

Presentation of the AFFZ Awards 2022



On Sunday, November 27, 2022, the Arab Film Festival Zurich Awards for the "Best Film" and the "Best Director" were presented at the Filmpodium cinema as part of the 6th Arab Film Festival Zurich. These awards are intended to further strengthen Arab filmmaking and to facilitate the access to distribution in Switzerland for Arab films. 13 recent feature films and documentaries from different Arab countries had been entered in the competition.

The jury was made up of the following experts:

Jihane Bougrine, born in Rabat (Morocco), grew up in the banlieues of Paris. She has made a name for herself as a singer/songwriter and as a cultural critic.

Jean Perret, born in Paris, is a Geneva-based film critic and former director of the documentary film festival Visions du Réel in Nyon.

Ahmed Ghossein, is a filmmaker and artist, born in Beirut. «All This Victory», his first feature film, won several awards at the Venice Film Festival. In 2020, Ghossein received the AFFZ Award for Best Director for this film.

The winners

Best Film (CHF 3'000): "FADMA" by Jawad Rhalib (Belgium/Morocco 2020)

Jawad Rhalib, born in 1965 to Belgian Moroccan parents, was a journalist before he began making films in 1997. "When Arabs Danced" (2018) won the audience award at Nyon.

Best Director (CHF 2'000): James Chehab for "THE ADVENTURES OF A MOTHER AND HER DAUGHTERS ON THEIR QUEST FOR THE MEANING OF LIFE AND OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS" (Lebanon 2021)

A Lebanese artist born in Beirut in 1995, Chehab received his BA and MA in Audio-Visual Arts and Cinema from the Saint-Joseph University of Beirut.

Special Mention

"TU ME RESSEMBLES" (USA/France/Egypt 2021) by Dina Amer

Dina Amer is an award-winning filmmaker and journalist who grew up between the U.S. and Egypt. "Tu me ressembles" is her directorial debut.