

PRESS RELEASE

## Open call for fourth Baumi Script Development Award

- **Development grant for outstanding international cinematic stories**
- **Applications until 15 October to [www.baumi-award.com](http://www.baumi-award.com)**
- **This year's guest juror is the Norwegian filmmaker Bent Hamer**

**Düsseldorf / Cologne, 15.09.2018.** This Friday 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](http://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 for newcomer screenwriters it is obligatory to submit their applications along with a production company. A treatment 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 2019 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 well-known Norwegian director, screenwriter and producer **Bent Hamer** will complete the jury. With his first feature film "Eggs" from 1994, Bent Hamer presented for the first time the humorous, sometimes absurd stylistic devices of his cinema. Since then, six other successful feature films have been produced and screened at more than 80 film festivals (Cannes, Toronto, San Sebastian, etc.), earning him over 30 awards. The latest four films were created in collaboration with Pandora Film. His last two films, supported by the Film- und Medienstiftung NRW, were partly realized in NRW.

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

The winner of the current Baumi Award 2018 was the Syrian filmmaker **Soudade Kaadan** with "Nezouh". She just received the "LION OF THE FUTURE" Award at the 75th Venice International Film Festival for her latest feature film "The day I lost my shadow". Kaadan is currently working on the final script version of her winning treatment.

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