

CRITICS' CHOICE AWARD

Jury: Friederike Horstmann, Cargo, Perlentaucher, critic.de; Nele S. Kayser, Nowhen, Jugend ohne Film; Danny Marques Marçalo, NDR

This film – *Let Us Through, Dear Ancestors* by Lav Diaz – has been with us all week. We admire its narrative mastery and its courage to leave things unsaid: a dramaturgy that takes the voice-over into account. The shimmering texture of the images gives rise to a world that is sensually concrete yet strangely impenetrable. Within the dense interweaving of colonialism, patriarchy and Christianisation, the mechanisms of systemic oppression of the indigenous population become visible. Told through distanced shots, this anti-colonial epic has moved us deeply.