

The International Nature Festival is sending a message

It is possible to host a successful and sustainable cultural and nature-al event in times of social distancing. With respect, confidence and a wonderful programme all about nature and the environment, this is what we experienced in Innsbruck at the beginning of October.

Festival director and state environmental advocate, Johannes Kostenzer opened the festival with an explanation of what the INF is built upon: "That pause which enables us to **enjoy our surroundings and the countless small and large wonders of nature**. This is the aim of the International Nature Festival." He added: "To put a focus on what is necessary for happiness and contentment." Now *that* is an announcement even though, if we think about it, one that is something so simple and familiar.

INF Modules FILM GUSTO KIDS SCIENCE SENSES

INF and its committed partners put together a colourful programme for this purpose. There was laughter and storytelling, cooking and feasting, experiencing and being experienced. Small groups went bird-watching and to the Karwendel, to collect rubbish and create art, to up-cycle, burn gin and visit the climate exhibition, to feast, watch films and to take part in expert discussions in the Metropol cinema Couch Saloon.

At the end, the festival rewarded and honoured a number of people who stood out in 2020 be it either with something completely new or something traditional. For example, the "Grand Prize of the City of Innsbruck" was awarded to two classic films, "Die Wiese" by Jan Haft, which received the arolla pine trophy for the Best Nature Film Documentary, and "Sheep Hero" by Ton van Zantvoort for the Best Environmental Documentary.

Visionary in the here and now

Jakob Winkler's lavishly researched and detail-drawn 'hidden object book' for both children and adults, "Fatima's Fantastic Journey Through a World Without Oil" won the nomination for the Tyrol Change Award.

For the Visions Award, Spanish directing duo Ana Sema and Paula Iglesias' "They're Just Fish", which is set in the middle of the desert on a fish farm and is about adapting to a new, completely different environment, took home the prize.

Moving us in many ways

Humming and threshing through the meadow, elephants and baboons of the volcano, dogs and scrap collectors in space, plastic and rescuers in the sea, survival strategies, childhood dreams, environmental scandals and beautiful, distant animal kingdoms and landscapes on your doorstep. With almost 60 films shown within 72 hours, there was something for everyone. Moving people internally with films, visions to touch you - this has been the credo of the Innsbruck Nature Film Festival, which has nestled itself into the International Nature Festival, for 19 years.

The entire festival represents getting involved. This can be truly unpleasant at times but also **enlightening**. Works such as the Soil Prize Winner "On Thin Ice" are frighteningly dramatic - a documentary about the rapidly dissolving permafrost in the Siberian Arctic and its consequences shows us truth and wonder. Or the science fiction nightmare "Dar(k)win Project", winner of the Animated Short Film category, in which mutated underwater animals eat their favourite dish, plastic. So bluntly demonstrated on the big screen, some cinema-goers spooned down the images of the disastrous behaviour of humans towards nature before disappearing themselves, into the night...to digest and ruminate, while some sought out conversation in the foyer amongst other equally startled guests.

Affirmative for the future

When a university professor says with regard to the climate cap: "It's not five to twelve, it's twelve, but I am convinced that we can make it!" That's a positive sign! As Prof. Dr. Georg Kaser is one of the most influential climatologists in the world.

When the moderator, from Corona-torn Milan, closes the Innsbruck gala evening with the words: "Thank you for being with us tonight, hopefully see you again next year without masks and social distancing. Stay safe!" Then this is a positive greeting.

Sustainable

The festival is sustainable and should remain so. A reverberation that may last all year round. The INF and the INFF will contribute to this on their digital channels for 365 days, and with the INF ON TOUR, they will also offer quality access to nature and the environment at one or another location.

Thanks

A heartfelt thank you to all the like-minded festival-goers out there and to all the partners. We appreciate the personal visits and integration of Mag. Ingrid Felipe (Deputy Governor of Tyrol), Georg Willi (Mayor of the City of Innsbruck), Dr. Karl Gostner (Chairman of Innsbruck Tourism), Univ.-Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Wolfgang Streicher (Vice-rector of the University of Innsbruck), Dr. Thomas Pühringer (Board Member of Innsbrucker Kommunalbetriebe), Manfred Miglar (Head of UNIQA Versicherungen AG Tyrol) and Josef Margreiter (Chief Executive Officer of Lebensraum Tirol Holding).

Two minutes of **festival impressions 2020** are here to watch: <https://youtu.be/NuSFKXYQ5R0>

Information, dates, updates and tips are available on the INF digital channels
naturefestival.eu | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [#wirsindnatur](#) | [#wearenature](#)

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