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Winners of the 17th FiSH film festival

17th edition of FiSH took place fully online, from May 1 to 8, 2020

The programme consisted of **45 short films** from Germany and the Baltic Sea region. The films, divided into two competition categories, were complemented by **jury discussions** and more than **140 reviews** from film experts and professionals (including Andreas Dresen, Susanne Bormann, Christian Schwochow, and many more). Opportunities for fruitful exchange were provided by various **virtual events**, such as Youth Cinema Network (YCN) Conference with representatives from film festivals from more than 20 countries (including a large number of European festivals and participants from Brazil, Canada and India).

The **Film of the Year**, main prize in the German competition **JUNGER FILM**, was awarded to the 21-year-old **Juli-an Carly** from Ludwigsburg for his documentary essay **"Weissabgleich"/"White Balance"**. The Film of the Year is funded with a total of **€7000**, sponsored by the Hanseatic City of Rostock and the State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The GoldFiSH, each funded with **€1000**, were given to **Bela Brillowska** (14 years old, Hamburg, film "Becky's weightloss palace"), **Leonard Geisler** (24 years old, Berlin, film "Moderne Liebe"/"Modern Love"), and **Jelena Ilic** (25 years old, Cologne, film "Euphrat"). **Maximilian Glas** (21 years old, Berlin) and his documentary film "Darauf reimt sich Tütiti"/"It Rhymes With Tütiti" were recognized with the **Sputnik Award**, funded with **€500** and sponsored by the association Kulturkosmos Müritze. The **DiamondFiSH** sponsored by Eco Diamond LCC went to Dennis Lehner and Tobias Mundigl (17 years old, Alteglofsheim) for "The Search". This prize has been awarded by a **pupil jury** to a filmmaker under the age of 21 annually since 2019.

The very first **YOUNG BALTIC CINEMA AWARD** went to **Matthe Kalbakk Elgaard** (20 years old, Denmark) for his short film **"Field Trip"**. This award is aimed at young filmmakers from the Baltic Sea region and is funded with a total of **€1000**, sponsored again by the Hanseatic City of Rostock and the State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

The comprehensive Audience Award was determined by **online voting** and went to **"The Shepherd"** by **Brwa Vahab-pour** (24 years old, Norway). The monetary award was collected from the online ticket proceeds and donations, and reached up to **€1021,66**.

The short films and virtual events of FiSH online received more than **7400 views** from visitors from **25 countries worldwide**. The patronage of the festival was once again taken over by Manuela Schwesig, the minister-president of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

