



Grand Jury Documentary Award Jury Report MtMF22

Thank you to the incredible Movies That Matter team for hosting us in The Hague; and for challenging us with your diverse selection of films. The 2022 theme of “Changing Matters” is present within each of the of the nine films we reviewed. Bravery, heroism, speaking truth to power, battling oppression, fierce love, loyalty, journalistic freedom, death and yes, COVID, were just some of the commonalities that ran through this broad spectrum of films from around the globe. Even the diverse make-up of our jury – we are from Kenya, Afghanistan and New York – has allowed us a shared cinematic experience to challenge our own beliefs in a safe and supportive space. Thank you, again.

Special Mention

The jury would like to recognize an extraordinary film for its important message about the need to protect freedom of association, as well as its artistic merit, in particular its incredible comic book style animation that transports us into the brave and heroic world of a group of Falun Gong practitioners. The animation is some of the very best we have ever seen used in documentary film, especially the opening sequence that challenges any Hollywood film with its thrilling achievement. This **Special Mention** is awarded to **Eternal Spring**.

Special Mention

"Do not be afraid and never stop fighting back against corruption. Good people can't stay silent" is the urgent message of this enthrallingly suspenseful documentary. We hope that this film will continue to be used as a journalistic tool to support Russian activists and opposition leaders fighting an oppressive regime from both within and outside its borders. Never forget that heroes do exist even in these modern social and political times. This **Special Mention Prize** goes to **Navalny**. Free Navalny!

Grand Jury Prize for Documentary

It's rare to find a piece of cinema that speaks truth to power, brings voice to the voiceless and highlights important issues around marginalized communities - all while inspiring audiences and creating actual change. In this era of fake news, it is more urgent than ever to lift-up and celebrate unbiased reporting. The intrepid women featured in this film are shining examples of how we must never stop defending and protecting the fragility of the freedom of press. **The Grand Jury Prize for Documentary** goes to **Writing With Fire**.