

likka Vehkalahti -Award

Purpose

likka Vehkalahti made a difference for documentary film makers around the world. He showed genuine interest in new film makers, surprising subjects and approaches. He supported financially when possible, he encouraged with enthusiasm and humble, precise criticism. He became a mentor for many.

An award could never accomplish all this. But it can help film makers moving forward with their film projects. In likka's spirit it will be awarded to courageous and curious film makers who do not have access to other support. The support should make a difference for the quality and completion of an authored, creative documentary. Priority will be given to film makers in countries or regions with little or no film support schemes - meaning mainly the global south.

Many film makers spend years filming important subjects and struggle creatively and financially when attempting to edit the film. The award will go to editing consultancy in order to finalize the film and reaching audiences. likka was the founding father of Rough Cut Service, a collective of editing specialists from all over the globe. This collective has 15 years of experience in helping film makers think through and edit the film they really wanted to make. The likka Awards will go to Rough Cut Service consultant providing its services to the award winners.

likka was also one of the founding fathers of Vikes Foundation for Media and Development, foundation, that will be the home for the fund.

Outreach & selection

likka was a beloved protagonist of a global documentary community. Members of this community, especially in the global South, will be key in identifying film talents worthy of receiving a grant. A group of 20 people from the doc community – "friends of likka" – will have the possibility of nominating a film maker and project in need of help.

A little selection committee consisting of two consultants from Rough Cut Service, a Finnish documentary professional with an international outlook, representative from VIKES and Katri Merikallio, likka's spouse, will make up the selection committee.

The nominations will be in the form of a personal motivation sent to the committee. There will be no calls or application forms, only nominations.

The selected winners will be announced at major documentary events, eg film festivals like Idfa and DocPoint.

Selection Criteria

1. An exciting and important documentary project by a promising/talented film maker
2. Substantial material has already been shot
3. The film maker and/or the project cannot access common funding opportunities
4. Recommended by one of likka's Friends

Organisation and financing

Funds for the award are collected and managed by VIKES Foundation for Media and Development, based in Helsinki Finland.

Fundraising directly to VIKES in Finland and internationally.

VIKES role will be to offer a safe and trustworthy haven for the award, while collecting and managing the assets.