

Winner of the British Shorts Jury Award 2020: The Devil's Harmony by Dylan Holmes Williams



Jury Statement

Unconscious students scattered on the refectory floor, and no one cares. Stranger things never happened. But then again this world seems to follow different rules. All too well-known is the precise demarcation between winners and losers in school. With a main character – truthfully, sensitive and strongly performed by Patsy Ferran – who wants to share a secret with the viewer and who just wants to be seen. The voices of an a capella choir serve her as the medium for resistance against the bullies. All of this portrayed in a flawless cinematic language.

Here we are, four jury members, by accident sharing with each other a fondness for simplicity and clearness, awarding a very complex and in parts counter-intuitive film. But that fascinating world it creates, playfully mixing Coming of Age, mystery, musical and dark comedy, drawing lines to socio-political topics of alienation, class, the educational system and a sense of the dangers of school-shootings, bewitched us to give it our main award. Congratulations to Dylan Holmes Williams and his team for THE DEVIL'S HARMONY!

The Jury

Lukas Feigelfeld – Writer and director (Hagazussa)

Erik Lemke – Director (Berlin Excelior) and editor

Ekaterina Reinbold – Director (где остался домово́й / Standing In Front Of Many Houses)

Kristin Suckow – Actress (Lux – Warrior of Light)