

EUROPEAN SHOOTING STARS 2020 – JURY COMMENTS

MARTINA APOSTOLOVA

From her performances speaks a deeply felt understanding of the foul and fair days of the human condition. An understanding that manifests in countless facets: from wry lightness over fierce despair to heart-wrenching tenderness. With her wisdom and maturity she injects an authenticity into her characters that makes them universally relatable. Martina Apostolova lends them an archetypal power that can connect with all audiences and all stories.

BARTOSZ BIELENIA

The sinner and the saint. The devil and the angel. If you doubt that these opposites can meet in one man, think again. Because Bartosz Bielenia will make you believe. With this seemingly infinite faculties he walks the maddening paths of despair and redemption. With this mesmerizing presence he makes you want to join him on these walks. While at the same time he carries a whole movie on his shoulders. Shall we explain his talents? Impossible. Let's just call them magic.

JONAS DASSLER

Actors are adventurers. They dive into the treacherous tides of mankind's affairs. Jonas Dassler knows how this feels. And what it takes. He has shown the human side of monsters and revealed the monstrosities of humans. In this he also exposed the dark humor of the absurd, which proves his astounding maturity. With his commanding physical presence, bravery and sophistication, he is set for even greater adventures. Fasten your seatbelts!

LEVAN GELBAKHIANI

What is the secret of acting? Perhaps you need to carry music in yourself. For this theory, Levan Gelbakhiani is the best proof. At only 21 years old, he is already a master of physical elegance and psychological sensitivity. This way he is able to capture all the pains and pitfalls of growing up, while dazzling us with his technical prowess. He literally gives birth to the dancing star that Mr. Nietzsche once conceived.

Martina Apostolova – Bulgaria

Martina Apostolova studied acting at New Bulgarian University in Sofia. She has performed on stage throughout Bulgaria, acting in more than twenty contemporary plays. She made her big screen debut as the lead in Nadejda Koseva's *Irina* in 2018, for which she was awarded Best Actress at eight international film festivals. In addition to her work on several TV productions, Martina has also acted in the short film, *Whole*, directed by Slava Doytcheva and most recently in the feature, *Lament for the Silent Fool*, directed by Dimitar Kutmanov.

Victoria Carmen Sonne – Denmark

Victoria Carmen Sonne graduated from The Danish National School of Theatre in 2016. She was immediately cast in Rasmus Heisterberg's *In the Blood* and won her first Bodil, the Danish Critic's Award. In 2017, she starred in Hlynur Palmason's festival darling, *Winter Brothers* and won Robert Award for her performance. With her breakout role at the Sundance Film Festival 2018 in Isabella Eklöf's *Holiday*, Victoria won her second Bodil Award. Recently, she can be seen in leading roles in Marie Grathø's *Psychosia* (Venice FF) and in *Miss Osaka* by Daniel Dencik.

Pääru Oja – Estonia

Pääru Oja trained at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. He is a member of the Estonian Drama Theatre, and was honored as Best Actor at the Estonian Theatre Awards in 2015. His leading roles on the big screen include *Mihkel* by Ari Alexander Ergis Magnússon, for which Pääru received nominations as Actor of the Year at the Icelandic EDDA Awards as well as Best Actor at the Estonian Film and TV Awards in 2019 for the series *The Trap*. Pääru recently completed filming on the series *Cold Courage*, and

has the lead role in Veiko Õunpuu's upcoming ***The Last Ones***, due to a release in 2020.

Zita Hanrot – France

Zita Hanrot studied at the French National Drama School, and while there, was cast in films by Francois Ozon and Mia Hansen-Love, among others. Upon graduating, Philippe Faucon's offered her the lead in ***Fatima*** for which she won the 2016 Cesar as Most Promising Actress. She has since been cast in many acclaimed French films, including as the voice and likeness of Zunaira in the animated film ***The Swallows of Kabul*** (Cannes 2019). Recently, Zita played the lead in the box office hit ***School Life*** and can be seen in Farid Bentoumi's upcoming, ***Rouge***.

Levan Gelbakhiani – Georgia

Levan Gelbakhiani's first passion was dance, and at 15, he began training at the Georgian Classical Ballet School. He has been performing with some of Georgia's well known dance companies. His talent caught the eye of Levan Akin, director of ***And Then We Danced*** who cast him in the lead. Levan's acting debut premiered at the Director's Fortnight in Cannes 2019. He went on to win Best Actor for his work in the film at many festivals among them the Odessa and Sarajevo International Film Festivals. *W Magazine* named Levan as one of the most exciting stars of Cannes 2019.

Jonas Dassler – Germany

Jonas Dassler was cast for his first feature film, ***We Are Fine***, right before starting his studies at Berlin's Ernst Busch Academy. Next up was Julia Langhoff's ***Lomo. Language of Many Others***, for which he received the Götz-George Nachwuchspreis and Bavarian Film Award as Best Young Actor, an award he took home again for his work in Lars Kraume's ***The***

Silent Revolution. His performance in Fatih Akin's **The Golden Glove** earned him a nomination for the German Film Award. Next up is a role in Lena Stahl's debut, **Mein Sohn**. Jonas is a member of the Maxim Gorki Theater in Berlin.

Bilal Wahib – The Netherlands

Bilal Wahib began his career in TV before making his big screen debut in 2016, cast in films including Dutch Oscar® entry **Layla M.** by Mijke de Jong. In quick succession, roles came in **Brothers** and in the Dutch TV series **Mocro Maffia**, among others. In 2019 he played the lead in Dutch box office hit, **De Libi**. This was followed by Mees Peijnenburg's **Paradise Drifters**, which will have its world premiere at the Berlinale, as part of Generation 14Plus. Bilal currently studies acting at the Amsterdam University of the Arts and will play Hamlet at Amsterdam's "De Toneemakerij" in 2020.

Bartosz Bielenia – Poland

Bartosz Bielenia studied at the National Academy of Theatre Arts in Krakow and was a member of the Narodowy Stary Teatr from 2014 - 2017. He has been cast in numerous films including **The High Frontier** directed by Wojciech Kasperski, for which he was recognized as the Most Promising Young Actor at Poland's Youth Film Festival. Bartosz' most recent multi-award-winning role is in Jan Komasa's **Corpus Christi**, Poland's shortlisted Oscar nomination for Best International Feature Film. He has been a member of the Nowy Teatr ensemble since January 2018.

Joana Ribeiro – Portugal

Joana Ribeiro studied at the New York Film Academy (2011), Estudio Corazza (2016) and took part in ACT workshops for actors. Currently she's in Antoine Fuqua's new TV series, ***Infinite*** and has co-starred in the pilot episode of Amazon's ***The Dark Tower***. She has worked with directors such as Terry Gilliam on ***The Man Who Killed Don Quixote***, the closing film in Cannes 2018; Rita Nunes on ***Crooked Lines***; and Marco Pontecorvo's newest film, ***Fatima***. Joana starred in the popular TV series ***Madre Paula*** and has worked on stage with Palco 13 in *The Author*, by Tim Crouch.

Ella Rumpf – Switzerland

Ella Rumpf's acting debut was in ***Draussen Ist Sommer*** by Friederike Jehn in 2011. Before heading to London to study acting, she was nominated for the Swiss Film Award as Best Supporting Actress for her role of Ali in ***War*** by Simon Jaquemet. Next came leading roles in ***Tiger Girl*** by Jakob Lass (Berlinale 2017) and the festival hit, ***Raw*** by Julia Ducournau (Cannes 2016). For this role, Ella won Révelation at the César Awards 2018. Recently, Ella was cast in main roles in ***Freud*** (Netflix) and ***Beast*** by Lorenz Merz, both to be released in 2020.