



Press release

9 november 2025

Here are the winners of Imagine Fantastic Film Festival 2025 The Last Viking wins both the Audience and Jury Award



Mārama wins Sea Devil International Feature

The award winners were announced during the closing night of the 41st Imagine Fantastic Film Festival. The Last Viking won both the Méliès D'Argent Best European Feature and the Silver Scream Audience Award. The Pearl Comb won the Silver Scream Audience Award for short films. The Imagine Imersive Award went to Fallax by Nanna Gunnars. The festival's surprise was Mārama, which took home the Sea Devil Award.

"I am incredibly proud of this edition of the Imagine Fantastic Film Festival. We once again saw growth in visitor numbers, and that fills me with enormous joy. It is wonderful to notice how fantastic film continues to live on in the Netherlands and is reaching an ever-increasing audience." - Festival Director Chris Oosterom

The jury for the Méliès d'Argent for Best European Feature Film consisted of Katrien Lamers (Director of Filmtheater de Fabriek), Hisko Hulsing (animator and director), and Jasper ten Hoor (filmmaker). They named The Last Viking as the winner.

From the jury report:

"The jury enjoyed the enormous variety of fantastic films. However, one film stood head and shoulders above the rest. The film cleverly managed to balance drama and comedy without descending into painful stereotypes about mental disorders. It moved seamlessly from extremely coarse to very tender and sweet. Furthermore, the liberation of choosing your own identity is a beautiful, current theme. Despite Anders Thomas Jensen clearly having developed his own style, *The Last Viking* still feels original and fresh."



Still: *The Last Viking*

The short film jury named *RADIX* by director Anne Breymann as the winner.

From the jury report: "Among a very diverse selection, featuring particularly strong animated films, a melancholic fantastic short about an encounter between two lonely creatures stood out. In an organic, tactile, and earthy style, the viewer is taken into a non-verbal surrealist universe where small details and movements have emotional impact. The quiet and intimate story emphasises the importance of genuine interest in others and growth through connection. The Méliès d'Argent for Best European Short is awarded to *RADIX* by Anne Breymann.

The jury for the Sea Devil Award named *Mārama* as the winner. At the first screening during Imagine, the director emotionally told the audience that the film is based on his grandmother's life and that the traditional singing heard in the film is his mother's voice. In his thank-you video, he showed photos of them both as young Māori women.

From the jury report: The jury saw films with widely divergent perspectives, in a way they had not previously seen presented side-by-side, which made the choice particularly difficult. The winning film completely overturns the Western colonial gaze on world history and does this from a female perspective in a revenge film.

The film is nuanced, layered, and relatable, and is described as innovative and refreshing. The winner of the Sea Devil Award 2025 is Mārama.”



Still: Mārama

The comedy-drama The Last Viking also won the Silver Scream Award. This prize is given to the film with the best rating by the audience. The Pearl Comb won this award in the short film category.

About Imagine Fantastic Film Festival

Imagine is the largest film festival for fantastic cinema in the Netherlands, showcasing the best in fantasy, horror, and science fiction. At Imagine, everything revolves around the imagination. Every year, Imagine challenges the audience to use imagination to reflect on the future of humanity and society. In doing so, the power of fantastic cinema is used, enabling you to discover future worlds, develop a different perspective on reality, investigate the unknown, and thereby broaden your view. Imagine sees the fantastic genre as a rich source of thought experiments that often anticipates or reflects social and technological developments. Through in-depth programmes, the festival offers background information, history, and context, connecting fantastic cinema with current developments in society.

NOTE FOR EDITORS

For more information:

Triple P Entertainment | Stefan van Erp & Maud Hekman | Tel: 035 - 6982106 |
M: 06 – 24097509

E: stefan@triplepentertainment.nl

www.triplepentertainment.nl | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)