

We Believe You' wins the Golden Giralddillo of the 22nd Seville European Film Festival

The debut feature directed and written by the Belgians Charlotte Devillers and Arnaud Dufeys has also received the award for Best Screenplay, Best Actress for Myriem Akeddiou, and the AAMMA Women in Focus Award as ex aequo.

The Puerta América Award has gone to 'Sentimental Value', by Norwegian filmmaker Joachim Trier.

'DJ Ahmet', by Georgi M. Unkovski, wins the Grand Jury Prize and the award for Best Actor for its young protagonist, Arif Jakup.

'The Anatomy of Horses', the dazzling debut feature by Daniel Vidal Toche, receives the Award for Best Cinematography for Angello Faccini and Best Production Design for Juan Pablo Garay.

The American filmmaker of Palestinian origin Cherien Dabis receives the Best Director award for 'All That's Left of You'.

The director and screenwriter Marc Ortiz, who competed in the Rampa section with 'Els mals noms', has been the winner of the AC/E Award for Best Direction of a Spanish Film.

Seville, 15 November 2025.— The Seville European Film Festival has announced the winning film of its 22nd edition in an event held this morning at the Three Cultures Foundation. It is 'We Believe You', the debut feature by the Belgians **Charlotte Devillers and Arnaud Dufeys**. The jury of the Official Section, composed of **Lynda Myles (president), John Coven, Bonnie Volland, Laura Hojman and Nacho Martínez-Useros**, has decided that the Golden Giralddillo for Best Film should go to this intense and contained film that portrays a mother's struggle to protect her children from their father in a justice system that places the focus on her. The jury highlighted the film's bravery, "which turns a judicial process into a collective reflection on systemic violence, vulnerability, and empathy."

Shot in a single location —the courts— and with a central scene —almost an hour long— filmed in real time, it shows how the exhausting nature of legal procedures amplifies trauma. **Charlotte Devillers and Arnaud Dufeys** have also received the Best Screenplay award for 'We Believe You', for "building tension from the

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intimate and the contained, and managing to reveal all the institutional violence.” The film has also added a third Giralddillo, that of Best Actress, for its lead, **Myriem Akeddiou**, “for a performance with deep emotional weight that carries the entire film and conveys with every gesture the intimate truth of the character, gripping the viewer tightly.”

Filmmaker **Georgi M. Unkovski**, for his part, has won with his film ‘DJ Ahmet’ the Grand Jury Prize “for its mix of humor, tenderness and vitality” and “for creating a story about identity, tradition and freedom.” In addition, he has won the Best Actor award for young **Arif Jakup**, who plays a 15-year-old teenager from a remote village who finds refuge in electronic music, “for a performance that combines freshness, tenderness and truth, naturally embodying the search for freedom and one’s own identity.”

The Best Director award has gone to the American filmmaker of Palestinian descent **Cherien Dabis** for ‘All That’s Left of You’, a fiction about a Palestinian family saga spanning three generations, from 1948 to 2022, which she directs, writes and stars in. The jury grants her this award “for an ambitious direction that explores the history of a family saga with a sensitive look at trauma.”

‘The Anatomy of Horses’, the dazzling debut feature by **Daniel Vidal Toche**, which explores the meaning of revolution through the centuries and its current dismantling, has also been recognised by the jury, and has received the Award for Best Cinematography for **Angello Faccini** “for work that reconfigures space and time and gives the image great poetic and dreamlike density”, as well as Best Production Design for **Juan Pablo Garay** “for his ability to build his own visual universe and an atmosphere that connects ritual with history, memory and landscape.”

The list of winners of the Official Section is completed with the award for Best Editing for **Hansjörg Weissbrich** for his work on ‘Night Shift’, by filmmaker **Petra Volpe**, a film chosen to represent Switzerland at the Oscars. The film, shot with long takes that follow its protagonist through the rooms and corridors of a health centre, receives this award “for precise and rhythmic editing that maintains the tension and narrative pulse of the work, combining the suffocating with the intimate and the human.”

Puerta América Award, Embrujo, EFA Selection, AC/E Award, Rampa and Alumbramiento

It is the second time that the Seville Festival grants the Puerta América Award, for which the films from the different sections of the festival that represent their

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respective countries in the Oscar race for Best International Feature were eligible, and which has gone to 'Sentimental Value', by Norwegian filmmaker **Joachim Trier**: "This work stands out for its remarkable narrative quality, transforming the intimate into something genuinely universal. Its visual boldness and subtle meta-cinematic layers reveal a deep understanding of the expressive power of the medium. The cast offers a beautifully cohesive performance, embodying the essence of pure cinema. With uncommon emotional depth, the film turns everyday gestures into a mirror in which we cannot help but recognise ourselves", reads the jury's decision.

'Life after Siham', by **Namir Abdel Messeeh**, author of this auto-fiction of finely tuned language, where he manages to transform his grief into a journey through cinematic memory, suggesting that this resurrecting art always finds its way, has been chosen as Best Film of the Embrujo section. The jury chose this film "for portraying the grief and loss of a mother with sensitivity, humility and a tender sense of humor wrapped in a beautiful homage to cinema. A round-trip journey to the roots that shows that filmmaking can heal wounds across geographic and budgetary borders, as long as there is hell, talent and love on the big screen."

On the other hand, the Public Grand Prize for Best Film of the European Film Academy Selection, awarded by votes from the public of the section, has gone to 'Little Amélie', a French production directed by **Maïlys Vallade and Liane-Cho Han**, with a screenplay by **Liane-Cho Han, Aude Py, Maïlys Vallade and Eddine Noël**, which adapts the autofiction novel 'Metaphysics of the Tubes', where the great Belgian writer Amélie Nothomb recalls episodes from her childhood in Japan.

Filmmaker **Marc Ortiz**, who competed in the Rampa section with 'Els mals noms', has been the winner of the AC/E Award for Best Direction of a Spanish Film, granted by Acción Cultural Española, "for his ability to articulate a human and complex story from the rural periphery, humanizing historically stigmatised figures and addressing with sensitivity historical memory, diversity and non-normative sexualities, as well as the value of territorial identities."

The jury of the Rampa section has recognised as Best Film 'My Father's Shadow', the debut feature by British director and screenwriter **Akinola Davies Jr.**, "a film that, with its narrative solidity and formal maturity, achieves an exciting story that opens our eyes to new realities", as well as "a moving proposal with characters and actors who embody them full of humanity", the jury indicates.

In the Alumbramiento section, a jury made up of students from university centres in Seville has decided to award Best Film to 'Renovation', the first solo feature by

Lithuanian screenwriter and director **Gabrielė Urbonaitė**, “for the proposal of spatial and sincere construction that manages to generate a final, personal and global setting. Its sound and rhythmic sensitivity compose a portrait of the existential crisis of adulthood”, the decision states.

The jury has decided to grant the award for Best Live-Action Short Film to ‘In Her Arms’, by **Roman Volosevych**, a prize with which the jury values “formal innovation, political commitment and aesthetic choice at the same level” in this film “made and produced in Ukraine”. The award for Best Animated Short Film has gone to ‘The Bird from Within’, by filmmaker **Laura Anahory**, a work that has “seduced” the jury “because it can serve as a tool to start conversations about suicide and mental illness”.

Andalusian Panorama and other awards

The Juan Antonio Bermúdez Award for Best Fiction Film of Andalusian Panorama has gone to ‘Golpes’, by **Rafael Cobos**, “for being the confirmation of the talent of a filmmaker who has enormously enriched the Andalusian cinematic landscape.” Likewise, the jury of this section has granted ‘Tiempo entre olivos’, by **Fany de la Chica**, the award for Best Documentary “for the revelation of a new gaze on the Andalusian rural territory.” The jury has also granted a special mention to ‘No sea tu falta’, directed by Moisés Salama and co-written with Miguel Ángel Oeste, “for the discovery of a society, that of Melilla, from a precise and personal perspective, and for the patrimonial richness of the images it shows.”

The Rosario Valpuesta Award for Best Short Film of Andalusian Panorama has gone to ‘Allí, lejos de aquí’, by **Pedro Gondi**, “for its commitment to European cinematic tradition, highlighting the value of the pure image over the word”; while the Special Rosario Valpuesta Award for Artistic Contribution in Values in this same section has been granted to ‘Las desqueridas’, by **Charlie García Villalba and Gonzalo Ruiz Esteban**, “for being a sincere and necessary portrait of sisterhood.”

The ASECAN jury has decided to grant ex aequo its two awards of this edition. On one hand, the Best Feature Screenplay Award to ‘Golpes’, written by **Fernando Navarro and Rafael Cobos** —also director—, “for the construction of complex characters and a dynamic plot in Seville during the Transition, which shows us the need to close wounds by reconciling with the past”; and to ‘Los pinceles de la baronesa’, written and directed by **Mauricio Angulo and Julio Muñoz**. The jury justified the decision “for leading us to discover, through the story of a character very unknown to the general public, the other reality of the

art market, with a dynamic rhythm and an attractive visual proposal thanks to the use of pictorial artworks.”

This jury has granted the Best Short Film Screenplay award to ‘Acción, figuración’, by **Pablo Cueto**, also the author of the screenplay, “for its originality in putting the focus on a sector of the industry that usually appears out of focus and doing so in a very visual way, almost without dialogue, and in a humorous tone”; and to ‘Discordia’, co-written by its director, **Álvaro Amate, and Jaime Tígeras**. In this case, the jury has decided to grant this award “for a very solid screenplay that addresses with great sensitivity a family conflict, achieving high dramatic intensity concentrated practically in a single sequence.”

The call for the 18th European University of Seville Film-Screenplay Prize in the fiction category has produced a first prize for ‘El infinito tiene hambre’, by **Alejandro Ruiz Padín**; and a second prize in the non-fiction category for ‘Nadie quiere enterrarte’, by **Matías García Martín**.

The jury of the AAMMA Women in Focus Award has decided to grant ex aequo this distinction to the winner of the Golden Giralddillo, ‘We Believe You’, with screenplay and direction by **Charlotte Devillers and Arnaud Dufey**s, and to ‘The Girls We Want’, by French filmmaker **Princia Car**, programmed in the Alumbramiento section, because “both films embody, in their own way, the values that inspire this section: the urgent need to listen, to believe and to accompany; and the importance of imagining new ways of existing for the women who come after.”

‘Els mals noms’, directed and written by **Marc Ortiz**, which was screened in the Rampa section, has been the winner of the Queer Ocaña Award, “for its endearing, beautiful and shocking portrait of Florencio Pla, a man marked by his intersexuality, who became a legend in a Spain marked by the hatred of the civil war.”

The Europa Junior Award, granted by the festival’s youngest spectators through voting, goes this edition to ‘Mascotas al rescate’, a French animated production directed by **Benoît Daffis and Jean-Christian Tassy**, with screenplay by **David Alaux, Jean-François Tosti and Éric Tosti**. In turn, the Cinephiles of the Future Award has gone to another animated film: the Spanish-American co-production ‘Bella’, directed by **Manuel H. Martín** —also co-author of the screenplay along with **Carmen Jiménez**— and **Amparo Martínez Barco**.

Closing with a musical evening by the Royal Seville Symphony Orchestra

The 22nd Seville European Film Festival will close this Saturday, 15 November, its programme with a monographic evening focused on the dialogue between music and cinema. The Royal Seville Symphony Orchestra (ROSS) will conclude the Seville Festival with *Spain is... cinema!* The soundtrack of our lives. The programme, promoted in collaboration with the Seville Festival, offers an unusual experience: listening to the music of iconic films, distilling its sonic essence. In this way, the scores emerge with all their expressive richness, revealing details, nuances and emotions that often remain inevitably in the background.

With *Spain is... cinema!* —at 8:00 p.m. at the Cartuja Center CITE— the ROSS pays tribute to the musical heritage of Spanish cinema through composers who have had a very special prominence, contributing to the sonic imagery of several generations: from titles such as *El hombre y la Tierra*, *Anillos de oro* or *Monsignor Quixote* by Antón García Abril to *The Skin I Live In* (suite for violin and orchestra) by Alberto Iglesias, passing through *Ocho apellidos vascos* by Fernando Velázquez; *Verano Azul* by Carmelo Bernaola or *Nine Letters to Berta* (suite) by Carmelo Bernaola and Gerardo Gombau. An extensive and unforgettable repertoire performed with the mastery and sensitivity of the ROSS under the direction of **Lucas Macías** and together with the Musical Association CÓDICE, directed by **Esther Sanzo**.

‘Chopin, Chopin!’, the new film by renowned Polish director and **producer Michał Kwieciński**, responsible for works such as *Katyń*, nominated for the Academy Award, will be the closing film. With a screenplay by **Bartosz Janiszewski** and one of the major European super-productions of the year, it offers a passionate and vibrant portrait of the Polish piano genius **Fryderyk Chopin**, whom the filmmaker describes as a true rock star in the middle of Romanticism.

Its premiere at the Festival, at the Cervantes Theatre, will feature the presence of **Michał Kwieciński** himself and the lead actor **Eryk Kulm**, who will accompany the audience in this eagerly awaited end of the edition. The public attending the film’s premiere at the Seville Festival will be welcomed with a very special surprise: a recital by young Polish pianist **Wiktor Gaśior**, an internationally renowned performer awarded in more than thirty national and international competitions, offered by the **Polish Institute of Culture** in the lobby of the Cervantes Theatre before the screening. The presence in Seville of director **Michał Kwieciński**, actor **Eryk Kulm** and the director of the Polish Institute of Culture, **María Ślebioda**, is possible thanks to the support of this institution, which actively collaborates with the Seville Festival in promoting Polish cinema and culture.

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Screening of the winning films

As is traditional, the winning films of this edition of the Seville Festival may be seen in two special sessions, which will take place tomorrow Sunday, 16 November, at the Cervantes Cinema. Thus, at 5:30 p.m. the award for Best Animated Short Film, 'The Bird from Within', directed by **Laura Anahory** and written by **Laura Anahory, Ana Anahory and Guilherme Mateus**, will be screened, followed by 'My Father's Shadow', Award for Best Film of the Rampa section, directed by **Akinola Davies Jr.** and co-written by Wale Davies. At 8:30 p.m. the Golden Giralillo for Best Film of the festival, 'We Believe You', written and directed by **Charlotte Devillers and Arnaud Dufeys**, may be enjoyed, preceded by the award for Best Live-Action Short Film, 'In Her Arms', written and directed by **Roman Volosevych**.

[COMPLETE WINNERS LIST](#)

[PRESS MATERIALS FOR THE AWARD-WINNING FILMS](#)

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