2 October 2021

**SLASH Film Festival 2021, September 23 through October 3, 2021  
SLASH FILMFESTIVAL ANNOUNCES COMPETITION WINNERS:   
Feature Film, Short Film & Méliès d'argent**  
  
**Vienna – Elation with a capital E at the SLASH Film Festival! On Saturday evening, the Festival of Fantastic Film, which is taking place in Vienna until 3rd October, announced the winning films in all three of its award categories:**  
  
**MÉLIÈS D'ARGENT (Jury Award)**  
**YOU'RE DEAD HELEN   
T‘es morte Hélène** **| Michiel Blanchart | FR/BE 2021 | 24′**  
  
**COMPETITION WINNER SHORT FILM (Audience Vote)**  
**YOU'RE DEAD HELEN**  
**T‘es morte Hélène** **| Michiel Blanchart | FR/BE 2021 | 24′**  
  
**COMPETITION WINNER FEATURE FILM (Jury Award)**  
**BEYOND THE INFINITE TWO MINUTES  
Droste no hate de bokura | Junta Yamaguchi | JP 2020 | 70 Min | DCP**  
  
The Jury Award for the Best Long Film, with a prize total of 3,000 euros, went to the Japanese director Junta Yamaguchi for his one-take sci-fi comedy BEYOND THE INFINITE TWO MINUTES (JP 2020). The three members of the jury – the producer Lola Basara and the directors Merryl Roche and Jörg Buttgereit – were impressed by the film, which outshone eleven other international productions to win the award for the best feature film of the competition.  
  
With his short film YOU’RE DEAD HELEN (FR/BE 2021), Michiel Blanchart celebrated not one, but two victories: the 24-minute-long film was voted as the “Competition Winner Short Film“ by the SLASH audience in the Fantastic Shorts Competition and chosen by the jury as the winner of the [Méliès d’argent](https://melies.org?utm_source=/slash+Filmfestival+Pressekontakte&utm_campaign=1fe92e9c0f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_03_07_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_28cbfe69aa-1fe92e9c0f-), the award for the Best European Short Film.  
  
Both winning films will be shown again in the Filmcasino at 8:30 pm on the last day of the festival – Sunday, 3rd October. Tickets are available online at [www.splashfilmfestival.com](http://www.splashfilmfestival.com/).

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**12th SLASH Filmfestival**  
**September, 23 through October 3, 2021**  
**Filmcasino, METRO Kinokulturhaus, Schikaneder, Stadtkino****



**MÉLIÈS D'ARGENT & COMPETITION WINNER SHORT FILM**  
  
**YOU'RE DEAD HELEN  
T‘es morte Hélène** **| Michiel Blanchart | FR/BE 2021 | 24′**

Ein Bild, das Text, Person enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

YOU'RE DEAD HELEN was voted **"Competition Winner Short Film"**by the SLASH audience. The short film was also awarded the **Méliès d'argent**by our festival jury.   
  
SLASH is part of the [Méliès International Festivals Federation](https://melies.org/), an association currently consisting of 26 film festivals, whose mission it is to promote European fantastic cinema around the globe. The Méliès d’argent is awarded to short films for cinematic quality and creativity. The winning short film at SLASH will then be competing against all other Méliès d’argent short film winners for the Méliès d’or.  
[Please visit our website](https://slashfilmfestival.com/en/melies-dargent-2/)to see the list of all films that were nominated for the Méliès d'argent.  
  
**Méliès d’argent – Jury statement:**  
*"YOU'RE DEAD HELEN (T‘es morte Hélène) in only 24 minutes effortlessly jumps through different genres: Romantic Comedy, Drama, Ghost and Zombie movie. In the short running time the characters grow on you as if you’ve watched the entire character development of a full feature."*  
  
**Synopsis YOU'RE DEAD HELEN:**  
Maxime, a young man in search of stability, is literally haunted by the ghost of his girlfriend Hélène, who died recently. Wishing to put an end to this unbearable situation, Maxime finally decides to break with her. But Hélène does not seem ready to accept this decision.  
  
**Michiel Blanchart (Director):**  
Michiel Blanchart is the director of several award winning short films, such us L'ANNONCE (2016), LULU (co-director, 2015) and DYNAMAN (2017). YOU'RE DEAD HELEN, his latest short fiction film, was awarded the Grand Prize for „Best Short Film“ at Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival, Grimmfest and Gérardmer Film Festival, among others.



**COMPETITION WINNER FEATURE FILM**  
  
**BEYOND THE INFINITE TWO MINUTES  
Droste no hate de bokura | R: Junta Yamaguchi | JP 2020 | 70 Min | DCP**

Ein Bild, das Text, Wand, drinnen, Person enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

**Winner Best Feature Film – Jury Statement:**  
*"BEYOND THE INFINITE TWO MINUTES**(Droste no hate de bokura) is a small lighthearted movie that deals with the big question whether we are able to resist looking into the future. The story creates a very well-crafted time dimension loop in a small café in Kyoto with down-to-earth characters and shot on an iPhone. First-time director Junta Yamaguchi worked with insane Japanese precision and perfectionism. It presents a really fresh and original way into the Science Fiction genre. Even though we can’t look into the future, we hope the award will help Junta Yamaguchi keep going as he did in Beyond the Infinite Two Minutes."*  
  
**Synopsis:**  
Kato runs a small café in Kyoto. Stepping into his apartment directly above the eatery one night, another Kato appears on his computer screen saying, “Hey, I am you. From two minutes in the future.” The already batshit premise of this one-take sci-fi comedy is rendered into a mind-bending experience in the hands of first-time director Junta Yamaguchi and his outstanding ensemble cast. In Japan, the dirt-cheap indie production has become a cult classic in no time, and the rest of the world will follow suit—of that we are sure, even if we can’t look into the future (not even two minutes).  
  
**Junta Yamaguchi (Director):**  
Yamaguchi, Junta was born in Osaka in 1987. He joined the theatre company Europe Kikaku in 2005 and has worked as a director of short films, dramas, commercials, and documentaries. BEYOND THE INFINITE TWO MINUTES is his first feature film.

**ABOUT SLASH FILMFESTIVAL**

SLASH film festival is Austria’s largest event dedicated to Fantastic Cinema. It was founded in 2010 by Verein zur Förderung des Fantastischen Films in close collaboration with Filmcasino, which still serves as a main venue. Metro Kinokulturhaus in the heart of Vienna’s Inner City became the second main venue of the festival in 2018 and also houses the festival center in its mezzanine. SLASH quickly grew in size and scope, attracting close to 15.000 visitors annually over its 11-day run.

Right from its inception, the SLASH film festival was more than just a place to watch movies. The young creative team, led by film critic and curator Markus Keuschnigg, transfers the universe of Fantastic Film from the screen into the real world: meticulous location design, hand-picked special events, provocative performances as well as the cherished guests of the festival ensure that each and every festival edition is its own beast, a fabulous concoction of All Things Fantastique, on-screen as well as off-screen.

Each year’s program is comprised of 60+ Austrian premieres of international highlights from the field of Fantastic Film, ranging from crowd-pleasers to hot docs, from fiercely independent films to heritage revivals. Past guests of the festival include NICOLAS CAGE, UDO KIER, CRISPIN GLOVER, JULIEN MAURY, BEATRICE DALLE, LLOYD KAUFMAN, BERNARD ROSE, JOE DANTE, JÖRG BUTTGEREIT, DARIO ARGENTO, CORIN HARDY, ROAR UTHAUG and JOHN WATERS.