

AWARD WINNERS 2024

While the 26th edition of the East-West co-production market **connecting cottbus** still continues, the award winners out of the 13 **cocoPITCH** and 6 **cocoWIP** projects were just announced at tonight's ceremony.

The **cocoPITCH Audience Award**, a cash prize of €1,500, goes to the best pitch presentation of a project in development and is voted for by all industry participants. The audience chose **DO ME BAD** by director Maria Wider and producers Izabela Łopuch (Spirit Animal) and Mirosław Bork (MWM Media) from Poland.

This year's **cocoPITCH** jury was comprised of Marija Dimitrova (List Production), Per Damgaard Hansen (Paloma Productions) and Marie Kloos (MUBI), who deliberated on three awards:

The **Avanpost Award** was handed out to **SUMMER BLUES**, presented by director Anna Ansone and producer Alise Gelze (White Picture) from Latvia. Romanian post-production outfit Avanpost will provide the project with in-kind services up to €15,000.

The Croatian Audiovisual Centre presented the **HAVC Project Development Award**, a €5,000 cash award towards the further development of one project. It went to **GOLDEN LEGGINGS** by director Arkadii Nepytaliuk and producers Regina Maryanovska Davidzon and Oleksiy Gladushevskyy (Real Pictures) from Ukraine.

The **Producers Network Award**, consisting of free accreditation to the Producers Network at the Marché du Film in Cannes 2025, went to Krystof Burda (Perfilm, Czech Republic), the producer of **cocoPITCH** project **ELI AND THEM**, directed by Petr Pylypcuk.

The **MIDPOINT Consulting Award** went to three **cocoPITCH** projects, each receiving an in-depth script consultancy. The winners, announced by MIDPOINT's programme coordinator Soňa Morgenthalová, are **BEAR HUG** (director Alexandros Skouras & producers Eleni Oulani/Argonauts Productions, Greece & Kasia Kuczyńska/Haka Films, Poland), **DO ME BAD** (director Maria Wider & producers Izabela Łopuch/Spirit Animal & Mirosław Bork/MWM Media, Poland) and **NO SALVATION COMING** (director Vojtěch Strakatý & producer Ondřej Lukeš/Beginner's Mind, Czech Republic).

The 2024 cocoWIP jury was comprised of Claire Lasolle (FID Marseille), Olimpia Pont-Chafer (EWIP Cologne/TorinoFilmLab), Lukáš Moudrý and Jan Syruček (Studio Beep) as well as Waheed Zamani and Robert Wunsch (D-Facto Motion). They deliberated on two awards:

Sponsored by German post-production studio D-Facto Motion, the **D-Facto Motion WIP Award** of €35,000 in-kind services plus up to €5,000 for additional expenses went to the work in progress **GIRL IN THE NIGHT** by director Luka Marčetić and producers Andraž Jerič and Jerca Jerič (Temporama, Slovenia). Stated by the jury, "the film uses a powerful setup, with shadowy figures and unclear shapes, to create mysterious characters and spark curiosity. We see the sarcastic potential and emotional depth and we want to see more of it."

The **Studio Beep Sound Post-Production Award**, consisting of €6.000 in-kind services sponsored by the high-end studios based in the centre of Prague, was handed out to **EVERYTHING THAT'S WRONG WITH YOU** (Slovenia/Germany/Serbia), presented by director Urša Menart and producer Katja Lenarčič (Vertigo, Slovenia). According to the jury, "the film explores contemporary themes, creating a captivating setting that brings us close to the characters. With careful detail, it portrays the main characters' relationships, delving deeply into the bonds of family and friendship."

Congratulations to all the winners!

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