

PRESS RELEASE

Open call for fifth Baumi Script Development Award

- **Development grant for outstanding international cinematic stories**
- **Applications until 15 October to www.baumi-award.com**
- **This year's guest juror is the Polish filmmaker Małgorzata Szumowska**

Düsseldorf / Cologne, 17.09.2019. Today sees the launch of the open call for the Baumi Script Development Award for the development of outstanding cinematic stories. As from today, German and international writers can submit applications to www.baumi-award.com for the € 20,000 grant.

Initiated in 2015 by Martina and Sandra Baumgartner, Pandora Film and the Film- und Medienstiftung NRW, the Award aims to facilitate free and independent script development and, at the same time, honour the memory of the film producer and distributor Karl "Baumi" Baumgartner and pay tribute to his special sense for stories and high-quality arthouse cinema.

The condition for participation is that one should have had at least one screenplay filmed, and since this year it is obligatory to submit applications along with a production company attached. Also new this year are the simplified application documents. A synopsis (3 – max. 5 pages) only must be submitted in English. The Award consists of a prize sculpture and the prize-money for the further script development. The Award is presented during the 2020 Berlinale.

A jury with three "permanent" members - **Martina Baumgartner**, **Reinhard Brundig** (Pandora Film) and **Petra Müller** (Film- und Medienstiftung NRW) - and one annually alternating guest juror - chooses the winner from among the applications.

This year the Polish filmmaker **Małgorzata Szumowska** will complete the jury. As a director, scriptwriter and producer, she is one of today's best-known Polish filmmakers. Her films have won many awards, for example the Silver Leopard at the Locarno Film Festival for "33 Scenes from Life", realized in collaboration with Pandora Film and the Film- und Medienstiftung NRW. Her feature film "Body" received a Silver Bear in 2015, as well as the European Film Award. In 2016 she was a member of the competition jury of the Berlinale. In 2018 she again won a Silver Bear for her film "Twarz / The Mask". Her first English-language film "The Other Lamb" had just premiered at the Toronto Film Festival and in the competition of San Sebastian.

The directors **Fatih Akin** (2015), **Aki Kaurismäki** (2016), **Bent Hamer** (2018) and actress **Martina Gedeck** (2017) were the guest jurors in the previous years.

The winner of the current Baumi Award 2019 was the German writer **Martin Rehbock** with "The mule with three legs". He is currently working on the first script version in Ireland.

The Award's founders would like to extend special thanks to **Friederike Zeit** for the design and the making of the prize sculpture, **Katja Cios** for the graphics including the logo, and to **Fritz Erler** for the programming of the website.