



70th Locarno Festival 2017

JURY ŒCUMÉNIQUE – ECUMENICAL JURY

Since 1973 SIGNIS, the World Catholic Association for Communication, and INTERFILM, the International Inter Church Film Organization are present with an Ecumenical Jury at the Locarno Festival. Both Organizations appoint together Ecumenical Juries at numerous film festivals.

In Locarno the jury is composed of six members from different countries and cultures, working as film journalists, critics, theologians, researchers or teachers. Coming from the Catholic, Protestant, Anglican or Orthodox Churches the members are open to inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue. The jury members are completely independent in their decisions. During the festival they meet to analyse and comment on the films.

The Ecumenical Jury has a particular perspective. It awards prizes (as well as commendations) to directors who have shown genuine talent and succeeded in portraying human experience that is in harmony with the gospel or in sensitising viewers to spiritual, human or social questions and values. It honours works of high cinematographic quality, which bear witness to the power of film as an artistic medium for communication and visual expression.

It draws attention to those works of quality which touch the spiritual dimension of our existence, expressing the values of justice, human dignity, respect for the environment, peace and solidarity. These values, shared in all cultures, are also those of the Gospel. In its choices the Ecumenical Jury has shown openness to cultural, social or religious diversity.

In Locarno the award included a prize money of **20.000 CHF** – provided by the Reformed Churches and the Catholic Church of Switzerland – is committed to the film's distribution in Switzerland.

The members of the Ecumenical Jury at the 70th Locarno Festival 2017

Monique Beguin, Cannes (France)
Arielle Domon, Montpellier (France)
Lukas Jirsa, Prague (Czech Republic)
Robert K. Johnston, Pasadena (USA)
Joachim Valentin, Frankfurt a/M (Germany) - President
Rinke Van Hell, Utrecht (The Netherlands)

► Further information: www.inter-film.org – www.signis.net

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Monique Beguin, Cannes (France)

Monique Beguin (*1950), after studying management and accounting, works at the direction of an architectural firm and as an executive assistant for the manufacturing, import-export and marketing of jewels. She took part in the organization of the Ecumenical Jury in Cannes since 1994 - in charge of public relations since 1996, then responsible for the organization of the Ecumenical Juries stand. She supported in 2004 the creation of SIGNIS Cannes, becoming its president and co-manager of the stand. In 1995, she participated in the creation of the film club Cine Envol, which aims to promote the award-winning films of the major film festivals, and has been its vice-president for 15 years.



Arielle Domon, Montpellier (France)

Arielle Domon (*1955) studied sociology in Montpellier with a cinema option, then she worked as bookseller in Paris (international art). Since 2011 she is assistant to the Executive Secretariat for Project Management employed by *Cevaa-Community of Churches in Mission*. She is member of the governing body of *Pro-Fil*, and of the editorial Board of the review "Vu de Pro-Fil". Member of the selection committee for the annual *Christian Film Festival* of the association "Chrétiens et Culture" in Montpellier, she takes also part in the *Swiss Film Week* in Montpellier of the association "C'est-rare-film". Participated at the festivals Fespaco in Ouagadougou and Cannes. Member of the Ecumenical Jury at *FIFF* 2010.



Lukas Jirsa, Prague (Czech Republic)

Lukas Jirsa (*1981) works for the non-commercial Christian television Noe (Telepace s.r.o.). He studied French and theory of culture at the Charles University of Prague. The subject of his PhD thesis was "Sociological imagination and film in a culturological perspective". He writes film reviews for the Czech Catholic weekly and is editor of the Christian Academy's revue *UNIVERSUM*. He runs a film club "Spirituality and film" in the Prague's Municipal Library, and is a FIPRESCI member. Representing SIGNIS Czech Republic, he was already member of Ecumenical Juries at Zlin, Karlovy Vary, Cannes, Warsaw and Berlin.



Robert K. Johnston, Pasadena (USA)

Robert K. Johnston (*1945) is Professor of Theology and Culture at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena (Ca) and Co-Director of Fuller's Reel Spirituality Institute. The author or editor of fifteen books, Johnston's works include the most widely used texts on religion and film, for example *Reel Spirituality: Theology and Film in Dialogue* (2000, 2006). He is the co-editor of both the *Engaging Culture* and the *Exegeting Culture* series for Baker Academic Books, as well as the *Religion and Film* series for Routledge. A past president of the American Theological Society and the recipient of two major research grants from the Luce Foundation, Johnston is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Covenant Church.



Joachim Valentin, Frankfurt a/M (Germany) - President

Joachim Valentin (*1965) studied theology, philosophy and classical philology in Freiburg i/Br. After attaining his PhD in 1996, he qualified as a professor in fundamental theology and the history of religion in Freiburg i/Br. in 2004. Since 2005 he is leading director of the Roman Catholic cultural and meeting centre *Haus am Dom* in Frankfurt/Main and since 2008 has been teaching as a professor of Christian religious and cultural theory at the Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main. He is a member of the Film Commission and an advisor to the Publicistic Commission of the German Bishops' Conference and repeatedly joined the Ecumenical Jury at Locarno and Berlin as well as the SIGNIS-Jury in Venice as its president. Among his latest publications as editor and co-author are *Räume, Körper und Ikonen. (Post-) Konfessionelle Filmikonographien*, Marburg 2013, and *Filmbilder des Islam*, Marburg 2014.



Rinke van Hell, Utrecht (The Netherlands)

Rinke van Hell (*1977) is a practical theologian with an expertise in cinema. After her MA in Language and Culture (specialty Film) she worked briefly for the International Film Festival Rotterdam. She was programmer and marketer for several cinemas for ten years. In 2016 she finished her PhD in Practical Theology on the topic of religious identity and narrative film viewing. She currently works as lecturer for Theology and Culture and researcher at the Christian University of Applied Sciences in Ede and as an affiliated researcher for the Evangelical Theological Faculty in Leuven (Belgium), and is a freelance film critic for the *Nederlands Dagblad* and other magazines.