



Congratulations to Afarin Eghbal for winning the jury award for the best short film at the British Shorts Film Festival in Berlin 2013 with *Abuelas*.

"In a small apartment in Buenos Aires, an old woman eagerly awaits the birth of her grandchild and all the joys of becoming a grandmother. However, horrific circumstances mean that she will be forced to wait for over 30 years. Using real-life testimonials this animated-documentary raises issues of memory, repression and loss."

Here is what the jury had to say about the film:

The winner of the jury award at this year's British Shorts film festival is *Abuelas* by Afarin Eghbal. The films that were nominated for this year's festival edition vary a lot in character. They are all very original pieces, which made it difficult to choose a winner.

***Abuelas* playfully deals with a political theme by using a wide range of filmic elements without losing the importance and historical significance of the subject matter.**

The bilingual use of language in the film, the animation of real objects and persons with the stylistic approach of combining black-and-white with colour are elements we feel bring the vivid memories of these grandmothers to life. We are drawn into a family's daily life, into their home, where everything is marked by the tragic event that ultimately changed and became the main focus of their lives.

***Abuelas* is truly a very moving film, probably the most moving one in the selection of nominees for this award, more so because it never drifts into sentimentality and leaves plenty of room for the imaginings of the audience.**

Afarin Eghbal, who animated, directed and co-wrote this film is a student at the National Film and Television School and *Abuelas* is her graduation film. She says about herself that she is "experimenting and trying to close the gap between animation and documentary film by using mixed-media to explore complex social and political issues through a non-polemic narrative.

We think she is very successful in doing so and are happy that the 300 Euro prize money, coming with this award, will be used by her for a new film project."

The Jury:

Cynthia Beatt, filmmaker (*Cycling the Frame, The Invisible Frame*)

George Lindt, documentary filmmaker (*Beijing Bubbles*)

Axel Hartwig, actor (*Puppe, Icke und der Dicke*)