

***The 5<sup>th</sup> Kirch Foundation Award of the MunichFilmUp!  
goes to director Boni Zanatta***

**Tuesday 19 May  
Village Innovation, Village International (Pantiero), Cannes**

Brazilian director **Boni Zanatta**, a participant of the 5th MunichFilmUp!, has been named the recipient of the 2026 Kirch Foundation Award. The international jury, composed of German commissioning editor **Urte Fink**, Ghanaian Berlinale programmer **Jacqueline Nsiah**, German producer **Sol Bondy**, Italian Taiwanese producer **Stefano Centini**, and Faroese producer **Jón Hammer**, selected the project ***The Three Maries Parable*** for the award. Zanatta will receive a grant of €5,000. **A special mention** of the jury has been awarded to **Oliver McGoldrick** and his project **Barnyard**.

About ***The Three Maries Parable***, the jury stated:

“We would like to begin by telling all six participants that, at some point during our jury deliberations, every single one of you emerged as “the winner” in the zoom room. This was certainly not one of those cases where a jury can later say, “the decision was easy” or “we all had a clear favorite.” While there were, of course, projects that stood out at different moments, our conversation remained lively, thought-provoking, and wonderfully diverse — much like the projects themselves.

Ultimately, this speaks to the excellent work of the organizers and selection committee, whom we would also like to thank for bringing together such a strong and inspiring group of filmmakers and projects.

We would like to give a special mention to Oliver McGoldrick and his project BARNYARD. The jury felt it was the most fully realized and advanced project in the selection, with a clear artistic vision, a confident and compelling script, and an equally strong creative environment surrounding the filmmaker. We have no doubt that we will be seeing this film on the big screen sooner rather than later.

For the winning project, however, we chose one that we feel still holds significant potential for further growth and discovery. We hope this award will serve as an encouragement to forge creative partnerships beyond its own borders, as we believe such collaborations could greatly enrich and strengthen the project even further.

The award goes to Boni Zanatta and THE THREE MARIES PARABLE.”

When receiving this prize, the director **Boni Zanatta** said:

« I am very happy to be part of this program because my writing has received so much attention, care, energy, and dedication from the entire team, and I am deeply grateful for that. My fellow participants are all incredible, they have become my friends, my family. I am here with a feature project that is a queer romantic comedy about two catholic grannies who fall in love with each other in a small village in Brazil.

We began with a week in Munich, where we met each other and shared our projects. After that, we spent three weeks developing our work, I was in Cairo, Egypt, together with my friend Subarna, who is also part of the program. Now we are concluding the journey here in Cannes, and it has truly been a wonderful program and a wonderful residency. Thank you, I am very happy and grateful to be here. »

Previous editions of the program have predominantly recognized female filmmakers, with the award presented to Cameroonian director **Cyrielle Raingou**, Chinese filmmaker **Viv Li**, and Lebanese director **Leila Basma**. Last year, the prize went to **Chheangkea** for his project *Little Phnom Penh*.

This year, this seven-month mentoring and residency program has welcomed emerging filmmakers from Brazil, France, Germany/ Syrian, India, Mexico and Northern Ireland. MunichFilmUp! is an initiative presented by the HFF München, with TATINO's Pop Up Film Residency as exclusive content partner, in collaboration with the Festival de Cannes' Short Film Corner / Cinéma de Demain. The Bavaria-originated initiative is run in association with the Festival of Future Storytellers and Filmfest München, and with the exclusive financial support of the Kirch Foundation.

About this prize, the Reinhard Scolik, Kirch Foundation, the sponsor of Munch Film Up, stated:

"The Kirch Foundation remains deeply committed to supporting culture, education, and emerging creative talent. Through initiatives such as MunichFilmUp!, young filmmakers are given the opportunity to refine their projects, build international connections, and gain valuable perspectives from across the film industry.

This year is particularly special as MunichFilmUp! returns to Cannes for the second consecutive year during the Film Festival. Establishing the program within such an important international environment is a meaningful step forward and a testament to its growing recognition and relevance within the global film landscape.

The selected projects once again reflect the remarkable imagination, diversity, and dedication of a new generation of filmmakers. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all participants, and especially to this year's award winner. We wish each of them continued inspiration and success in the exciting path ahead."

Co-directed by Matthieu Darras and Elena Diesbach, and coordinated by program co-managers Ivana Hucíková and Antonia Lindner, MunichFilmUp! supports six emerging filmmakers each year as they develop their first feature-length projects following graduation from film school. The program provides a personalized development path tailored to the individual needs of each participant, guiding them toward the completion of a first script draft. Throughout the program, the selected filmmakers work closely with acclaimed international film professionals who offer mentorship and creative guidance at every stage of the process.

**MunichFilmUp! press material accessible [here](#)**

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**More information on [MunichFilmUp!](#)**

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**Pop Up Film Residency** is an initiative by

