

Winner of the British Shorts Jury Award 2019: Black Sheep by Ed Perkins



Jury Statement

We discussed a lot! Especially to this film's format and its visual storytelling choices. We each saw the film cinematically, technically and dramaturgically in different ways. But one big factor for choosing this film was based on emotion, what the film managed to do before all the other elements of film came into play in our own brains. Especially as filmmakers, you watch film with other criteria a trained eye and in this case three of us first connected to the young man and his story before we thought about how the story was told. We liked the photographic realization showing his biographical paths such as the interior spaces of his youth in London Peckham and the development which takes place once he leaves the city, in the exterior looking out the window into the open sports fields, into the bleak coldness. The outside world normally connected with freedom here becomes one fraught with the decision to either eat or eaten. Which one usually sees as trait of city life. The reason the family left in the first place. At one point he wonders if you can actually see that someone is bad, he even calls them monsters.

We all agreed that the subject and necessity of talking about racism was and is imperative but in our eyes is not the only message to takeaway from this film. We found that the details of this particular story helped explore the universality of the protagonist's experience, telling a story many of us can unfortunately relate to. Ultimately this film is about the longing for love and acceptance, It's the denial of love by the people that should be the closest to you. A denial that is thriving in a society who's main goal still seems to be to separate us rather than bring us together. AND It is the wish to become part of a group, no matter the consequences, even if that means losing your own identity in the process. That's what makes this film so challenging and compelling! We hope that you all agree and can give it up once again for the film Black Sheep! Congratulations Ed Perkins!

The Jury

Tunde Aladese – actress (Hello, Rain), screenwriter (Shuga), director, organizing member of Women's Film Network Berlin

Frank Behnke – sound designer (Run Lola Run, Blue Velvet Revisited), film lecturer, editor, musician (Mutter), director

André Krummel – cinematographer (Lord of Toys, Berlin Excelsior), screenwriter, editor, director

Melissa Peralis – film and music curator (Circles of Confusion, Torstraßenfestival a.o.), co-founder of Independent Film Network Berlin, music supervisor for cinema and TV