

Awards Distributed in DenizBank First Scenario First Film Contest

Winners of the 3rd DenizBank First Scenario, First Film Contest, organized with the collaboration of DenizBank and TÜRSAK (Turkish Foundation of Cinema and Audiovisual Culture) have been rewarded with a ceremony held at Raffles Hotel on 4th December.

The best script award has been granted to Nisa Yıldırım, with her script titled 'İstasyonlar' (Stations). The Great Prize for the First Film category has been awarded to Süleyman Arda Eminçe for his film titled 'Suç Unsuru' (Crime Element). The ceremony was narrated by Irem Sak, who also shared the stage with Murat Dalkilic and performed a musical show to the audience.

To promote international standards in script writing in Turkey and to encourage the Turkish script writers who are the future of the Turkish cinema, DenizBank is collaborating with TÜRSAK for the third edition of the "DenizBank First Scenario, First Film Contest", whose winners have been announced and awarded.

"First" Awards of Scripts and Films

The prize winners of the scenario category are as follows:

- 1- 'İstasyonlar' (Stations) – Nisa Yıldırım
- 2- 'Yağmur Gelin' (Rain Bride) – Hüseyin Özden
- 3- 'Zarokbum' – Ayten Başer Yetimoğlu & 'Kayıp' (Lost)– Sevra Baklaci

At the 'First Film' category, **Süleyman Arda Eminçe** won the first rank award with his film named **Suç Unsuru (Crime Element)**.

In scenario category, Nisa Yıldırım's 'İstasyonlar' Project wins a TL 30,000 prize money plus scenario mentorship from Ömer Faruk Sorak; second prize winner Hüseyin Özden's 'Yağmur Gelin' Project wins a TL 15,000 prize money and scenario consultancy from Murat Seker; and third prize winners Ayten Baser Yetimoglu's 'Zarokbum' Project and Sevra Baklaci's 'Kayıp' Project wins a TL 10,000 prize money in total and scenario consultancy from Umit Unal.

The winner of the Best First Film category of the contest has received the special DenizBank Prize of TL 25,000.

"We are glad to be contributing to the future of Turkish cinema"

DenizBank's CEO Hakan Ateş made special remarks in the award ceremony where he said; "Scripts are at the heart of the cinema business and their subject is everything about humanbeings. So, as a people-oriented corporation, we combined our powers with TÜRSAK so that the best script works can be produced in our country. First Scenario, First Film is not a platform where only prize winners win, but where everybody wins, learns, grows, exchanges

experiences and where the ideas are built up. It is a synergetic platform which has the power to change and transform the Turkish cinema. We are glad that we are supporting the introduction of a scientific international approach to the script writing business, which forms the backbone of the cinema, and encouragement of the young script writers when they are still at the beginning of their journey”.

TÜRSAK Chairman Fehmi Yasar also made a speech at the ceremony and said; “In the first year of this contest, I already stated that we are willing to pave the way for the cinematic creativity, combine the universal knowledge and compensate the missing parts resulting from the lack of methods. And this year, we are having the third edition of the contest, which has become an encouraging, educating and guiding force in the sector, which I believe has filled an important gap in the sector. With this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to DenizBank because of all the support they have been providing. We welcome everyone who set their hearts on the cinema in our project”.

Bonus categories have been announced in the script category for the upcoming year

In 2019, the prize categories of “DenizBank First Scenario, First Film Contest” will be even more diversified. Accordingly, the script award categories will be ‘Best Scenario in Popular Cinema’, ‘Best Scenario in Artistic Cinema’ and ‘Jury’s Special Prize’. The applications will be received according to these categories.

DenizBank says “Yes to Art”

Since its foundation, DenizBank has always said “Yes to Art” with the aim of contributing the cultural life and cultural heritage of Turkey; and besides its 3-year collaboration with TÜRSAK, it has been also supporting other important projects. In 1997, the Bank sponsored the renovation of Afife Jale stage, which is a valuable artistic base of Turkey; and through its subsidiary Deniz Kültür, it is engaged in many outstanding projects in the field of symphonic music, theatre, opera, literature, documentary and cinema. As well as sponsoring the Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra concerts for the last 15 years, DenizBank is also the corporate sponsor of the Orchestra Academic Capital City Concerts and Gümüşlük Classical Music Festival.

About DenizBank

DenizBank was established in 1938 as a state economic enterprise aimed at funding the developing Turkish maritime sector. Early in 1997, DenizBank was acquired by Zorlu Holding in the form of banking license from the Privatization Administration and in October 2006, a leading European financial group, Dexia incorporated it to its structure. For 6 years, DenizBank operated in Dexia’s main shareholding and since 28 September 2012, has continued to provide services under the umbrella of Russia’s largest and well-rooted bank, Sberbank. DenizBank has become one of the remarkable banks of Turkey in a short period of time. DenizBank Financial Services Group was established in 2003 in order to create a “financial supermarket” accumulating various financial services under one roof. Including subsidiaries, there are totally 761 branches within DenizBank Financial Services Group operating in 81 provinces of Turkey and abroad, employing around 14 thousand people. DenizBank Financial Services Group consists of DenizBank, five domestic, three international financial subsidiaries, six domestic non-financial subsidiaries and a branch in Bahrain. DenizYatırım, Deniz Real Estate Investment Trust, DenizPortfolio Management, DenizLeasing, DenizFactoring, Intertech, DenizKültür, Ekspres Bilgi İşlem ve Ticaret, Deniz Card Payment Systems, Açık Deniz Radio – TV and Bantaş are the group’s domestic subsidiaries while Eurodeniz, DenizBank AG and DenizBank Moscow are its international subsidiaries.

About TÜRSAK

TÜRSAK, Turkish Foundation of Cinema and Audiovisual Culture, is an autonomous, non-profit organization, founded in 1991, with the participation of 215 members, active and well-known in the fields of cinema, television, fine arts, media, business and politics.

The main goals of the foundation is to maintain an outstanding supporting role in the fields of cinema and audio-visual culture through its wide-ranging attempts in spreading the concept of cinema as an art form and as an essential aspect of the culture, as well as encouraging the use of audio-visual means on behalf of enrichment and diversification of cultural identity of the public; to develop the incentives for promotion of Turkey's filmmaking industry and for its opening up to international market; to provide the links between governmental and non-governmental, national and international institutions and companies in this respect; to promote the artistic and technical quality of the general medium of cinema and audio-visual culture, by supporting well-qualified national and international productions as well as by encouraging the emergence of creative incentives in this respect; to reinforce the progression of educational systems and bodies involved in cinema and audio-visual culture at all levels of education in Turkey, by the collaboration of relevant institutions, and to negotiate for the legal adjustments and for the updating of the present laws and regulations related to the industry of filmmaking in Turkey and to organize the human and material resources for an institutionalization of the industry.

The Foundation has raised many valuable directors (e.g. Yüksel Aksu, Ozan Açıktan), hundreds of cinema students and sector employees, and provided the sector with quality personnel. Moreover, they have produced hundreds of international festival projects, and realized the International Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, which is the biggest project of the foundation and which is one of the most prestigious promotions of Turkey in the international arena.

TÜRSAK has always followed its principles since the day they were founded, has always had the sole purpose of serving the public, helped in imposing awareness in masses through the events they have organized, and contributed to the Turkish economy in general.

Please contact:

Bersay İletişim Danışmanlığı / 0212 337 51 00

Anil Erbayrak / Tel: 0212 337 51 17 / GSM: 0553 317 46 06 / anil.erbayrak@bersay.com.tr