

Freundeskreis Wolfgang Längsfeld Preis 2025

'Unser Name ist Ausländer' (Our name is foreigner) by Selin Besili

Hochschule Luzern/HSLU Luzern

www.hslu.ch/de-ch/design-film-kunst/



Selin Besili



Jonatan Schwenk – Theresa Rehe – Selin Besili – Volker Becker-Battaglia

The Jury of the Wolfgang-Längsfeld-Award:

Jury Begründung:

Zunächst einmal: Vielen Dank an die Filmemacher aus aller Welt – es war eine Freude, eure engagierten Arbeiten zu sehen! Vielen Dank auch an das Festival, das uns die Auszeichnung des originellsten Films anvertraut hat – ein Kriterium, das nicht leicht zu definieren war.

Auf der Suche nach einem Film, der mutig nach innovativen Wegen abseits konventioneller Muster sucht und uns herausfordert, Dinge in einem neuen Licht zu sehen, führten uns einige hitzige Diskussionen schließlich zu unserer Wahl:

Mit Verspieltheit und doch auffallender Selbstsicherheit inszeniert dieser Film performative, manchmal fast provokative Passagen, die sich um Fragen der Herkunft und des Erbes in sich wandelnden Kulturen und Gesellschaften drehen. Die Regisseurin kontrastiert diese mit Amateurvideomaterial, das in bewusster Opposition zu den inszenierten Sequenzen von Familienfeiern steht. Abgerundet durch direkte und ehrliche Interviewausschnitte mit sich selbst und ihren Geschwistern gibt die Filmemacherin all jenen eine Stimme, die als Einwanderer der zweiten Generation häufig Diskriminierung in dem Land erfahren, in dem sie geboren wurden. Gerade in Zeiten zunehmender politischer Engstirnigkeit möchten wir die mutige Verletzlichkeit der Regisseurin hervorheben, die ihre einzigartige und doch nachvollziehbare Perspektive auf Herkunft und sich wandelnde Kulturen unserer Zeit teilt.

Der Preis für den originellsten Film geht an... ‚Unser Name ist Ausländer‘ von Selin Besili.

Jury 2025:

Jonatan Schwenk (Winner 2017,
Volker Becker-Battaglia (Produzent, Student HFF, 1987 – 1990, Abt. III, T-Kurs)
Theresa Rehe (Student HFF, 2021 - Abt. III)

A personal note by jury member Volker Becker-Battaglia

This is a very sentimental moment for me – We award the most unique film in memory of Wolfgang Längsfeld. I knew Wolfgang Längsfeld very well. He was the one who accepted me into film school back in 1987 – an act of courage on his part – and he was my professor for seven long, intense, unforgettable years.

Our jury this year spans over three generations. Give and take a few years: a student in her twenties, a former prize winner in his forties and a former student over sixty.

And the mix was wonderful. We had a lot of fun, debated a lot, and still managed to agree on a winner.

When Wolfgang Längsfeld founded this festival in 1981, many people thought he was slightly crazy. Why on earth would students from Bratislava and New York, China and Cuba travel all the way to a small film school in Munich to show their latest films?

But Wolfgang had a gift: he could see things before the rest of us did. And here we are, 44 years later, and the festival is not only still alive – it's thriving.

Längsfeld was a true visionary, and an unstoppable networker. Connecting with other film schools wasn't just his job – it was his passion.

His students called him "Lä." And he had a signature look: he never actually *wore* his jacket. It was always hanging casually over his shoulders, no matter the occasion. And at his funeral in 2012, there he was – lying in his coffin with that same jacket casually draped over his shoulders... and of course, wearing his legendary cowboy boots. Even in farewell, he remained unmistakably himself.

That same year, his friends and former students created this award in his honor. And ever since, we've given it each year to the most original film in the festival – the film that surprised us and feels most unique. I think he would have loved that.

And now, it's time to reveal this year's winner.

I'll hand over to Theresa, who will announce the award – and she will explain why this film stood out to all three generations of our jury.

Volker Becker-Battaglia

Jury statement:

First of all: Thank you to the filmmakers from all over the world - it was a pleasure to watch your dedicated work! Thank you also to the festival for trusting us with awarding the most unique film - a criterion that wasn't easy to define.

Looking for a film that bravely searches for innovative paths besides conventional patterns and that challenges us to see things in a new light, some heated discussions eventually brought us to our choice: With playfulness yet striking confidence, this film stages performative, at times almost provoking passages evolving around questions of origin and heritage in changing cultures and societies. The director contrasts these with amateur video footage that stands in deliberate opposition to the staged sequences of family gatherings. Rounded off with direct and honest interview segments of herself and her siblings, the filmmaker gives a voice to all those who, as second-generation immigrants, frequently experience discrimination in the very country they were born in. Especially in times of growing political closed mindedness, we want to emphasise the director's brave vulnerability to share her unique yet relatable perspective on origins and changing cultures of our time.

The award for the Most Unique Film goes to...

Our name is Foreigner (Unser Name ist Ausländer) by Selin Besili.

Jury 2025:

Jonatan Schwenk (Winner 2017, HFG, University of Art and Design Offenbach am Main, Deutschland)

Volker Becker-Battaglia (Producer, Student HFF, 1987 – 1990, Abt. III, T-Kurs)

Theresa Rehe (Student HFF, 2021 - Abt. III)
