

Winners announced for 2017 Epica Awards

In the 2017 Epica Awards there were Grand Prix winners from Canada, the United States, Poland, Germany and France. The jury decided to award two film Grands Prix this year, one for a film supporting a nonprofit organisation and one for a commercial for an online retailer.



Net#work BBDO campaign, Vagina Varsity.

Meanwhile South Africa managed to win one Bronze for the Net#work BBDO campaign, Vagina Varsity, in the Online Campaigns – Health, Beauty and Fashion category.



Breaking taboos in the Africa femcare category

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- Network of the Year: McCann Worldgroup.
- Agency of the Year: BBDO New York.
- Production Company of the Year (sponsored by GPN): Great Guns.

Grand prix

- Design: *Living Logo* by KBS Canada for Innocence Canada.
- Digital: *Like My Addiction* by BETC (France) for Addict'Aide.
- Joint film winners: *Evan* by BBDO New York for Sandy Hook Promise and *English for Beginners* by Bardzo (Poland) for Allegro.pl.
- Press: *Newspaper Stack – Trump* for Der Taggespiegel by Scholz & Friends (Germany).
- Outdoor: *Fearless Girl* for State Street Global Advisors by McCann New York.

Summing up the awards, Epica jury president Spencer Baim, chief strategic officer of Vice Media, said: “This year more than ever, brands have a responsibility to put a positive message out into the world. Our winners do that, while also representing the best of branding, messaging, storytelling and smart design.”

The Digital Grand Prix was won by BETC (France) for its much lauded *Like My Addiction* campaign, featuring a fake Instagram influencer who turns out to be an alcoholic.

Stéphane Xiberras, executive creative officer at BETC Paris said: “It is a great honour to win the Digital Epica Grand Prix this year and a great recognition of our work. It is particularly significant for us since the *Like My Addiction* campaign partly owes its success to its massive international press coverage, which made it possible to turn this Instagram page into a global campaign, and most importantly, to raise awareness about the danger of addiction on a worldwide scale.”

Scholz & Friends from Germany won the Press Grand Prix with a simple yet powerful image that builds stacked newspapers into a visual pun featuring a bullying Donald Trump.

Matthias Spaetgens, chief creative officer of Scholz & Friends, said: “Winning a Grand Prix for our campaign for the newspaper *Der Tagesspiegel* makes us feel extremely happy, especially when the creative work is not judged by the creative industry itself but by critical journalists.”

Fearless outdoor

The Outdoor Grand Prix went to McCann New York for the widely celebrated Fearless Girl, who faces down the famous bull on Wall Street in what began as a symbol of female leadership for State Street Global Advisors and turned into an icon that captures a turning point in history.

Rob Reilly, global creative chairman from McCann Worldgroup said: “The Fearless Girl became a media sensation in a way we never anticipated, in a very organic way. What made it so powerful was the amount of support we received from people who recognised the importance of what she stands for and kept driving the conversation forward, during a time when

people are striving to reshape existing norms to better reflect their moral values”.

The Design Grand Prix went to KBS Canada for its “living” logo for Innocence Canada, an organisation fighting to free wrongly convicted prisoners.

KBS chief creative officer Matt Hassell said: “We knew immediately that this design work needed to acknowledge the past exonerees, the current staff and donors. The logo itself was created to reclaim the typical prison tally marks to express both a human touch and progress towards overturning wrongful conviction. In this way, it serves as a measurement of success and a reminder that much work is still to be done.”

Public interest, superb craft

There were two Film Grand Prix this year as the jury wanted to award both a stunning public interest film and a superbly crafted commercial.

Evan by BBDO New York cunningly misdirects the viewer to watch an unfolding school romance while a shooting is being prepared, unnoticed, in the background.

English for Beginners by Poland’s Bardzo is a warm, witty and beautiful spot for Allegro.pl (the Polish equivalent of eBay) about an older man who painstakingly learns English so that he can communicate with his new grand-daughter when he visits London.

Bardzo’s founder, owner and creative director Hubert Stadnicki said: “As Epica is the only festival with a jury of marketing journalists, we can be sure our campaign was judged by people with a thorough, up to date and possibly the widest knowledge of the marketing world.” He added that the campaign was by no means created to win awards. “It was made for our client to a specific brief. It met all the marketing objectives and before being entered for festivals had been loved by millions of viewers around the world.”

Entrants and entries by country

This year Epica received 3,350 entries from 71 countries, down on the previous year due to the Publicis awards hiatus and a lower participation by WPP agencies. Having said that, twice as many entries were received from China and Taiwan, 50% more from Malaysia and three times as many from Poland. New countries this year included Pakistan and Kenya.

Results by country

The United States was top in the country rankings with 63 awards including 10 golds, followed by France and the UK. You will find full details of all the winners [here](#).

Founded 31 years ago, Epica is the only worldwide creative award judged by journalists from the marketing, design and advertising press.

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