

HAMBURG PRODUCERS AWARD FOR GERMAN TELEVISION FILMS

Jury Vic So Hee Alz, screenwriter and dramaturg; Anne Ratte-Polle, actor; Maren Knieling producer/Florida Film

In this category, we were dealing with a wide variety of films: classically budgeted television films, established series formats, and debut works in the emerging talent programme. In other words, productions of very different scales and with very different parameters.

For us, this meant assessing the production quality of each film in the context of its own unique circumstances.

There were some truly outstanding films that do not look away when society would rather look the other way. Films that make visible the people who have become invisible. Not because they are invisible, but because we choose not to look.

The film we have selected tells the story of characters who could not be more different, and yet have more in common than first meets the eye. What begins as a chance encounter develops into a fateful shared moment and becomes an alliance between two women who remind each other and show what it means to uphold one's own integrity.

It is a film about dignity in precarious circumstances. About solidarity that is simply there. It places its trust in closeness. In principles. In magical moments between people. All the characters in the film, including the supporting ones, think and act – in all their contradictions – on a very fine line, reflecting the current social situation. It does not judge, it does not explain; it strikes a chord deep in the heart. And it does so with a very subtle, very warm and sharp sense of humour.

We are honouring a television film – a strong debut in the emerging talent programme, which successfully strikes a balance between sensitivity and pathos, drama and humour, and authentic and magical storytelling.

Markus Mayr, with his fledgling production company MÄKSMY Films, has, despite very limited resources, given the creative team the space and trust to tell this film in such an independent, intense and multi-layered way.

The Hamburg Producers Award for German Television Films goes to **Markus Mayr** of MÄKSMY Films for: *LORD*.