

Special note:

Italy – Italian Broadcasting Company: La Barcaccia

Very funny and entertaining comedy program which uses music cleverly. Excellent knowledge of music and especially opera. The show of two comedians deals with well known names and voices of singers in a parodistic way. The program plot proceeds through science fiction plot with almost cosmic tempo.

Miikka MAUNULA
President of the Jury



WEB SITE SHORT LIST

Best Public Service Site

Country: Denmark – Danemark
Broadcaster: DR
Web Site Title: Demokratibooster
Project Managers: Rune Geertsen and Nicolai Lang
Web Designer: DR Interactiv Production
URL: www.dr.dk/Tema/Booster
Description: Good initiative to invite young people to care for democracy. Focused on an important topical issue. Content is well targeted, focusing on needs of specific audience & delivers successfully. Appealing and creatively strong for this audience – good levels of interactivity inviting engagement – visually attractive, good use of simple colour to aid communication. Liked the way it suggests for routes and of grouping people into communities according to attitude e.g. creative, disobedient. Liked the way in - via 14 profiles – offering broad reach and relevance. Good graphics, beautiful site, trendy colour (black and orange), attractive to the audience and great pictures, simple and efficient design. Communicates well. Visually attractive, well linked & good and easy navigation. Taps into a vibrant young network and builds on the existing credibility of SKUM with that community. Offers the opportunity to connect well with other people. User community well structured. Web 2.0 well reflected (connected with the best web communities). Educational and empowering.
Suggestions: as a format it could speak to an even broader community – ripe for further dissemination / other languages and changed to reflect the law in other countries.

Country: Norway – Norvege
Broadcaster: NRK
Web Site Title: Maktbasen – The Network of Power
Project Manager: Olav Njaastad
Web Artist: Espen Andersen
URL: www.nrk.no/maktbasen
Description: Good democratic instrument/tool – offering transparency and open access to data of high value to the wider public about politicians and their connections. Public service remit at the heart of the proposition. Updated regularly with error feedback option for the user. Topical journalism well supported by database. Good communication – in English. Good data visualization (interactive map). Design could be more attractive – treatment. Web 2.0 – effective use of datasets to add value and highlight relationships/connections to the user.

Country: United Kingdom – Royaume Uni
Broadcaster: BBC
Web Site Title: BBC – Official Web Site
Project Manager: Will Saunders
URL: www.bbc.co.uk
Description: Very good interactivity and strong on accessibility – good options to customize areas of the site e.g. homepage offers ability to change elements e.g. colours, font size, etc. Sound Web 2.0 site. Content and information very good. Attractive design and easy navigation. All aspects of creation well thought through. Huge site (note: huge resource behind the site including BBC TV & Radio production that feed the content), wide and diverse in subject and treatment – showing good connectivity across the content.

Best Cross Media Special Events Site

Country: Germany – Allemagne
Broadcaster: ZDF
Web Site Title: 60 Jahre Bundesrepublik
Editor: Bernhard Fritsch, Bastienne Hamann
Web Designer: Niels Bünemann
Web Masters: Jörg Broszeit , Dirk Köster
Editor Staff: Dr. Michael Funken, Anja Greulich
URL: www.zdf.de/ZDFmediathek/content/756212
Description: Good use of design – liked the graphical reflection of moving through time by use of retro design backgrounds. Web 2.0 poor. Navigation fancy and friendly. Old fashioned presentation (speaker) but fits with the historical editorial focus. Nice special event – looks more than an interactive TV show but should be more accessible as far as languages are concerned e.g. English, especially as it communicates events that are not strictly German (have wider appeal). Good choice of images on homepage to represent each decade, appealing and attractive. Nice graphics in homepage: association of rolling paper with rolling history according to the fashion of the decade. Good and rich in terms of amount of information. Easy to navigate around. Actually navigation and technology used in this site more akin to that in a DVD than a Web Site.

Country: Germany – Allemagne
Broadcaster: ARD
Web Site Title: Darwin Jetzt – Multimedia Feuilleton
Project Manager: Alexandra Gögl, Petra Küntzel
Web Artist: Daniela Wernerus
Web Designers: Daniela Wernerus, Ursula Brunthaller, Simone Lange
Web Master: Ulrich Habel
Web Programmers: Stefan Fröhlich, David Zeidler
URL: www.br-online.de/darwin-jetzt
Description: Liked the way the site worked hard to present a difficult theme in an engaging and different way. Nice and attractive. Serious subject treated in a pleasant and funny way. Navigation quite heavy. Good use of multimedia. Nice design. No wide communication option as not available in English. Chaotically structured but creative. Interactivity is not that rich. Web 2.0 just video - not extensive. Poor accessibility (only Flash).

Country: United Kingdom – Royaume Uni
Broadcaster: BBC
Web Site Title: BBC Red Nose Day
Senior Content Producer: Daniel Judd
Technical Project Manager: Sally Morales
Senior client Side Developer: Mat Hampson
Senior Inf: Claudia Ursbach
URL: www.bbc.co.uk/rednoseday
Description: Brings together all related activity very well, very accessible. Focused on motivating people: to support fund-raising, offers good feedback on how money is spent and good range of suggestions for ways to take part. Simple good design, attractive and clear messages. Good content, excellent aim and purpose. Tone manages to marry a serious issue with a playful and engaging delivery. The attractiveness of this site lies in its simplicity, without compromising the very important target. Nice, simple clean site Web 2.0 compliant – exists on several platforms (mobile, TV etc.). Picture gallery – poor presentation. It involves media and gives the user or the donator transparency and the ability to see how the money given is used. Nice to underline that it's a special event but it keeps working and allows more funds to be collected through the year. Communication: the clever dual tone addresses adults but in a playful way. Brings you easily to donate. Nice graphics (black fonts, not too many pictures) red spots (noses) that concentrate the users attention on the site target.



SHORT LIST PRIX ITALIA 2009

SPECIAL PRIZE

Programmes that effect social change

FINLAND FINLANDE YLE
RECIPES FOR DISASTER
DIRECTOR JOHN WEBSTER

IVORY COAST COTE D'IVOIRE RTI
WOMEN BEAR AFRICA
DIRECTOR IDRIS DIABATE

NETHERLANDS, PAYS BAS NPO
THE WAY OUT OF THE WAR ON TERROR
DIRECTOR CHAI LOCHER

SPECIAL PRIZE JURY REPORT

The jury was impressed by the variety and range of the 43 submissions, representing 28 broadcasters from 26 countries. The programmes were extremely varied in nature. Some dealt with uncomfortable political realities, others with environmental and social problems. Most tackled contemporary subjects.

The jury was encouraged to see programmes from Africa. But there were glaring holes in the line-up. There were no submissions from China, India and South America, the homes of the fastest growing economies. Many of the programmes were produced to high technical and artistic standards. We are happy to report that even a few submissions from developing country broadcasters, whose budgets are constrained, were well produced.

Sadly, the overall quality of the submissions did not meet the expectations of the jury and the traditional demands of the Prix Italia. We urge the Prix Italia's governing body to devote more energy and resources to the international promotion and marketing of this prestigious prize. The Prix needs to be more competitive, and that can only be done if a greater number of quality programmes is entered into the contest.

We also urge more discipline in meeting the selection criteria for "Programmes that effect social change." Several programmes submitted in this category should have been entered elsewhere. A couple of the Second World War remembrances, for example, might have been better placed in other categories.

With this in mind, we have three fine candidates for the Special Prize. Each could be a winner.

They are:

RECIPES FOR DISASTER

YLE, Finland. Director John Webster, producer Kristina Pervila, 85 minutes

The film takes a novel and imaginative approach to the most pressing environmental issue of our era – climate change. Many documentaries on this topic are like blunt instruments; they hammer the viewer over the head with doomsday messages.

Not this one. Recipe treats climate change as everyday challenge, one that can be dealt with at the family level, though not easily. How do you brush your teeth if you cannot buy a plastic toothbrush? How do you visit friends in the middle of winter without a car? Overcoming these obstacles provides the material for a humorous and entertaining family narrative. The jury especially liked the tension between the wife, who is caught in a moral struggle between keeping her family intact without the use of plastics and oil, and her husband's desires to prove that a low-carbon lifestyle is both achievable and necessary.

Recipes is accessible and clever, though could have lost 20 minutes. It was too long, in our opinion. It also presented an uncomfortable question that was left unanswered: What if you cannot afford to reduce your carbon footprint? Cheap food comes in plastic wrappers too.

WOMEN BEAR AFRICA

RTI Ivory Coast. Director Idrissa Diabate, Producer Dja-com-aapxi. 52 minutes

In the West African villages of this simple, elegant film, one feature is missing: Men. It is the women who take the initiative. They do the bulk of the work, from making charcoal to brewing beer. Why do they toil so hard? Because they want to improve the lives, even if progress is slow and painful, in a continent rife with poverty, disease and environmental degradation.

The jury found the film inspiring. This is an African film made by Africans about an African reality – that women are carrying the burden of the continent's development. The film contains a subtle, implicit message: That endless aid from Western countries will not fix Africa's problems. That job will have to be done by Africans themselves.

The images and technical quality of the film were impressive. The women's stories are honest and unadorned. We get a clear understanding of the burdens of their daily lives. The women themselves do not overtly display hope, even contentment, with their situation. But the viewer, oddly, is left with the opposite impression.

THE WAY OUT OF THE WAR ON TERROR

NPO, Netherlands. Director Chai Locher, producer Judith Van Den Berg. 50 minutes

How do you deal with a terrorist? The Americans say "We don't talk to terrorists." Is this the right approach? The film proposes an alternative, one that seems forgotten in a world erupting in conflicts – talking.

Alastair Crooke, the subject of the profile, is not a miracle worker. He believes that listening, talking and understanding are the most powerful tools in conflict prevention. The West labels Hamas a terrorist organization. Hamas considers itself a charitable movement devoted to improving the livelihoods of Palestinians. Crooke uses dialogue to get each side to understand the other. In another era, this was known as diplomacy.

The film was not slickly produced. It was gritty and moved quickly through the real, and often dangerous, world of Crooke and his associates. Because he is a superb negotiator with impeccable connections, Crooke, who has spent his career negotiating with the IRA and other “terrorists,” was able to convince senior Hamas officials to appear on camera. One was Number 5 on the Americans’ most-wanted terrorist list.

The jury concluded that the programme’s strength was not its production qualities, but its powerful message: Simple, direct communications can help to resolve conflicts before they turn violent.

Eric Reguly
President of the Jury



SHORT LIST PRIX ITALIA 2009

SPECIAL PRIZE **Creativity in High Definition**

ALBANIA ALBANIE TVSH
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
DIRECTOR DIONIS PAPADHIMITRI

CANADA CANADA ART
FLOW
DIRECTOR OANA SUTU KHINTIRIAN

ITALY ITALIE RAI
MEDITERRANEA
DIRECTOR LORENA SARDI

SPECIAL PRIZE JURY REPORT

We have reviewed 11 programs out of 12 announced in the competition, because one programme did not reach Prix Italia in the required High Definition format, but only in standard definition.

Our review exercise has been guided by four criteria:

Creativity: does the programme include very innovative contents that are emphasized by using high definition? Conventional dramas, concerts, and the natural world certainly benefit from HDTV production, but can we hope in future for more experimentation with HDTV, to make it its own unique form?

Relevance to high definition: does the programme feature contents that could only be appreciated in high definition? In this sense, conventional drama – as seen in the programs under review – does not show particular elements that can only be enjoyed through use of high definition.

Technical quality of high definition. The standard of the entries was generally very high, but we noticed segments in many productions which were not technically perfect. Sometimes, we had the clear feeling of having in front of us segments of up-converted material.

Photography. The right use of light is more essential than ever, in high definition. Use of light that would be ok for standard definition might not lead to great results in high definition. This was not always obvious in several situations, leading to grained, reddish or less than sharp images.

Out of these criteria, we should admit we did not find a program that would optimally match all the above criteria. In fact, in a scale from 1 to 10, all programs have rated between 6 and 8. Therefore we had a hard job in nominating only three of them. Most programs, particularly documentaries, were much longer than really needed, with unnecessarily slow pace and repetitions, as if the authors were in love with every piece of their material. Whatever the choice, we had to compromise.

We have valued creativity more than technical quality and photography, believing that attractive contents can always be improved in technical quality, whereas conventional contents are not enough for viewers to “buy” high definition. We have used relevance to high definition as a filtering criterion.

According to these criteria we have elected the following three nominees. They are, of course, alphabetically ordered by country.

Albania, TVSH

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The story is genuinely innovative, a fable in a wonderful yet credible rural context. It could be defined as neo-realism in High Definition. We have appreciated good technical quality and good use of light, not only in the open air, but also in the interiors. The program shows how excellent results can be obtained even with low cost equipment.

Canada, ART

FLOW

The programme displays a lot of imagination. Fantastic start, highly poetic, is a drop from the desert rock turning to a glass ball. Hence, a metaphysical journey begins through the four natural elements (air, water, earth and fire) in the experience of humans playing with them at the extreme of their possibilities. The program uses high definition as a new language.

Italy, RAI
MEDITERRANEA

An extraordinary ballet interpreted with dances and music from several Mediterranean countries and from several historical periods. High definition has been used to let the viewer feel like he/she were in the theatre. Technical quality is excellent and is constantly kept along all the programme. The entry titles are beautifully commented in unprecedented black/white scenes of the dancers preparing for the show.

Sebastiano Trigila
President of the Jury



SHORT LIST PRIX ITALIA 2009

SIGNIS **Special Prize**

SWEDEN SUEDE SVT
THE QUEEN AND I
DIRECTOR: NAHID PERSSON

UNITED KINGDOM ROYAUME-UNI BBC
FIVE MINUTES OF HEAVEN
DIRECTOR: OLIVER HIRSCHBIEGEL

UNITED KINGDOM ROYAUME-UNI CH4
DISPATCHES - SAVING AFRICA'S WITCH CHILDREN
DIRECTOR: MAGS GAVAN, JOOST VAN DER VALK

SIGNIS JURY REPORT

First of all, the Signis Jury wants to underline how the many works submitted to the Prix Italia are characterized by "promoting human values", a positive sign illustrating that the television production world is attentive to these themes. This must always become more of an encouragement so that

televisions may actually become a tool through which there is a “support for human values” and not only those televisions made up of programmes and audience.

Among these quality programmes submitted to the Prix Italia, the Signis Jury indicates the following programmes:

The Queen and I (Drottningen och jag, SVT – Sweden), excellent example of an intermingled personal and world story, the “great story” and the “little story”. The film narrates the encounter of the director, Perrson Sarvestani, (in her youth a member of communist revolutionary groups, and active in the revolt against the Iranian regime), and Farah Diba, wife of the Scià of Persia who was sent into exile also because of her participation.. Both suspicious and distrustful at the beginning, but shortly after a profound relationship was created between the two. They later discover they share common passions like nostalgia for their home country, the love for art, and the concern for the present Iranian situation. The film finely explores the sentiments of the two protagonists, and the world’s history references invite the viewer to reflect on how choices can not always be avoided..

Five minutes of heaven (BBC – United Kingdom), a good and positive mix between fiction and historical documentary that deals with the theme of the Irish war and the effects on its “survivors”. Starting from the past (with reference to repertoire images and reconstructed into a fiction regarding the real slaying of a nineteen old Catholic done by a seventeen year old Protestant), the film imagines the encounter of the murderer and the victim’s brother nowadays, who was present when his brother was killed, and for over thirty years has been haunted by the recollection. Narrating their encounter (for both of them feared, looked for, avoided, inevitable), the film studies this subject on vendetta and forgiveness, on hate and reconciliation, on violence and coexistence between enemies.

Dispatches – Saving Africa’s witch children (Channel Four Tv – United Kingdom), a documentary of great social and emotional impact,that narrates a terrible and huge drama: that of hundreds of wounded African children and at times even killed because believed to be bewitched. With clearness of mind, but at the same time participant, the director shows us the horrors caused by this superstition: abandoned and tortured children, put through painful exorcistic practices and killed because considered to be the cause of calamities and famine(s).... Shocking images, agonizing images, but also of hope: the work by Gary Foxcroft and that of the ONG “Stepping Stones Nigeria” especially operates to save children, protecting and sheltering more than 150 in a school in Niger.

Andrea Tomasetto
President of the Jury