

HAMBURG PRODUCERS AWARDS GERMAN CINEMA

Jury: Johannes Hegemann, actor; Sonja Heiss, director and writer; Solmaz Azizi, producer, Zentropa Germany

The Hamburg Producers Award for German Cinema goes to producers **Tristan Bähre** and **Philipp Maron** (Maverick Film) for the film *I spy with my little eye* (director: Alisa Kolosova; screenplay: Judith Rose Gyabaah). The film captivated the jury

The film immediately draws you in. From the very first second, we are right in the thick of the story. We live, feel and breathe alongside the characters. The atmosphere is intense, not always pleasant, at times gruelling and painful, but suffering alongside the characters is also a special quality of this film. It has an effect on you that is hard to describe, but you can still feel it long, long afterwards.

The film doesn't try too hard, and that is precisely why it works. It is the emotional honesty, the psychological precision, the depth – without ever slipping into over-dramatisation – that makes it work. It is not the dramatic gestures or words. The screenplay conveys a great deal without it being explicitly stated in the dialogue; it draws you in and carries you further and further, without relying on plot, purely through its psychological and emotional depth, its subtle, authentic dialogue, its precise observation of human conflicts and emotions, and the distinctive images and small moments that tell us so much about life.

The direction and the acting are subtle and delicate, precise, and never over the top, yet all the more powerful for it. Not a single word or sentence feels scripted – the actors' performances are that fantastic. The film is superbly cast; it's impossible to imagine any of the characters being played by anyone else, and yet the casting isn't straightforward.

Formal devices are utilised to perfection: the music, the editing, the heat that permeates the images in this sad summer, in this difficult life. By the end, we find ourselves reflecting on our own lives, viewing certain things from a different perspective, and asking ourselves whether we would have done things right or differently. And that, after all, is what makes good films so wonderful.

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Congratulations!