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Hazhir Ibrahim's *Kolbar* wins top Nordic Talents Pitch Prize

The Norwegian Film School took home both the top prize and the Special Mention Prize to writer Emil Wahl and director Karren Lumer-Klabbers for their project *Woman Walking*

Press release Oslo October 22, 2020

The digital Nordic Talents event organised by Nordisk Film & TV Fond closed yesterday with an awards ceremony celebrating the best two projects from Nordic graduation film students.

The Nordic Talents Pitch Prize of NOK 250,000 was awarded to the Norwegian Film School's graduate Hazhir Ibrahim for his documentary project ***KOLBAR***.

A 16-year old boy is working on the border between Iran and Iraq. In order to make more money and fulfil his dream, he has to start smuggling goods across the border and to be a 'Kolbar'.

The Nordic Talents jury consisting of director Amanda Kernell (Sweden), writer and showrunner Sigurjón Kjartansson (RVK Studios, Iceland), documentary filmmaker Eva Mulvad (Danish Documentary, Denmark), producer Jussi Rantamäki (Aamu Film Company, Finland) and executive producer/commissioning editor Tone Rønning (NRK, Norway) said in its statement:

"The main prize goes to a film, with a strong cinematic ambition. It will take us on a ride out of the privileged comfort zone and give voice to those who no one listens to.

"In the cold mountains on the border of Iraq, children have to grow up fast. Not many options are left for them. In this no man's land, the best

option to make a living is a job as a smuggler, which might send you to prison or to your death on a steep mountainside – or maybe you will earn enough to go back to school. A slice of life that is invisible but relevant to us in the Nordic countries, as we are multi-cultural societies. The creator has a clear message to the world: It is not until you have a place in the media, that you have a place in society.

“We are sure that the director Hazhir Ibrahim with the film *KOLBAR* can bring us a heart-wrecking and hopeful story from the snowy mountains, where he himself spent his childhood.”

The NOK 50,000 Nordic Talents Special Mention Prize was awarded to the Norwegian Film School graduates, director Kerren Lumer-Klabbers and writer Emil Wahl for the fiction project ***WOMAN WALKING***.

When a woman starts walking around on a field in an apparently meaningless pattern, her family and the local community goes crazy in the attempt to find out why.

The jury said in its statement: "The Special Mention goes to a pan-Nordic team that struck us as dynamic and with a creative energy between them. It is a project where an absurd event lets us see behind the curtain of a dysfunctional family. The project needs developing, but the unique mix of absurdity and psychological realism, together with the craftsmanship that they both have shown in their graduation film *PAPAPA* was so intriguing that the jury has decided to give the Special Mention to director Kerren Lumer-Klabbers and writer Emil Wahl for the project *WOMAN WALKING*."

Both the Nordic Talents Pitch Prize and Special Mention Prize are development grants from the Nordisk Film & TV Fond.

A total of 15 projects from six Nordic film schools were pitched online to around 200 virtual participants, between October 21-22.

Nordic Talents' highlights were also a Producers Pitch from eight top Nordic companies and a Keynote from internationally-renowned entertainment lawyer Christoph Fey.

Celebrating this year its 20th anniversary, Nordic Talents is a unique stepping stone for Nordic film graduates wishing to enter the film and TV industry.

Nordisk Film & TV Fond's annual event usually co-organised by the National Film School of Denmark and held within its premises, was originally due to unspool September 2-3, 2020.

For further information on Nordic Talents, including projects presented and our catalogue from the event [CLICK HERE](#).

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About Nordisk Film & TV Fond

Oslo-based Nordisk Film & TV Fond is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2020. The Fund's primary purpose is to strengthen the Nordic audio-visual industry by top financing feature films, drama series and creative documentaries and by supporting, cross-border Nordic distribution. It also finances special initiatives to promote international networking.

The Fund is the main sponsor of the Nordisk Film & TV Fond Prize and administrates the Nordic Council Film Prize, besides co-organizing Nordic Talents. Nordisk Film & TV Fond is funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers, five national film institutes, and 16 broadcasters and streaming services within the Nordic region.



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