

Babyteeth wins the 2020 Transilvania Trophy

The festival in numbers

The **19th edition of the Transilvania International Film Festival**, the first major film festival to take place in the region in this period ended on Sunday, August 9, with two sold-out screenings of the French comedy ***Delete History*** (r. Benoît Delépine, Gustave Kervern). Even in conditions of increased safety, and organized exclusively outdoors, the largest film event in Romania attracted, between July 31 and August 9, a number of **45,000 participants**. For ten days, film lovers watched 157 films, from 49 countries, presented late into the night in 232 screenings (from around 400 in 2019), in 14 partner locations in Cluj-Napoca.

More than 50 events were sold out, with the opening film ***La Belle Époque*** by Nicolas Bedos on top of the list, with more than 1000 sold tickets for the three parallel screenings. The occupancy rate remained high - 61% compared to 63 % last year. According to the rules in place in Romania, the maximum number of participants aloud per event is 500. The entire festival was organized according to social distancing regulations and taking all relevant safety precautions, setting an example for similar large events.

“It was a simple but at the same time complicated edition; stressful, but ultimately comforting; what seemed complicated at first was simplified throughout the festival; what seemed absurd, gained relative normalcy. It was an ambivalent edition, a special edition. Personally, I wish we wouldn’t have to go through this again, but I’m the type who always looks at the bright side of things,” says Artistic Director Mihai Chirilov.

The best films and filmmakers of this year’s edition were rewarded Saturday, August 8, at the awards gala, which took place outdoors, in Cluj-Napoca’s Unirii Square for the first time in the festival’s history. **Shannon Murphy’s** debut film ***Babyteeth***, starring Eliza Scanlen won the **Transilvania Trophy** “for the joy of life told through the experience of our passage beyond”. The **Audience Award** voted on by TIFF ticket-holders, also went the same film as the jury award: ***Babyteeth***. Both awards were picked up by the films Romanian distributors, Bad Unicorn.

The official competition jury, made up of producer Ada Solomon, director Adina Pintilie, actor András Hatházi, playwright Csaba Székely, and writer Philip O Ceallaigh also picked the *ex-aequo* winners for the Best Directing Award: **Tim Mielants’s *Patrick*** and **Zheng Lu Xinyuan, for *The Cloud In Her Room***. For her “incisive foray into the private life of a woman in crisis,” actress **Evgeniya Gromova**, the star of ***Fidelity***, received the Best Performance Award. The Special Jury Award was won to Svetla Tsotsorkova’s ***Sister***. The Romanian Days Award for Best Feature Film went to **Radu Ciorniciuc**, the director of ***Acasă, My Home*** and the Romanian Days Award for Best Debut went to **Dorian Boguță’s *Legacy***. A special mention went to **Ivana Mladenović** for ***Ivana the Terrible***.

The **FIPRESCI Prize** offered by the International Federation of Film Critics to a title in the Romanian Film Days section went to ***Everything Will Not Be Fine/ Totul nu va fi bine***, Adrian Pîrvu and Helena Maksyom's documentary road movie that follows the lives of young people affected by the Chernobyl disaster. Andrei Zință's ***So, What's Freedom?*** received the Romanian Days Audience Award.

The **Transilvania Pitch Stop** platform, which took place partially online, awarded the **Eurimages Co-production Development Award**, valued at 20,000 euros, to the project ***Kretsul***, directed by Alexandra Likhacheva and produced by Anna Shalashina. Post-production services valued at 25,000 euros and offered by **Chainsaw Europe**, went to the project ***Panopticon***, directed by George Sikharulidze and produced by Vladimer Katcharava. The Transilvania Pitch Stop Award went to ***Blue Banks***, directed by Andreea Cristina Borțun and produced by Gabriela Suciuc-Pădurețu. And the Transilvania Pitch Stop Workshop gave the Transilvania Pitch Stop CoCo Award, offered by the Connecting Cottbus Co-Production Market, to the project ***Sep & Ana***, directed by Paul Cioran and produced by Claudiu Mitcu.