



Press release

JOKE SCHAUVLIEGE

FLEMISH MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, NATURE AND CULTURE

Saturday 14 September 2013

EMBARGOED UNTIL 9.35 pm on 14/09/2013

Nico Leunen receives the Flemish Culture Award for Film 2012-2013

Today, film editor Nico Leunen has received the Award of the Flemish Community for Film 2012-2013 from the hands of the Flemish Minister for Culture Joke Schauvliege. The award ceremony took place in the Kursaal in Ostend, where the Flemish Film Awards, 'The Ensors', were awarded as well. The jury's choice for a film editor who, in his own words, "tries to get the best out of the director and the film", was unanimous.

Just take a look at the well-made Flemish films of the past ten years and you will often find the same name in the end credits; film editor Nico Leunen. Editing is a highly important, yet invisible, part of the art of motion pictures. Leunen once compared his role to that of a troubadour. "His job is not to invent the story, but to bring it in the best possible way, so that everybody hangs on every word."

Nico Leunen (°1974) graduated in 1998 as Master of Audio-visual Arts at Sint-Lukas in Brussels. Since then, he has worked with the cream of the Belgian directors' guild. His achievements include titles such as 'Een ander zijn geluk' (2005) and 'KID' (2012) by Fien Troch, '22 mei' (2010) by Koen Mortier, 'The Invader' (2011) by Nicolas Provost, 'Linkeroever' (2008) by Pieter Van Hees and 'Khadak' (2006) by Peter Brosens and Jessica Woodworth. He joined forces with Felix Van Groeningen for four times, including 'De helaasheid der dingen' (2009) and 'The Broken Circle Breakdown' (2012).

The last few years, Nico Leunen has also acted more and more as an advising editor. Furthermore, he has collaborated with theatre and dance companies. He has taught at different film schools and teaches audio-visual research at the KASK film academy in Ghent since 2007.

Fiction or documentary, popular or arthouse films, his filmography covers it all. The connecting thread is that Nico Leunen invariably prefers self-willed projects. He would rather analyse every single step with the director. "I try to convince every director that a film is a living being, a being that comes into existence and grows," says Nico Leunen. The process of editing is one of the most neglected aspects of that development process. That is exactly why, for the very first time, the jury chose to reward a film author who works behind the scenes.

The Flemish Minister for Culture Joke Schauvliege: "Editors accomplish perhaps the most underestimated part in the magical process that is the creation of a film. Nico Leunen has had an

extraordinary hand in a huge number of recent successful productions. This Flemish Culture Award is a magnificent distinction for him and for all the 'hidden' forces that make films so powerful."

Ostend Film Festival

The awarding of the Flemish Culture Award for Film took place during the Ostend Film Festival (FFO) where a professional jury, presided by Bart De Pauw, also awarded The Ensors, the Flemish Film Awards, in the categories Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role, Best Actor/Actress in a Supporting Role, Best First Appearance, Best Director of Photography, Best Music, Best Film Editing, Best Costume Design, Best Art Direction and Best Co-production with Wallonia.

In addition, and just like last year, an Ensor was awarded for Best Short Film (Fiction and Animation) and for Best Documentary. In conclusion, there was also an Industry Award, awarded by the film world, and an Exceptional Performance Award.

For more information, please visit www.vlaamsefilmprizen.be

Culture Awards Flanders 2012-2013

A jury of experts pays tribute to individuals or an organisation that in the course of the past season made a notable contribution to cultural life in Flanders. The Flemish Culture Awards create public awareness of the laureate at a major event in the sector, which generates attention and appreciation for both the sector and the winner.

A cash prize of €12,500 is connected to the Culture Award. The Government of Flanders sets aside €20,000 for the Flemish Community Award for General Cultural Achievement. Each laureate receives the bronze statuette 'La ultima isla' by Philip Aguirre.

More information is available at: www.cultuurprijzen.be and www.vlaanderen.be/cultuurprijzen

Press info:

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- A portrait of the laureate is available at www.cobra.be.
- Web server with Flemish Culture Award for Film 2012-2013 brochure and high resolution images of Nico Leunen (credits: Mirjam Devriendt):
www.cjsm.vlaanderen.be/cultuur/cultuurprijzen/pers/