

NDR YOUNG TALENT AWARD

Student jury: Marie Hügél, Kaan Çelimli, Sarah Pommerening

The Night is Fading Away depicts the everyday life of Pelu, a humble cinema night watchman, and thereby offers us a sensitive and down-to-earth glimpse behind the scenes, without succumbing to the spectacle of conventional cinema. Instead, we witness how a cinema can become a place of refuge for Pelu and for people who would otherwise have little access to such a space. After all, not everything needs to become bigger, faster or more lucrative. The social divide that the film brings to light is never exhibited or explained, but is simply part of its characters' everyday lives.

Cinema must provide space for independent and unguided thought by presenting us with images that encourage us to reflect. This is precisely what the winning film achieves for us. It places its trust in our ability to interpret situations and images for ourselves and to tolerate their ambivalence.

The Night is Fading Away symbolises all the films that have been nominated for the NDR Young Talent Award and are given a platform through cinema as a public space. Every film has an audience on the other side who laugh, cry, persevere, or perhaps simply doze off for a moment – which is perfectly fine, as the film by the two Argentine directors proves. After all, the beauty of cinema lies in the fact that each of us is free to experience a film in our own unique way.