

RTS Student Television Awards – Judges' Citations

Undergraduate Animation

Husky

The whole jury thought *Husky* was an tremendous film with its strong emotional message and delivery. The Jury was impressed across the board with the choice of cast and music which gave the film an overall professional feel to it.

Last Week

The whole jury enjoyed watching *Last Week* and wanted to watch it again and again. The soft and gentle art was cleanly delivered, and the character design choices were well-crafted and thought out.

My Favourite Hill

This film was a comedic hit with everyone on the jury. The dialogue was hilariously delivered and crafted by Chris, creating lots of laughs. Overall, an interesting and enjoyable commentary on working life, as well as a lovely tribute.

Spellbound

We all enjoyed *Spellbound* and was impressed with how well-packed it was in the short time-frame. It had such a charming story and style all topped off with the best credit sequences out of all the films.

Undergraduate Non-Scripted

Canada's Keepers

A powerful and sensitively portrayed documentary on the poisonous colonial legacy on the indigenous women of Canada that still reverberates to this day.

Man, Beast and the Heart to Win

A beautifully shot documentary imbued with an authentic sense of personality and compelling storytelling that gives a great sense of the racing life.

Staying Sane (During a Global Pandemic)

A confidently observed piece, well produced and reinforced with a creativity throughout.

Undergraduate Scripted

Cease

A quietly powerful film with an emotionally challenging narrative and strong, immersive sense of place. The panel were particularly taken by the deeply affecting, authentic performances from the two leads.

Paper Round Boy

A sweet, big-hearted film, with a witty and original script. Beautifully shot and designed with a wonderfully nostalgic, almost retro tone. Fantastic characterisation and endearing performances from the central duo made this a real standout for the panel.

Future For Our Children

An incredibly ambitious and urgent film, telling a deeply emotional and poignant story. Technically assured, and purposeful filmmaking and movingly believable performances - this short leaves a lasting impression.

Yard Kings

A sensitive and touching story, tackling dark themes with compassion and empathy. Strong performances, confidently shot and visually arresting.

Postgraduate Animation

Between Us

The Jury all agreed that *Between Us* was a very important film with its strong emotional message to tell. The message was delivered ingeniously with a great twist, as well as the stark colour choices.

Something Borrowed

A very powerful and moving film while keeping its humour throughout. It was clear that the Director really understood dementia and communicated it in such a refreshing and honest way.

The Fire Next Time

This film communicated really well the trapped feeling of the characters. The style, story and sound design made for an engaging, thought-provoking and powerful film that touched us all.

The Song of a Lost Boy

The Jury really enjoyed this film with its unique style and message of acceptance told in such an interesting way and original. It was evident that a lot of deep thought had gone into the design and materials chosen, with excellent choices made from start to finish.

Postgraduate Entertainment

Other Nature

A rounded story - that had us hooked from the start. It was well cast, well acted, very well done.

What's In a Name

The Jury enjoyed this and loved the casting of the Vicar and his wife who were a real life couple paid off; on screen as their relationship came across as authentic and touching.

Who Murdered the Maid?

A project that set itself apart from all the other nominations. All creativity requires the makers to commit, and the jury loved the fact that this is what they did.

Wild Cooks

The jury was impressed with the production values. It felt like a show that was already on. Well cast and we all learnt something. A special note that the Irish cook was terrific.

Postgraduate Natural History

Life on the Rocks

A very enjoyable, ambitious film. Looked cinematic in design with strong technical achievements. Featuring a fantastic contributor, this was a very engaging and impressive film.

Secrets of the Salamanders

The jury were impressed by the story, the strong visuals, a great use of archive footage with a great voice and tone. A strong opening captured your attention and the great photography throughout kept it.

Red or Dead

With playful music, a very engaging contributor and strong visuals, this film was not afraid to shy away from its controversial subject, which strongly appealed to the judges. Highly watchable.

Wild Therapy

You really bought into the protagonist and this authentic film captured the mental anxiety beautifully. The judges were impressed by the emotional rollercoaster and journey they went on while watching.

Postgraduate News

The Reproduction Revolution

An excellent entry of reporter-led portfolio of films on the subject of reproduction. The films showed great technical flair and Freya chose to take a broad look at the subject without shying away from contentious areas of surrogacy, gender and technology. Excellent range of voices presented in balanced and informed way...

The Currency of Culture

The jury thought that this was a stand out original entry with fabulous editing and strong production. Filmed in the pandemic with creative pieces to camera and strong use of archive Nabil used his own experiences of growing up in London to investigate the issue of cultural capital...

When Sex Games Go Wrong

An entry that scored highly because of its strong news line. It displayed original journalism and good range of voices. Jury was impressed at how Caitlin got her contributors to speak in such an open way about a difficult subject. Well filmed and edited. An excellent entry.

Rugby Union: The Invisible Injury

An entry built around access to a fantastic case study - Matthew filmed former rugby player Adam Hughes's concussion tests with skill and compassion. Good use of archive in the edit and clever use of graphics.

Postgraduate Non-Scripted

Overall, the panel was very impressed by the standard, creativity and storytelling of the work which we felt was of a very high standard throughout especially as most were shot in restrictive conditions. This made the judging process particularly challenging when there were so many standout entries. Well done to all who entered.

Bringing Home the Blubber

Bold, warm and unexpected messaging. Joyous, beautiful and evocative.

Inside a Marriage

Incredibly impressive access. Very brave and emotional storytelling.

Short-Term Sister

Felt welcomed and involved as a viewer. The non judgemental way the story was told was absorbing.

Zágon

Brilliant, beautiful, clever, incredibly positive. Very unusual yet very successful way of telling this story. The way the art forms intertwined was captivating.

Postgraduate Scripted

City of Lost Children

Powerful, raw, and thematically rich, *City of Lost Children* drew high praise from the jury. At times the film felt less like a window into the near future, and more like a mirror forcing us to look at the current state of the world. But for all of the sadness and anger, there was also a hopefulness that the ties that bind us together - like a scrap of fabric to a memory - are stronger than the forces working to tear us apart. We felt that character development was a big element of the film's success.

One for the Road

The jury found this to be a poignant depiction of the plight of Europe's imperative environmental migrants. We were captivated by the performances, and thought that the coastal Welsh landscape became a character in itself. However, it was the quieter moments that spoke volumes about the importance of protecting at-risk communities.

Stratum Deep

The direction, and technical elements of *Stratum Deep* really made it a standout film., and there was a depth of story as impressive as the pits themselves. We got a sense of the camaraderie between the men, but also the claustrophobia and isolation within the mine; the sense of safety in tradition, and the danger posed to body and soul when it collapses. But, also a distant pinprick of light at the end of the tunnel, signifying fresh opportunity.

Who Goes There?

Who Goes There? Felt big and cinematic, and was unanimously praised by the jury for being genuinely scary! We loved the inventiveness of combining a domestic horror story with a staple of American cinema to create a Western Horror hybrid, and subvert the American Dream. Everything from costume to production design was impressive, and it felt like an extract of a bigger film that we would love to see.

Young Filmmaker Award

Badgirl\$ "Next Up 2"

The jury felt this is an extremely professional piece. It is a beautifully crafted music video that compliments the track and takes the audience on a journey. The performance was well directed. They loved the transition between exterior and interior worlds and the attention to detail with the styling, strong use of colour and terrific editing.

I Will Despise You

The jury felt this was an impressively made and ambitious short drama. The script was a triumph and the comedic elements worked well. They really believed the chemistry between the actors which was down to skilful casting and confident directing. The film showed great planning and vision in terms of creating the look and feel, using multiple locations and filming under extremely challenging conditions.

Three Hikers

The jury found this film genuinely unsettling and loved the weirdness of the story and felt the black comedy genre worked well. They felt the film made fantastic use of the remote location as well as embracing the challenges of shooting with available light. They really enjoyed the style of the film and felt it was technically brave with particularly creative use of sound to enhance the visual storytelling.

Undergraduate Craft Skills – Camerawork

Man, Beast and the Heart to Win

Impressive use of drone work and a great eye for the shot, this was a very accomplished piece of filmmaking.

Paper Round Boy

Nice lighting and framing really helped to bring this story to life. Very well shot. The jury were very impressed by the talent of the cinematographer.

Yard Kings

This almost magical story was really brought to life by the cinematography within this film and the location shooting was very impressive.

Undergraduate Craft Skills – Editing

Spellbound

Good cutting and well paced. The edit within this animated film really helped to bring the characters and story to life.

Staying Sane (During a Global Pandemic)

It felt that there wasn't a wasted shot. The editing within this film was incredibly tight and very accomplished.

Yard Kings

A great edit helped to tell the story within the film. The jury were impressed by the skill of the editor.

Undergraduate Craft Skills – Production Design

Paper Round Boy

The jury loved the design and look of this short film, great costumes helped to combine with the art department on a very impressive looking film.

Spellbound

Great vibrant and rich use of colour within this very entertaining and enjoyable film. Looked amazing.

Yard Kings

The designer in this film had a great eye for detail and really helped to compliment the other departments during the filmmaking process.

Undergraduate Craft Skills – Sound

Husky

This haunting soundscape really stayed with the judges. It was a very creative piece of sound design that helped to compliment the visuals.

Staying Sane (During a Global Pandemic)

A great use of sound helped to bring this story to life.

Yard Kings

This on location sound recording was very impressive. A compliment to the skill of the designer.

Undergraduate Craft Skills – Writing

Canada's Keepers

A very honest story that was well crafted.

Paper Round Boy

A incredibly thought out script that allowed you to feel the story & not get lost in the use of time.

Staying Sane (During a Global Pandemic)

A very impressive bit of screenwriting behind a very challenging and intriguing film.

Postgraduate Craft Skills - Camerawork

City of Lost Children

The Jury recognised the variety of challenges faced in the cinematography such as the changing light, multiple sets and the pacing of the film and concluded that the camera work was of an excellent standard and of significant contribution to the success and final execution of the entire film.

Life on the Rocks

The Jury loved the style of camerawork which significantly contributed to the success of the film. The filming on the boats, the sense of loneliness (which the operator also felt themselves in the situation) and the bleak environment were captured wonderfully and contrasted superbly with the interviews. A triumph.

Who Goes There?

The Jury was really impressed with the overall filming and particularly of the external scenes in the Brecon Beacons which allowed the viewer to be transported into the Western genre so well. They further commended the use of Green Screen which can be such a tricky technique to execute well.

Postgraduate Craft Skills – Editing

City of Lost Children

The Jury loved how the pace of the editing allowed the viewer to move along with the story through multiple sets, arguments, and sensual moments. It provided an immersive experience throughout.

Short-Term Sister

The excellent standard of the editing massively contributed, and indeed embellished, the production of a very sensitive subject. The lingering shots, allowing for moments of silence which spoke volumes, and the overall contribution to the final production was highly commended.

Who Goes There?

The editing provided a wonderful finesse to the other elements of the production. The Jury felt that the colours and grade added to the tension along with the excellent pacing. The Jury also felt the successful execution of the horror / Western cross-over was really brought together in the edit.

Postgraduate Craft Skills - Sound

Life on the Rocks

The Jury felt that the sounds of the environment were captured brilliantly, the birds, the boats, and the clever use of natural sound in general. The film used the sound design to breathe which really contributed to the success of the piece.

The Fire Next Time

The soundscape made a huge contribution to the enjoyment of the film. The mixture of music and stand-out instrumentation, atmospheric effects and complimentary editing of the sound all made for an excellent sound mix.

Who Murdered the Maid?

The Jury commended the ambition of the sound design in the film. The mixture of singing, music and dialogue was unique to the entrants and the Jury felt the execution of this should be acknowledged.

Postgraduate Craft Skills - Production Design

City of Lost Children

The ambition of the production design and the results in staging the film were superb. It was evident to all how much thought, skill and work had been applied to create the environments and costumes to compliment the story. Attention to detail was applied with passion here.

The Song of a Lost Boy

The Jury loved the design, the juxtaposition of the troll like characters in a choirboy setting at the beginning, the sense of fun really came through the production design and provided a visceral visual experience.

Who Goes There?

The Jury thoroughly enjoyed and highly commended the creation of a Western in Wales. The challenge of filming in the UK was overcome through skilful design across all elements be it external setting, internal sets or costume design. The viewer was allowed to immerse themselves in the film and in particular the characters through the Production Design.

Postgraduate Craft Skills – Writing

One for The Road

Brilliant characters and a touching story came to life through the dialogue. The relationship of the mother and daughter was natural and thoroughly believable in large part due to the writing. The viewer really felt the love and warmth and intense irritation a mother daughter relationship can have all in the space of thirty seconds! The story itself was woven brilliantly across the film. The last scene of them singing together was perfect.

Short-Term Sister

The Jury commended the skilful use of language to move between the interviewees, the judicious use of words to narrate the story and the delivery in English, not the narrators mother tongue. Guiding the viewer through a story so close to the narrator's heart cannot have been easy yet the execution of the writing allowed the viewer to be taken on a real journey from start to finish. Brilliant.

Something Borrowed

The Jury felt the writing really complimented the visualisations of the characters perfectly (and vice-versa). The awkwardness and sadness in moments was excellent, the comedy came through and was realistic and genuinely funny. The rhythm and timbre were brilliant. A highly skilful piece of work.