



Unione delle Università del Mediterraneo
Mediterranean Universities Union
Union des Universités de la Méditerranée
إتحاد الجامعات المتوسطية



Rome, 9th September 2022

UNIMED Award 2022 for cultural diversity and freedom of artistic expression

79° Venice International Film Festival

During the 79° edition of the Venice International Film Festival, an international jury of 17 students coming from UNIMED associated universities assigned the “**UNIMED Award 2022**” to the movie “**Bardo, falsa crónica de unas cuantas verdades**”, directed by **Alejandro González Iñárritu**.

The UNIMED award, collateral prize of the Venice International Film Festival and now at its 6th edition, results from the collaboration between la Biennale of Venice and UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union, an association of 149 universities from 24 countries of the Mediterranean area.

The UNIMED award promotes the understanding between peoples of different cultures and religious beliefs, it fights racism and discrimination, revealing the complex causes of violence and demonstrating the successful mastering of conflicts. The aim of the UNIMED award is to encourage cultural exchanges, highlight the value of cultural diversity and promote freedom of artistic expression.

The award was created in memory of Prof. Franco Rizzi, former Secretary General and founder of UNIMED, for his life-long commitment to cooperation among Euro-Mediterranean universities.

The UNIMED jury 2022 involved the following students:

- Ilaria Romani, as a tutor, from the International University of Rome, Italy
- Giada Andreoletti & Magda Adrezejewska from the International University of Rome, Italy
- Eduardo Abellan Martinez & Manuel Benitez Cadiz from Murcia University, Spain
- Nicolò Canestrelli & Pier Francesco Coscia from the Polytechnic of Turin, Italy
- Senna Vodzogbe & Miika Suonpera from Tampere University, Finland
- Virginia Ceccato & Giulia D'Angioli from the University Ca Foscari, Italy
- Guillem Villalonga & Albert Muns from the University of Barcelona, Spain
- Martina Guerra & Silvia Lanfredi from the University of Pavia, Italy
- Nabila Toscano & Anastasia Giannuzzi from the University of Salento, Italy

The jury motivated its choice as follows:

“Iñárritu achieves a very interesting balance between the narcissistic exercise and the self-critique, putting his cultural roots and the privilege of being an influential artist under the spotlight. The director inserts himself shamelessly into the film, presenting us a powerful point of view about the complex relationship between Mexican and American cultural identities.

Silverio portrays the internal dilemma that immigrants who look for better life conditions in another country may face. Becoming a successful journalist gets him closer to the life he wanted for himself, but it creates a distance with the Mexican origins he hypocritically wants to pass on to his children. Silverio and his family have to face the plain rejection from the country where they live and the one they left behind. The long-takes and the vivid images create a dreamlike state and guide the spectator inside Silverio’s mind, sharing with us the surreal condition of “bardo” he is experiencing.”



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The final ceremony was held on **September 9th, 2022 at 4 pm** at the Italian Pavillon in Venice.

The Award was conceived by the artist Maurizio Radici and kindly offered by PDG Arte Communications, curator of several external pavilions of the Biennale Arte.



For further information on the UNIMED Award, please contact unimed@uni-med.net or have a look at www.uni-med.net