

Nordic Council Film Prize 2014: jury statements

DENMARK

NYMPHOMANIAC (Nymphomaniac)

Big. Mad. Wild. Scholarly. Rich. Challenging. With *Nymphomaniac*, Lars von Trier underlines again that he is one of a kind – not only in Nordic cinema, but in the film medium as a whole. With his four-hour journey of discovery through a woman's sex life, von Trier treats film as if he invented it. For those of an adventurous bent, *Nymphomaniac* offers a great sense of place, bold drama, wilful narrative structure and mischievous reflections on human nature. It borrows from porn and classic literature – but there's nothing quite like it.

Jury members: Per Juul Carlsen, Eva Novrup Redvall, Jakob Wendt Jensen

FINLAND

CONCRETE NIGHT (Concrete Night)

Pirjo Honkasalo's *Concrete Night* explores how relatively small private disturbances at an early age can lead to great tragedies. The black-and-white photography turns the urban landscape into a dreamlike, timeless no man's land. As a filmmaker, Honkasalo is always meaningful, but never obvious.

Jury members: Jaana Puskala, Outi Heiskanen, Harri Römpötti

ICELAND

HROSS Ì OSS (Of Horses and Men)

Of Horses and Men is a strikingly original film characterised by powerful visual language and an interwoven use of soundscape that gives the viewer a sense of, to quote Zola, "the beast in man". The film depicts man's eternal attempts to control nature and his pathetic failure in this endeavour – often with disastrous consequences.

In this quirky love story about the relationship between humans and horses, director Benedikt Erlingsson masterfully transmits meanings and ideas through an admirable use of both animal and human characters.

The animal's gaze is the central point of view through which we observe the tragicomic behaviour of man. This gives *Of Horses and Men* not only a peculiar lyricism, but also a darkly comic tone, which makes the film distinctively Icelandic.

Jury members: Kristín Jóhannesdóttir, Björn Ægir Norðfjörð & Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir

NORWAY

BLIND (Blind)

Eskil Vogt is known for his collaborations on manuscripts with Joachim Trier. His debut as director of a full-length feature film is a strikingly original, daring and funny film about a blind woman's imagination. Ellen Dorrit Petersen gives a brilliant performance as a devil-may-care woman who isolates herself after losing her sight. Using her computer, she writes about two characters whose solitary existences mirror her own.

Vogt's remarkable script has been transformed into a playful, challenging and visually gorgeous film, which offers a uniquely sensitive reflection on humanity.

Jury members: Silje Riise Næss, Britt Sørensen, Kalle Løchen

SWEDEN

TURIST (Force Majeure)

Ruben Östlund's dissection of human relationships is both coolly distant and heavily intrusive. His marital scenes visually expose dilemmas related to gender and morality, all framed wonderfully in a style that he has made his own.

Jury members: Jannike Åhlund, Jon Asp, Kristina Börjeson