



European Association of Regional Television  
Association Européenne des Télévisions Régionales

**PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003**

## **JURY REPORT**



SINAIA, ROMANIA

<http://www.circom-regional.org>





We have finished our job, see you at the Prix Circom Award Ceremony in Grado!

**PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL**  
**2003**

**WINNERS' CITATIONS**

**and**

**JUDGES' COMMENTS**

**Chairman of Judges**  
**DAVID LOWEN**

**May 2003**

## TABLE OF CONTENT

|  |    |
|--|----|
| COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JUDGES ..... | 1  |
| JUDGES .....                                 | 6  |
| AWARD CATEGORIES .....                       | 7  |
| AWARD CRITERIA .....                         | 7  |
| RULES OF ENTRY .....                         | 9  |
| GRAND PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003 .....        | 11 |
| NEWS PROGRAMMES.....                         | 11 |
| WINNER.....                                  | 12 |
| SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS .....                  | 13 |
| OTHER ENTRIES .....                          | 14 |
| GRAND PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003 .....        | 19 |
| DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMES.....                  | 19 |
| WINNER.....                                  | 20 |
| SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS .....                  | 21 |
| ALSO COMMENDED .....                         | 22 |
| OTHER ENTRIES .....                          | 23 |
| PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003.....               | 37 |
| CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES.....              | 37 |
| WINNER.....                                  | 38 |
| SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS .....                  | 39 |
| OTHER ENTRIES .....                          | 40 |
| PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003.....               | 47 |
| CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMMES.....                 | 47 |
| WINNER.....                                  | 48 |
| SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS .....                  | 49 |
| OTHER ENTRIES .....                          | 50 |
| PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003.....               | 55 |
| SPECIAL PROGRAMME.....                       | 55 |
| WINNER.....                                  | 56 |
| SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS .....                  | 57 |
| PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003.....               | 59 |
| MOST ORIGINAL PROGRAMME.....                 | 59 |
| WINNER.....                                  | 60 |
| SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS .....                  | 61 |

## **COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JUDGES**

Once again, I am delighted to report on the Prix and to present to you the comments of the judges in reaching their verdicts.

I include also some general observations after a year in which entries are down in number but greatly up in quality, especially in documentaries. The quality has risen despite a year of less certainty for our broadcasting members and the economic downturn. This is encouraging.

Our winners, especially, continue to show a high and rising standard and the creativity of the Polish programmes in particular impressed our judges.

It must be of special pride that the producer of the winner of the news category is someone who has benefited from training courses run by Circom Regional. That may also be a recommendation to others.

### **Categories**

One extra category was added for 2003 which has given the awards a new breadth.

News, Documentary, Current Affairs, Cross Border were the same. However, after the recommendation of judges and discussion by the Executive, the Special Award of F3 and the Most Original category were split into two.

### **Criteria**

The criteria of the News category was amended to make clear that this was for news magazine programmes and not single subject programmes or single news items.

The criteria for the Current Affairs category was broadened to include “special report” programmes as well as magazines.

The criteria for the Cross Border category was changed to encourage programmes which reflected increasing participation in decision making at a local level.

The new category of the Special Prix of France 3 was created to allow judges to reward programme which show special extra brilliance in deep research, journalistic endeavour, exclusivity (“scoop”) or visual impact.

This allowed the Most Original category to focus more on the creatively unusual or different.

### **Rules of entry**

There were several changes. This year, for the first time, all entries were required to have subtitles in English rather than just the programmes without English sound. This was because judges had found some dialects of the English language too difficult to understand. This new rule resulted in fewer entries from UK and Ireland because of the added cost of sub-titling, a cost, it has to be said has been borne by other stations for all years of the Prix.

As before, I have tried always to interpret the rules with flexibility and understanding for the problems faced at individual stations. We have to offer a “level playing field” to all entrants but we should never let bureaucracy triumph over acknowledging good programmes.

That said, it is confusing why so many entrants still fail to read the Rules. Entering a VHS tape when the rules ask for beta SP, sending no script, or sub-titles, or sometimes even sending a tape with neither, is a waste of effort and money. Some tapes were sent without markings: if they went to transmission like that there would be chaos on air!

The judges try their best to take a lenient view. If the judges think an entry will do better in a different category because it is more appropriate to that category, they often suggest a change.

Some tapes were viewed with poor support material. This takes time and extra effort on behalf of the judges. But the best way to give your programme the best chance of winning is to pick the most relevant category, add sub-titles, add a script and add helpful background information. It's professionalism, after all.

Next year, the Rules will also explicitly state that tapes sent by post should be clearly marked of "no commercial value" – since there are some customs officers who are now a lot better off on the basis of alleged values attached to the postal packets. TVR, by contrast is several hundred dollars poorer.

## **Sponsors**

Circum Regional is most grateful for the support it receives from sponsors of the awards. This year we have welcomed the Committee of the Regions, a European organisation, as a new sponsor.

The Committee of the Regions has taken over sponsorship of the Cross Border category, allowing TVP3 Poland to sponsor the Most Original category – most appropriate, since the TVP3 entries in this category have been very strong in the past few years.

F3, meanwhile, has maintained its Special Prize – but with a category which has greater emphasis on journalistic strengths.

The European Parliament has continued to provide support for the Current Affairs award.

Circum Regional is grateful to all its sponsors and their efforts to reward better programme making and encourage programme makers.

## **Entries**

There were 137 entries, compared with 164 last year and the record number of entries of 170 in 2001. They were distributed as follows:

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| News            | 23 (28 last year) |
| Documentaries   | 63 (65 last year) |
| Current Affairs | 26 (42 last year) |
| Cross Border    | 25 (29 last year) |

All programmes were also considered for the Special Award of F3 and the Most Original category and each category group above passed tapes across for consideration by separate juries.

Once again, I am surprised at the relatively low number of entries for what are prizes of great prestige, with the opportunity of excellent publicity and the award of considerable money. To fail to enter does not display to fellow professionals, other broadcasters or to competitors any confidence in one's own programming.

Make a name for your station, enter – and win!

By country of origin, the entries were:

|                    |            |              |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| Poland             | 23         | (19 in 2002) |
| UK                 | 16         | (34)         |
| France             | 15         | (21)         |
| Germany            | 10         | (19)         |
| Romania            | 8          | (4)          |
| Spain              | 8          | (6)          |
| Denmark            | 8          | (7)          |
| Slovenia           | 6          | (9)          |
| Hungary            | 6          | (10)         |
| Slovakia           | 5          | (2)          |
| Croatia            | 4          | (2)          |
| Sweden             | 4          | (2)          |
| Norway             | 3          | (5)          |
| The Netherlands    | 3          | (7)          |
| Bulgaria           | 3          | (3)          |
| Macedonia          | 2          | (0)          |
| Switzerland        | 2          | (1)          |
| Montenegro         | 2          | (0)          |
| Ireland            | 2          | (4)          |
| Greece             | 2          | (3)          |
| Albania            | 1          | (0)          |
| Italy              | 1          | (0)          |
| Czech Rep          | 1          | (1)          |
| Bosnia Herzegovina | 1          | (0)          |
| Russia             | 1          | (2)          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>137</b> |              |

There are still gaps in the geographical spread of entries with none from Austria, Portugal, Belgium or Finland.

## **Judging**

The judging took place in Sinaia, a holiday resort about a 90 minute drive into the mountains near Bucharest. The hotel was a magnificent example of pre-war splendour in a quiet and sylvan setting. We thank Elena Spanily and Vanda Condurache for the warm hospitality of TVR and Count Dracula for the warm welcome to his castle at Bran. Some just couldn't drag themselves away.

The judges were, once again, dedicated and hard working. This is an intensive and demanding job and requires a high level of professional judgement and stamina. I am most grateful to those who give of their time and expertise to help.

Thanks also to Kresimir Macan, from HRT and the Secretariat, for his unfailing enthusiasm and willingness to help at every stage of the Prix.

## **Judges' comments**

The view of the judges was that the quality in most categories was high. Current Affairs was an exception.

The standard of documentaries was higher than ever and the judges in that category asked if they could award an extra commendation. Next year, the judges recommend that consideration should be given to offering some prize money to the special commendations in

this category. The judges are also concerned that some entries were of too short a running time to be truly considered as documentaries.

Thought will also be given next year to the criteria for the Special Prix of France 3. This year it favoured journalistic research. However, the judges found that there were many entries which could have reflected better everyday life now, rather than re-hash library footage and archive film to make historical documentaries. It is possible, therefore, that next year the criteria for the Special prize will acknowledge programmes which investigate the facts of today's society through portraying everyday people in situations of everyday life.

The numbers of entries for the documentary category were so high that the timetable of the judges was, in my opinion, too stretched. We may need to consider two more judges next year if entries are the same level.

The cross border category will be clarified to make quite clear we are talking about state borders, not cultural borders.

The entry form will also be amended so that the programme duration must be shown.

There was discussion about whether the Prix should include more genres but the feeling was that this was the province of specialist festivals and that the Prix should concentrate on what all member regions do most of the time: news, documentaries and current affairs. The possible addition to this list might be sport.

### **Promoting the Awards – and our programmes**

These comments are written in advance of the presentation of the awards in Grado, Italy, where it is planned that the awards will be presented without the usual tv “spectacular”. This will make for a friendly and informal gathering. It will, however, mean that an opportunity is missed to promote the awards more widely.

Let's hope this can be done by transmissions of the winning entries – for which regional rights are available to all Circom Regional members. It is a great opportunity for a free broadcast of a top quality programme from each category.

Circom Regional may still have to take a more pro-active stance in encouraging the wider transmission of its “flagship” programmes. If this results in higher awareness of and better revenue for its members stations, then this is an added value for membership. Arranging distribution by EbS, already assured, is part of this.

### **Prize-winners at the Conference**

Once again, it will be possible to “Meet the Prize-winners” at the conference in a plenary workshop. This is always interesting and a core part of the conference agenda. It gives a great chance to view and discuss programmes together and hear from the programme makers themselves.

The programmes will also be in the Télétheque for private viewing.

## **Next year**

In 2004, the judging of the Prix will be in Ireland at the invitation of TG 4, the Irish language broadcaster which is currently part of RTE. The venue is not yet confirmed but will probably be Galway. Pol O'Gallchoir, our host, came to Sinaia to see for himself how the judging is organised, so he is well briefed. We look forward to some gentle mists and evocative music once the tapes have been viewed.

If a station wishes to be the host in 2005, please let me know – and send a judge to Galway to find out how it's done!

**DAVID LOWEN**

**Chairman, Prix Circom Regional, May 2003**

# JUDGES

## Chairman of Prix: David Lowen

|                     |                          |             |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Mojca Recek         | RTV SLO Maribor          | Slovenia    |
| Dippy Chaudhary     | BBC London               | UK          |
| Vanda Condurache    | TVR Iasi                 | Romania     |
| Jean-Marie Belin    | France3                  | France      |
| Ove Mulvad          | TV2/Fyn                  | Denmark     |
| Raymond Maxwell     | Committee of the Regions |             |
| Istvan Hegedus      | MTV Budapest             | Hungary     |
| Daniel Parmentier   | RTBF Charleroi           | Belgium     |
| Martine Kruiders    | Omroep Flevoland         | Netherlands |
| Christian Baudissin | BRF Munich               | Germany     |
| Euro Metelli        | RAI Trieste              | Italy       |
| Dimitar Bogdanov    | BNT Sofia                | Bulgaria    |
| Nikos Vezirgiannis  | ERT3 Thessaloniki        | Greece      |
| Brynjulf Handgaard  | NRK Oslo                 | Norway      |
| Phil Davies         | Thomson Foundation       | Wales       |

## **AWARD CATEGORIES**

### **PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL AWARD CATEGORIES**

The following award categories were contested in 2003

- |    |                 |  |
|----|-----------------|--|
| 1. | Documentary     | Grand Prix Circom Regional trophy<br>10000 euros, trophy, free visit to Grado conference |
| 2. | Regional News   | Grand Prix Circom Regional trophy<br>7000 euros, trophy, free visit to Grado conference  |
| 3. | Current Affairs | European Parliament award<br>6500 euros, trophy, free visit to Grado conference          |
| 4. | Cross-Border    | Committee of the Regions award<br>4000 euros, trophy, free visit to Grado conference     |
| 5. | Special         | Prix Spécial de France 3<br>3000 euros, trophy, free visit to Grado conference           |
| 6. | Most Original   | TVP award<br>3000 euros, trophy, free visit to Grado conference                          |

## **AWARD CRITERIA**

It is important that all entrants should check the criteria for each award before entering. Please make sure your programme does qualify for the award category you are choosing. If you enter in the wrong category, you may be disqualified. Entrants should also read the Rules of the competition to make sure of all entry details.

### **1. DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMME**

Entries should be documentary programmes on a single subject. Neither the topic nor transmission need be regional but judges would welcome the examination of issues which have particular regional relevance even if they are set in an international or national context.

Judges will seek evidence of a strong storyline and outstanding professionalism in direction and technique. Programmes of strong journalistic investigation are encouraged but so are programmes with a personal view or an unusual perspective. Documentaries which show fresh techniques or great imagination are welcome.

Please note that this category is for complete programmes with only one subject. Magazine programmes must be entered under other categories as must items which are longer than news items but still contained within another programme.

### **2. REGIONAL NEWS PROGRAMME**

Entries should be complete news programmes made and transmitted in the region for people living in the region: the very essence of regional broadcasting. It does not matter whether the news programme is daily or weekly. There is no restriction on the running time of the programme.

Judges will look for a blend of strong journalistic content, a clear understanding of the needs of its regional viewers, an element of originality, with a clean and stylish presentation.

Some “news programmes” may be better suited to the Current Affairs category. The Regional News category is for general news and news magazine programmes, not “special topic”, “event” programmes, news items, or extended single news stories within a programme.

### **3. CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMME**

This category recognises programmes which may be magazine programmes or special report programmes but which do not qualify as “news programmes” or “documentaries”. The programmes should cover issues of social, political, or topical debate in a way which encourages the interest and understanding of viewers.

Judges will pay special attention to the journalistic approach, the quality of reporting or interviewing, the impact of the programme on the viewer and the clear explanation of complex issues. Topics need not be regional but judges would welcome the examination of issues which have particular regional relevance.

Judges will give preference to those programmes which explore issues which are common across Europe and which stimulate the democratic processes of Europe.

### **4. CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMME**

This prize recognises any programme which is produced by one station but covers an issue or issues on either side of a national border OR any programme which is produced as a co-operative venture by two or more regional stations in different states.

The subject matter should highlight topics which have wider European interest or which explore cultural similarities or differences across borders. In particular, judges will welcome programmes which reflect increasing participation in decision making at a regional level.

Please note that this category needs a more focused approach than just being an “international” story.

Where the entry is a joint entry, the prize money will be divided between the co-production partners.

### **5. PRIX SPECIAL DE FRANCE 3**

This award will be given at the discretion of the judges to an entry in ANY of the categories which shows particular qualities of special value for regional viewers. Stations cannot enter programmes for this category only.

Judges will seek to reward a programme which shows extra brilliance in deep research, journalistic endeavour, exclusivity (“scoop”) or visual impact.

### **6. MOST ORIGINAL PROGRAMME**

This award will be given at the discretion of the judges to an entry in ANY of the categories which demonstrates outstanding originality in approach. Stations cannot enter programmes for this category only.

Judges will be seeking a programme which captures their imagination with an unusual story, or because it has a very different and original treatment, or includes some wonderful and unforgettable characters, or some haunting music, or brilliant presenters: something, in short, which makes the programme different to the normal expectations of regional programmes.

## RULES OF ENTRY

Please read these rules very carefully because it is important that all entries conform fully. A breach of any of the rules may mean disqualification.

1. Entries can be accepted only from the member stations of Circom Regional.
2. Each regional station may enter **ONE** programme only in each category: News, Documentary, Current Affairs, Cross Border. The selection for the Prix Spécial de F3 and Most Original Programme Award will be made from entries in those four categories.
3. Programmes must have been broadcast for the first time since January 2002 and should not have been entered in Prix Circom Regional 2002.
4. Programmes must be submitted as actually broadcast, except for the additions required by Rule 6.
5. Each entry must be accompanied by a brief outline of the programme in English or in French which is sufficient to help the judges to understand more about the reasons for making the programme and the main theme or stories.
6. Each entry, including those in the English language, must have adequate sub-titles in English. A copy of the script in English or French should also be provided: this will be kept with the programme tape in the Circom Regional archive.
7. The entry form, with outline, must be at the TVR Romania office by Friday 21 March 2003. The Beta SP tape, with a copy of the form and any other supporting material, must be with TVR Romania by Friday 28 March (to allow for a technical check). VHS cassettes are not acceptable.
8. Entrants agree in advance that, should theirs be a category winner (not second prize or highly commended), they permit one regional transmission of that winning entry by any Circom Regional member station within its own region during 2003 free of any licence or rights payments. An international version, without sub-titles, will be required for this.
9. Entrants agree in advance to one transmission of a winning programme (not second prize or highly commended) by EbS (the European Commission's satellite channel) during 2003 free of any licence or rights payment.
10. Entrants agree in advance to promotional non-broadcast showcase screenings organised on behalf of the Prix Circom Regional.
11. Entrants agree in advance that brief excerpts from programmes may be broadcast as part of regional news reports or promotional items about Prix Circom Regional.
12. The cost of despatch, customs, insurance will be paid by the entrant.
13. Programme cassettes and texts will not be returned but remain in the archives of Circom Regional.
14. In any dispute, the decision of the chairman of the judges, David Lowen, will be considered final and binding on all entrants.



# GRAND PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003 NEWS PROGRAMMES

**WINNER**                      *FACTS WEEKLY*                      *TVP3 Wroclaw, Poland*

## **SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS**

*TELESKOP*    *TVP3 Poznan, Poland*  
*LOOK EAST*    *BBC East, UK*

## **JUDGES**

|           |                 |                          |          |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Chairman: | Ove Mulvad      | TV2/Fyn                  | Denmark  |
|           | Istvan Hegedus  | MTV Budapest             | Hungary  |
|           | Raymond Maxwell | Committee of the Regions |          |
|           | Mojca Recek     | RTV SLO Maribor          | Slovenia |

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Regional news programmes are strong and still improving was a clear conclusion to the 2003 judges in the news category. Polish news shows, especially, have impressed by their high quality of reporting, their crisp pace and very professional production.

However, we also discovered a tendency towards standardization. Worldwide it seems that you are follow the same rules or the same practice for the composition of news programmes, making the smallest regional news look like CNN!

But perhaps that is not the only way. In fact, we have seen alternatives: Entire news programmes moved out of the studio into the real world reporting from special events. Or journalists involving themselves in a story in a way that could encourage criticism from traditionally thinking colleagues – not to mention the risk of failure doing it at all. Why not stick to the tried and trusted way – so much safer and easier!

But the two approaches can be combined as we have seen in several programmes here, among them the prize winner.

Ove Mulvad, TV2/Fyn - Chairman

**GRAND PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003  
NEWS PROGRAMMES**

**WINNER**

**FACTS-WEEKLY**  
***FAKTY-TYDZIEN***  
**TVP Wrocław - Poland**  
**(13'26)**

**by Piotr Czyzkowski and Seweryn Chwalek**

A very original and fresh approach to a weekly news review. The programme opens with vox pops on a poll on the most important issues of the week. Incredibly – or is unsurprisingly – most people cannot remember much of what they have seen. Journalists, too, were polled on their choice of stories and asked which they thought were the most important in the week. There was good use of graphics and the presentation style was snappy and crisp. Reports overall were critical and sometimes hard hitting. The judges thought this was the programme they would hope their staff would watch – and learn from.

## **SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS**

### **TELESCOPE**

#### ***TELESKOP***

**TVP Poznan - Poland**

**(32'33)**

**by Andrzej Cudak and Ryszard Cwirlej**

High-end news television. It opens with a fine example of how a key report should be constructed. An enquiry into hospital spending cuts starts with talking to patients and only after switches to experts. It was professionally produced and presented with seamless links between studio and location reports. The title sequence is hesitant but from then on it improves.

### **LOOK EAST**

#### ***LOOK EAST***

**BBC 1 East - UK**

**(28'00)**

**by Julie Hay and Donna Talby**

The live opening presentation on location was excellent and the subsequent live coverage of a memorial service for two murdered girls was expertly handled. There is no doubt that this was a tragedy which gripped the nation and the region over many weeks of the police hunt, the discovery of the bodies, and the subsequent arrests. The series of reports reflected the sense of self-examination and sadness. On the day of the memorial BBC1 East covered it very intensely, being invited by the family of the murdered girls. This was very professionally done, but you could ask for more originality in approach.

## **OTHER ENTRIES**

### **REGIONAL NEWS *REGIONALNY DENNIK***

**STV2 - Slovakia  
(9'20)**

A good news programme made professionally by skilled journalists, leading with a story which affected many people in the area about local railways being closed. Then, stories about public budget problems, social problems and a cultural story from an art exhibition. The programme had an interesting start but was built up traditionally. More common people in the stories telling about the consequences would have been an improvement.

### **FLOODS SPECIAL *SPECIAL INONDATIONS* France 3 SudFrance - France (5'28)**

When nature strikes hard, people help each other. This point comes across well in the main story about the flood. Very good camera work, close to the people involved made this clear. The set-up could have been slicker but reflected the situation well by being in right in the very middle of the flood so the power of nature could be well understood.

### **19.30 NEWS *19.30 NYAEDERNE* TV2/Estjylland - Denmark (20'08)**

The opening sequence was very well done as was a report on local objections to the building of windmills.. However, there was too much in vision of a very good presenter. She was obliged to read some reports without any visuals and the report on a new train placed too strong an emphasis on the local mayor.

### **JUDICIAL COOPERATION *TRIANGLE-COOPERATION JUDICIAIRE* France 3 Alsace - France (6'19)**

This was considered not to be a News entry.

### **TV WARSAWA COURIER *TELEWIZYJNY KURIER WARSAWSKI* TVP3 Warsaw - Poland (18'04)**

An unusual opening in which it is difficult to decide whether you are watching headlines or short stories in a programme with "high-speed start". We welcome and enjoyed this response to break new ground in constructing a news show.

**REPORTING SCOTLAND**  
***REPORTING SCOTLAND***  
**BBC Scotland - UK**  
**(25'50)**

This was a programme which sold itself heavily on linking live reports from Geneva, Spain and Dublin on the attempts to bring the European football championships to Scotland and Ireland. But it failed to match the billing because technology alone is not enough. In fact, all the viewer got was a series of talking heads. The failure of the bid led to claims of “skullduggery” but it was not enough to sustain the length.

**WALES TODAY**  
***WALES TODAY***  
**BBC Wales - UK**  
**(30'51)**

The programme leads with the long documentary-like murder verdict and story about a shocking crime. The story lasts 19 minutes before the rest of the news starts. This is a very untraditional construction, and the audience have to be well aware of that. More documentary than news.

**WINTER OLYMPICS**  
***WINTER OLYMPIADE***  
**WDR Essen - Germany**  
**(29'00)**

Funny, thoughtful start from a Saturday Night news show. An invalid pushes his own electrical wheel-chair through the streets after the battery on his chair failed. It was a reconstructed story but one which you will remember next day.

**OBJECTIVE**  
***OBIEKTYW***  
**TVP3 Bialystok - Poland**  
**(20'38)**

The programme takes the brave risk to break the standard way of structuring a news show. It is mainly shot in the streets and deals with a day of fundraising. This is refreshing but also sometimes confusing. What else happened that day?

**CHRONICLE**  
***KRONIKA***  
**TVP3 Krakow - Poland**  
**(16'53)**

Good, serious material, and unusually with a sports story in the top. An important football match is cancelled because of the state of the pitch and people are very annoyed about that. But the story becomes too heavy and too long. Excellent and well photographed story about social problems for gypsies.

**PANORAMA**  
***PANORAMA***  
**TVP3 Gdansk - Poland**  
**(18'29)**

Starts up with a well-told story about a bank not taking care of a herd of 400 cows which suffer severely. A bank? That's because the bank took the cows in payment for a debt and then just left them in the sheds. Clear points and a story to remember and follow up. A professional well produced news programme.

**REGIONAL NEWS CLUJ**  
***STIRILE TV CLUJ***  
**TVR Cluj - Romania**  
**(30'10)**

A very dynamic and pacy presentation but with a restrained reporting style on a series of accidents and outbreak of swine fever. Plenty of interviews and statements animated the reports. We noted, though, an imbalance in the programming, with much dramatic news at the top of the programme, while leaving very important items to the end.

**THE LUBLIN PANORAMA**  
***PANORAMA LUBELSKA***  
**TVP3 Lublin - Poland**  
**(21'08)**

Stylish studio direction, lots of graphics, good use of interviews. Good balance in reporting styles between subjects. Very sensitive treatment of a financial appeal for a terminally ill child.

**FROM OUR PLACES**  
***IZ NASIH KRAJEV***  
**TV Maribor - Slovenia**  
**(14'55)**

The news show is produced with routine professionalism. It is built in a traditional way and included an interesting crime feature.

**FOCUS**  
***ZBLIZENIA***  
**TVP3 Bydgoszcz - Poland**  
**(23'28)**

A really excellent extended news report on soldiers from the region going to Iraq to deal with effects of any chemical warfare attacks. The interviews in the report covered all aspects including an Iraqi doctor living in the area.

**MOUFFLON LAMB**  
***MUFFLONBARANY***  
**MTV Szeged - Hungary**  
**(1'45)**

This story about a cross between a muflon (a kind of Hungarian sheep) and a lamb was disqualified because it was a single story and not a news programme.

**NEUROSEDYN**  
***NEUROSEDYN***  
**SVT Malmo - Sweden**  
**(5'03)**

This story about the terrible side effects of a drug was disqualified because it was a single story and not a news programme.

**LOOK NORTH**  
***LOOK NORTH***  
**BBC Newcastle - UK**  
**(26'20)**

The pleasant, almost chatty tone of the female presenter was refreshing and the live inserts by reporters mixed with already recorded material was particularly well done. Some of the interviews in the report on the proposed tunnel under the River Tyne were perhaps a little too long.

**CHANNEL REPORT**  
***CHANNEL REPORT***  
**Channel TV - UK**  
**(26'15)**

The jury felt that the first report of the news programme dealing with the anniversary of 9/11 was very well handled in linking the event to the lives of many on the island. However, the following reports lacked pace and the presentation could have been much more dynamic.

**MERIDIAN 16**  
***MERIDIJAN 16***  
**HRT Zagreb - Croatia**  
**(20'00)**

The jury found the stand up introduction of the presenter was a good way to open the programme. However, the lack of reporters in vision or return to the presenter made for an imbalance in presentation. There were too many reports with too much voice over and this distanced the viewer from the reports.



# GRAND PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003

## DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMES

**WINNER**                                      *BOBREK-DANCE*                                      *TVP3 Katowice*

### **SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS**

*AMANDA, THE PRINCE CHARMING AND THE BABY*                                      *France 3 Bourgogne*  
*THE QUEEN IS COMING*                                      *TV2 Ost*

**ALSO COMMENDED**      *SENTENCED FOR LIFE*                                      *France 3 Corse*

### **JUDGES**

|          |                     |                   |          |
|----------|---------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Chairman | Daniel Parmentier   | RTBF Charleroi    | Belgium  |
|          | Dimitar Bogdanov    | BNT Sofia         | Bulgaria |
|          | Brynjulf Handgaard  | NRK Oslo          | Norway   |
|          | Nikos Vezirgiannis  | ERT3 Thessaloniki | Greece   |
|          | Christian Baudissin | BRF Munich        | Germany  |
|          | Euro Metelli        | RAI Trieste       | Italy    |

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Like last year, the general level of the 2003 entries was very good.

Many are a good reflection of the importance that Circom broadcasters members give to the documentary approach. These programmes put forward to the great majority of people not only our history or our future and the main events in each part of the world but also the daily life which concerns each of us. The programmes reflect so many the facts of society, great social movements and activity, changes, political evolution, personal attitudes to the future... so much more than simply a news item or just a moment of life.

The 63 documentaries cover many different topics, all fascinating in some way. The final selection was not really easy because most of them are truly original, interesting for the treatment or the film techniques used by the makers. Some are more informative and educational or classic historical story but always there is some serious investigation, preparation or documentation.

After great discussion, the jury decided to nominate Bobrek Dance from TVP3 Katowice: first for the reasons explained above but also for the human situation it portrayed which could exist anywhere in the world - young people completely frustrated with our society, with no goal, no money, no future ! And here trying to escape from this bad life with dance experience.

The two Special Commendations, Amanda, the Prince Charming and the Baby, from F3 Bourgogne and The Queen is Coming, from TV2 Ost, were chosen by the judges for the "own story" approach from Amanda herself first and for the entertainment provided by the second, which include also some touches of humour. In addition, the jury decided to give a Special Mention to Sentenced For Life, from F3 Corse for the exceptional art direction throughout the film.

To conclude, all the members of the documentary jury section are satisfied by the level of the regional documentary production. It is a level sustained since the start of the 21st century - even if the available budget in the regional stations is not always very high, especially in the eastern part of Europe.

Now we have to maintain this high level to inspire colleagues in the future.

Daniel Parmentier, RTBF Charleroi - Chairman

**GRAND PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003  
DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMES**

**WINNER**

**BOBREK-DANCE**  
***BOBREK DANCE***  
**TVP3 Katowice - Poland**  
**(25'56)**

**by Dagmara Drzazga and Adam Lukaszek**

Documentary focusing on several youths in a poverty stricken former industrial zone in Poland. The film is very closely describing the protagonists' absolute frustration with what society and the future have to offer. The only glimpse of hope is taking part in rehearsals of the Silesian Dance Theatre which offers them hip-hop, break dance and some structure! The young finally discover that after long months of hard work their efforts (unlike at school) are valued. Their self esteem is boosted when they finally present their show they developed with an English dance teacher in Bytom's beautiful old opera house and when the curtain goes down amid standing ovations.

Very fine documentary, direct and unpretentious, describing but not attempting to offer an analysis nor to moralize. Each shot in this film has meaning and the filmmaker efficiently makes use of very means of his craft. Clearly a lot of work that could only have been made based on trust between filmmakers and protagonists. Important subject, good story line, very well unfolded, excellent assembly or montage, no superfluous comments or "experts" explaining the obvious. While it advocates that there is hope in the power of creativity it gives no easy answers. An exemplary film.

## **SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS**

### **AMANDA, THE PRINCE CHARMING AND THE BABY**

***LA VIE REVEE D'AMANDA***

**France 3 Bourgogne - France**

**(52'30)**

**by Jill Emery**

A film about Amanda, an autistic woman of 25 who lives in an asylum but visits her parents every couple of weeks. The film is told from the point of view of her mother. From the very beginning we are drawn into a very authentic and intimate story of this young woman and her subtle and complex relations with, for instance, Dimitri whom she chooses as her “boy friend”. Observations of great sensitivity allow us an insight into the dream world of this charismatic woman, from which we return rather enriched. The camera work is of great sensitivity, always present but never intruding, no gimmicks and very direct.

### **THE QUEEN IS COMING**

***DRONNINGEN KOMMER SIGER DE***

**TV2 Ost - Denmark**

**(26'00)**

**by Henriette Ladegaard Pedersen**

A very good idea for a little documentary. The Queen of Denmark is visiting a little town and the folks start preparations. What happens is “panic” but in a sweet and organized Danish way. We see the human side and the enthusiasm of the people who feel that something extraordinary is going to happen. Great camerawork (the coverage of events is exceptional), tight and engaging editing, parallel scenes and clever intercuts make an entertaining programme.

## **ALSO COMMENDED**

### **SENTENCED FOR LIFE**

***PEINES DE VIE***

**France 3 Corse - France**

**(52'00)**

**by Eric Bergel and Dominique Tiberi**

This is an examination of experiences in a prison in Corsica with an open regime of model character especially made for delinquents who committed sexual crimes. The very personal views of the inmates and rendered by interviews and visual substitutes like paintings reflecting their psyche.

A high quality documentary in which the director is strongly present. After a very dynamic beginning he follows a strict concept of which music, sounds and editing techniques are an essential part. Some members of the jury felt uncomfortable with the decision not to show the prisoners' complete faces, so that the eyes could never be looked at. This was seen as a barrier to an identification with the protagonists, but other jury members praised just this concept.

The overall impression is that this film deserves to get noticed.

## **OTHER ENTRIES**

### **PURSUIT OF TRUTH PART1&2**

***POGOVI ZA PRAWDA 1&2***

**Polish Tv Channel 1 - Poland-Bialystok**

**(23'00)**

This was an important piece of journalistic investigation about the imprisonment of Belarussian journalists who dared to criticize the President Lukashenko. Here is the full power of a police state lashing out at these courageous men. Vivid editing supported a compelling story.

### **LA MATERNITE D'ELNE**

***LA MATERNITE D'ELNE***

**France 3 Sud - France**

**(56'25)**

A beautifully shot documentary about a maternity home which offered shelter, warmth and future to young women refugees during the harsh years of World War Two. The film follows the return of three mothers (in old age now) to the maternity home, along with their children. Memories, secrets, their past and their emotional state unfold while they narrate their stories in front of the camera. Solid and well-planned shooting, engaging editing and minimal use of music and effects create a smooth story development. However, the on camera narration by the mothers and children lasts too long and that makes the documentary too much of a “verbal” experience. The fact that the surviving mothers are coming from different backgrounds offers historic and social interest.

### **PROMISED LAND-HATED LAND**

***GELOBTES LAND-GEHASSTES LAND***

**ORB - Germany**

**(50'00)**

In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, people from Southern Germany, Alsace and Switzerland marched into the vastness of Russia lured by Empress Katharina the Great. They were welcomed as new settlers to cultivate the land and act as a buffer against warring Asiatic tribes. 200 years later the German minority gets caught up in changing winds of politics. Beautifully done, well-executed story that adds to the understanding of the relations of two nations by showing up the hopes and sorrows of many individuals in the course of history and even today.

### **THE END OF THE WORLD**

***KONIEC SVETA***

**STV2 - Slovakia**

**(25'30)**

Five individuals voice their opinions about the end of the world based on their experiences in different walks of life. A doctor, a cloakroom woman, a writer, a business woman and a priest. This is like an intellectual exchange which you might, on a lucky day, eavesdrop on in some Parisian café. We suspect it is a programme catering to a philosophically or religiously

interested group. The film relied only on edited statements and thereby limited its means of expression.

**DEATH AT DEEPCUT**  
***DEATH AT DEEPCUT***  
**BBC Scotland - UK**  
**(21'05)**

Attempted investigation of the deaths of four young soldiers at a British army training camp. While the Army officials declare the incidents to have been suicides, there remain many open questions, bafflement and doubts of the families who do not accept this easy explanation. We joined the parents in their authentic and deep grief and were gripped by the investigation of the journalist. Even if it ended inconclusively, we could understand when one mother insisted that “there must be a killer at large in Deepcut”.

**ROYAL DE LUXE,RETOURS DE CHINE**  
***ROYAL DE LUXE,RETOURS DE CHINE***  
**France 3 Sud - France**  
**(52'28)**

A French theatrical company visits rural China. It shows examples of what it has performed in Africa previously and develops new means of communication with the villagers and encourages their participation. Also the company players look for fresh inspiration and muse about ancient traditions coming from China also in theatre. This had a lighter (yet still serious) approach and was an inter-cultural adventure with a lot of charm. A well made film.

**RETURN OF THE VARMLANDERS**  
***VARMLANNINGARNA KOMMER TILLBAKA***  
**SVT-Karlstad - Sweden**  
**(57'00)**

With a dramatic black and white movie-like start, we are plunged into a droll story. A silent movie was made in Sweden in the 1920s but the few existing copies disappeared after a fire in the film institute. For many decades seemingly all Sweden only talked about the film and many anecdotes and myths revolved around the making of it. People took pride in “remembering” their grandparents’ participation in the shoot. When a copy was suddenly discovered in a former Soviet archive all carefully nurtured myths are shaken up. Although well made, with good use of historical footage, we imagine this film is probably highly amusing to local people to whom both the myth of the film and the idiosyncracies mean a lot. It is somewhat lost on others.

**HEART AND SOUL**  
***HJERTEBLOD***  
**TV2/Estjylland - Denmark**

Family members are permitted to monitor the proceedings in a heart clinic where their relatives get a heart transplant. This film stays very close to the family members in their

moments of worry, sorrow and tenderness. We found it difficult, however, to tell apart the various protagonists and which patient they belonged to. Nobody was well-enough “introduced”, which made the storylines harder to follow.

**UNRECOGNIZED**  
***NIEROZPOZNANI***  
**TVP3 Poznan - Poland**  
**(29'45)**

A portrait of a Polish sculptor, Magdalena Abakanowicz, who is also a visiting professor at UCLA . Her latest work is a gigantic monument – also thought to be her most important. This sculpture is named “the Unrecognized” which maybe symptomatic for Abakanowicz’s work since it is not given due credit outside Poland. Conventional film with interviews with experts and critics commenting her achievement, interpreting her figurines and everything else which makes up an arts programme. Technically and aesthetically not extraordinary, yet informative.

**SAM'S CHILDREN**  
***LES ENFANTS DE SAM***  
**France 3 Alsace - France**  
**(51'57)**

The life story of a man who was saved from death in Auschwitz when he was a child. During the past 50 years, he completely refused to talk about his experiences with anybody, even his wife and four children. The first part of the film comprises interviews with his family who try to explain the reasons for this long silence. Now, at last, he is prepared to face up to his memories.

**RAY OF HOPE**  
***LICHTBLICKE***  
**WDR - Germany**  
**(14'04)**

This should have been a programme on the breathtaking transformation of a formerly sad and sombre mining town after the mines were closed. Instead, it became more of a tourist information film that might fit well into a magazine. There was good visualization of the lights of Bochum’s night life but soon this droops into a longish rendition of a series of bars, discotheques, nightclubs and even guided night excursions into former industrial complexes.

**A GUARD**  
***ČUVAR***  
**RTV Montenegro - Montenegro**  
**(17'50)**

A short documentary that tells the story of a watchman in a remote and strikingly beautiful area of Montenegro whose job is to look after a textile factory that stopped production many years ago. The film managed to convey the absolute solitude and emptiness of this man’s duties without a single word being spoken - neither as voice over nor on screen. Instead, the very good photography and editing told it all. This is exemplary to rediscover the power of images, which after all were first in films, not talking.

**SELF APPOINTED TRAFFIC WARDENS**  
***NIEFORMALNI PARKINGOWI***  
**TVP3 Warsaw - Poland**  
**(12'44)**

Probably because of the disastrous job situation, many people act as guards for parked cars in a town in Poland. The film is presented by a lady who tells us all what we would expect to hear from the protagonists who remain very distant and impersonal as they are filmed from a distance with a heavy use of the zoom lens. Much more a reportage than a documentary.

**DIDIER MUNDUTEGUY, A NEW HISTORY OF THE SEA**  
***DIDIER MUNDUTEGUY, UNE NOUVELLE HISTOIRE DE LA MER***  
**France 3 Alsace - France**  
**(26'03)**

Didier Munduteguy prepares his yacht for an international transatlantic race from St. Malo to Pointe a Pitre in Guadeloupe. Much time is dedicated to “insider” matters such as testing materials and even food packs with university students until he finally gets started. His own commentaries strongly supported a general feeling of self-celebration. This, together with a narration too technically focused, stopped our curiosity after some time.

**GALTUNG'S JOURNEY**  
***GALTUNGS REISE***  
**NRK 1 - Norway**  
**(52'00)**

The film is a portrait and a travel film in which we are introduced to the philosophy and ideas of Johan Galtung. He is a critic of “superpowers” and the USA in particular and who advocates “Everyone can be wiser than to resort to violence” and who knew that something like 9/11 was bound to happen because of America’s “foolish” and imperialistic politics. These ideas highly deserve to be heard. But while the film crew merely follows Galtung from one conference to another, from one lecture to the next, where he gives intellectual statements, we find out close to nothing about the man himself, his development as a human being or his emotional self. We need to see more of a man of flesh and blood instead of just a friendly old gentleman.

**CLOSE-UP WEST STREET LEVEL**  
***CLOSE-UP WEST STREET LEVEL***  
**BBC 2 WEST - UK**  
**(30'06)**

A stylistically innovative and interesting film about a man in a suburb of Newcastle who films his surroundings. The entire neighbourhood has been taken over by drug dealers and addicts. While most local people have long given up the fight against this daily horror, he does around asking provoking questions and even uses the guitar as a weapon against lethargy.

**I CAN'T HOLD BACK THE TEARS**  
***NEMOZAM DA GI VRATAM SOLZITE***  
**MKTV - Macedonia**  
**(28'25)**

A film crew accompanies a woman to her destroyed home somewhere in Macedonia. As she laments the loss of the house and furniture over and over again, the viewer never finds out what has happened for a very long time. Did a fire break out? Was it an earthquake? Or is this the result of political violence? Finally, we discover it was the latter. Independently of our respect and compassion for this woman's plight, there is a heavy suggestion of propaganda when the ruins of the house were shown set to the very "heavy" use of sad songs. The photography was not very imaginative.

**PATRONS OF EUROPE**  
***POKROVITELITE NA EVROPA***  
**Kanal 1 - Bulgaria**  
**(28'00)**

This was clearly a cultural and didactic programme, informative but never innovative. It dealt with the proclamation of two Bulgarian saints and their importance for today. It was rather static in its slow rhythm.

**THE DRAPER**  
***MANUFAKTURHANDLEREN***  
**TV2 /Fyn - Denmark**  
**(7'25)**

A short programme about the competition between the city shops and the big supermarkets – a problem which exists in all countries. Here we follow an unmarried Danish draper who tries to build his business and be more competitive.

**POLAND HAS NOT YET SUCCUMBED**  
***JESZCEZE POLSKA***  
**TVP3 Warsaw - Poland**  
**(8'32)**

The story of a 30-year-old man who chose to leave Poland forever because he does not accept the laws which govern the country. There is an interesting approach in the use of a military parade to support the negativism of his opinions.

**SECRET AGENT:THE TRUE STORY OF VIOLETTE SZABO**  
***SECRET AGENT:THE TRUE STORY OF VIOLETTE SZABO***  
**BBC 1 Birmingham - UK**  
**(28'30)**

Violette was one of the women involved in the SOE (Special Operations Executive) secret army. A good mixture between drama and archives and is made almost like a criminal novel. An interesting story but actually with no great importance when set alongside similar tales of courage and underground life stories of heroism in many other countries.

**5.B-DIVORCE**  
***5.B DIVORCE***  
**TV Midt-Vest - Denmark**  
**(24'35)**

A documentary reveals how a divorce in the family influences the children's mind and life. The story is told by children themselves which gives it authenticity. The children talk openly about the divorce and the reasons for it. They sound very wise and are without hesitation. Somehow, this suggests that their composure may be false or the editing selective.

**CARMEN AND HARRIE**  
***CARMEN EN HARRYIE***  
**TV Noord - Holland**  
**(28'40)**

Psychological documentary about a man, Werner, whose outside (male body) is at odds with her inner self (wishing to be a woman) and felt like living in a woman's land, because he/she could not give voice to explain what went on within him. Only when he met Harrie who liked him instantly regardless of whether he was man or woman did he start therapy and proceed towards the final step – the operation that changes his “outside”. Straightforward, full of humour and self-irony (also about Harry, a veteran gay, whose fate it is to start out with a man and finally ending up with a woman). Direct and honest, treating the still delicate subject with appropriate normalcy. Remarkable about the film is that it doesn't end with an old fashioned “Happy End”, suddenly the couple splits up and things do change with the gender transformation. Harry projects much of what he dislikes in women into Carmen who now is a woman for real. Very human, very recommendable glance over the fence.

**THE MYSTERY OF THE IRON BRIDGE**  
***THE MYSTERY OF THE IRON BRIDGE***  
**BBC Wales - UK**  
**(49'00)**

The story of a iron bridge which was the engineering marvel of its day. There is very good camera work and direction, even too good for such a subject – an iron bridge. The subject did not seem worthy of the treatment.

**RETURN OF THE WANDERING DEADMAN**  
***INTOARCEREA MORTULUI RATACTOR***  
**TVR Craiova - Romania**  
**(20'40)**

A very interesting and extraordinary story about a mistake at a funeral. However, the film is badly shot and edited. The sound is also bad except the first gypsy song.

**THE SCHOOL OF DREAMS**  
***SCOALA DE VISE***  
**TVR 2 - Romania**  
**(33'16)**

This is a good portrait of several ballerinas and focusing on one of them – Alexandra. They talking about the sacrifices they have made, about their lost youth and all the difficulties you have to overcome to become a ballerina. It is the unseen side of ballet.

**30 MIN:FRANCO'S FORGOTTEN CHILDREN**  
***30 MIN:ELS NENS PERDUTS DEL FRANQUISME***  
**TV 3 Catalunya - Spain**  
**(30'00)**

This documentary reveals one of the darkest secrets in Spain's recent history – the fate of the children of Republican prisoners and the splitting up of families as part of Franco's brutal repression. This is an issue which may be forgotten in the coming years. Repressions like Franco's should be remembered and the programme is helping in this. It is much more like a gallery of different memories and opinions but with no human touch. There is no personal story to believe in. Many types of techniques are mixed (old footage, black and white, fiction etc) but there is a lack of controlled direction and strong storyline.

**OLIVER AT HEART**  
***ALT FOR OLIVER***  
**TV Syd - Denmark**  
**(42'00)**

A documentary watching the progress a brain damaged boy named Oliver makes in the course several months. While many children in Denmark that are born with brain damage are shut away in special homes that offer only basic help and where these children lead more or less a vegetable's life, Oliver's parents decided to find new ways of helping their son. They discover the "Doman Method" from the US in which progress in movement coordination and physical growth is stimulated by impulses aimed at the intellect. Yes, undamaged parts of the brain can take over functions! And the effect of what seems like a bombardment of algebra, optical puzzles, even written texts (Oliver s only two and a half!) and what reminds you of the training programme for astronauts Oliver actually shows that he can crawl a certain distance (instead of just sprawling on the floor like a vegetable), that he can find solutions to certain mathematical problems he is playfully confronted with. The film uses the mother as a convincing point of view person who lets us in on her hopes and worries, her emotions and exhaustion.

While the "Doman Method" is not yet accepted by science and we are sceptical at first when we see how much is being done with the little child we gradually are won over by what unfolds in the film so that finally we are angry that school medicine and the society does not bother to look closely at what is possible. The mother says at some point "My child is just spilt milk for the others, but I don't think it is a waste of time". Intense, uncommented documentary that could bring hope to many who are unaware of these means to help them.

**THE NEW ROBINSONS-YEAR 2002**  
***ROBINSONOWIE ROCZNIK 2002***  
**TVP3 Wroclaw - Poland**  
**(12'27)**

Two homeless people have chosen to live a free life away from the problems of everyday existence, with their dog. They have promised to help and support each other.

**UNDER THE PISCES**  
***SOUS LE SIGNE DU POISSON***  
**SRG SSR - Switzerland**  
**(9'20)**

A short programme about the connection between Suisse Romande and the German region of Thurgovie made during Expo 02. The director is French speaking and lives in Lausanne but his family comes from Thurgovie.

**SECTOR 10**  
***SEKTOR 10***  
**TVP3 Lublin - Poland**  
**(23'54)**

This follows a group of radical WISLA football club fans and a priest, also WISLA fan, who is helping them understand aggression and how to overcome it. The subject is deeply explored and the story is entertaining and interesting to watch.

**THE DANCE STUDIO**  
***STUDIO TANCA***  
**STV 2 Banska Bistrica - Slovakia**  
**(25'05)**

Young people show how they express themselves through dance. The documentary is a sophisticated attempt to bring this modern art closer to the public. It may look like a dance show but it has additional perceptions and is much deeper.

**THE HIDDEN TREASURE**  
***TACEREA ZIDURILOR ANONIME***  
**TVR Iasi - Romania**  
**(13'47)**

People of a small south Romania village are living on top of a treasure trove. Archeologists have discovered the ancient relics of pre-Christian martyrs. Local people are still running around over valuable coins and intricate pieces of jewelry - but they keep silent about it, hoping that some day one of them will discover the big treasure.

**VOICES OF THE ALVAR**  
***ALVARETS FOLK***  
**SVT 2 - Sweden**  
**(58'30)**

The documentary presents beautiful nature shots alongside different portraits of people who live on this island. Enchanting to watch but the story is running too slowly.

**ALBANIAN MELODRAMA**  
***ALBANIAN MELODRAMA***  
**ERT 3 Thessaloniki - Greece**  
**(50'54)**

A portrait of diva Edit Mihali inside her working environment, The Lyric Theatre. There are parallels traced with Albanian history but they do not integrate well enough. Music is a constant support for the storyline.

**A LETTER FROM PIOTR**  
***LIST PIOTRA***  
**TVP3 Gdansk - Poland**  
**(27'42)**

This is an intimate and humane story of a young transsexual living his new life and revealing his (or her) inner thoughts. Touching and sensitive at moments, the film tries to illuminate psychological elements and uncomfortable conditions for Piotr (or Monica) nowadays. There is a strong conflict inside the persona that needs the viewers analytical ability to be engaged. The extensive use of close-ups and rather tight editing are not always good enough to achieve this.

**GO DZIK CERTIFIES**  
***METRIKA GO DZIKA***  
**TVPSzecezin - Poland**  
**(49'54)**

A biographical programme about an important and unique labour leader of Poland. The film combines old news footage, interviews and re-constructed scenes in a creative and artistic way offers a fresh “look” to the typical biography. It has a nice and engaging start and keeps a smooth pace, while we learn and follow the days and actions of this charismatic person. Besides, as the story develops, the film transmits a sense of mystery and sympathy about the man, who also participates with an interview. Well-developed structure, engaging at parts, clear approach, nice music and a surprising ending leave a positive outcome.

**THE GOOD SPIRIT OF AN OLD BRIDGE**  
***DOBRI DUH STAROG MOSTA***  
**PBS BiH - Bosnia Herzegovina**  
**(50'51)**

A touching story about the important influence of the famous but now destroyed bridge on the people of the historic town of Mostar. We travel back in time and we experience the social

value that this monument has created. We see and feel through the eyes and narrations of artists who have used the bridge as inspiration, divers who have leapt from it, and children who are now growing up without it. The idea of exploring the spiritual value of a monument is inspiring but it proves difficult to maintain interest for the average viewer.

**TRACES**  
***SLEDI-TIMCEK IVANUSA***  
**TV Maribor - Slovenia**  
**(27,00)**

This is a portrait of a filmmaker who dedicated his life to the restoration of simple life in his country. The film reveals the artistic and sensitive aspect of this filmmaker and reveals the beauty and simplicity of the country people. There is great photography, music and editing: a well made cultural film.

**MAUTHAUSEN;LIVE TO TELL THE STORY**  
***MAUTHAUSEN:VIVIR PARA CONTARLO***  
**Canal2 Andalucia - Spain**  
**(12'18)**

This is part of a magazine programme which starts with a presenter in a studio and which offers a production important mainly for historic reasons. We meet the last two Adalusians who survived the Holocaust. There is a simple directional approach and a horizontal narrative structure. The camera treats the two old men with respect and allows their story to come out without additional tricks and dramatizations. Emotional and revealing at moments but divided unevenly by the two long interviews of the protagonists. The last sequence with the two men meeting at the memorial is emotional and meaningful.

**CAMPUS IN EUROPA**  
***CAMPUS EUROPA***  
**BRF Munich - Germany**  
**(29'41)**

It is an information programme about three universities in Ireland and Scotland. Great work for educational purposes and very attractive for young people who like to become part of these great institutions. The production value is high for this type of programme with beautiful photography and engaging editing.

**A LESSON OF THOSE DAYS**  
***KORABELI TANORA***  
**MTV Szeged - Hungary**  
**(7'00)**

This is no more than a re-enactment of a lesson in a village primary school. An actor plays the part of a teacher from the 1920s and visitors to the tourist center play the parts of the children. It is well-made but cannot be considered a documentary.

**ERIKA**  
***ERIKA***  
**MTV Budapest - Hungary**  
**(21'28)**

A documentary about the harsh life of a Roma woman who lives in the countryside with her Hungarian husband. It has a great and passionate start, in which we see Erika dancing and singing. We follow moments of everyday life, hers and the husband's, while other people tell their simple stories in between. The scenes with Erica having fun are the most beautiful and engaging. But, by the end, we still have the feeling that we have not got to know Erika very well. Something is missing and we lose interest, full of life though that woman is.

**DOCUMENTARY ABOUT EBBE TRADBERG**  
***DOCUMENTAL SOBRE EBBE TRABERG***  
**TVE Rioja - Spain**  
**(58'00)**

A melancholic and poetic homage to Ebbe Tradberg, a Danish humanist and journalist who – surprise – had jazz in the heart (“Jazz en el corazon”, as a title stated). Indeed, the combination of fine spoken poetry and jazz music with the cool impressions of Scandinavian landscapes, buildings, streets, details created a peculiar tension that made watching pleasant. Tradberg's brother and others testified on Ebbe as person and musician who already as an 18-year-old started a deep relationship with Spain. This explains why a Spanish film is dedicated to a Dane from distant Scandinavia. Note: this film came without subtitles and script, which rendered it largely impossible to judge for non-Spanish speakers.

**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROMAN ART-MERIDA**  
***EL MUSEO NACIONAL DE ARTE ROMANO DE MERIDA***  
**TVE Extremadura - Spain**  
**(25'00)**

An information magazine programme with a presenter and a series of well edited reports with educational value. It is a useful programme for young people because, in a simple and direct way, it reveals the significance of the Roman and classical artifacts in the museum. There is not enough, however, to set it apart as a documentary.

**JO A UPRKA-COLORS AND SONGS**  
***JO A UPRKA-BARVY A PISNI***  
**ET 2 - Czech Rep.**  
**(37'00)**

This is a programme about a Moravian painter whose work is transformed to folklore reconstruction by the filmmaker. It is a very interesting idea but the narrative structure loses context because of the lack of direction. There are just too many details and extensive voice over, which both diminish a rather successful project.

**CORDOBA**  
***CORDOBA***  
**TVE Madrid - Spain**  
**(29'06)**

This is a well made production about the history of the city of Cordoba, which has the feel of an episode of a series. Its natural home is the travelogue or a cultural programme and it is a pleasure to watch. There is a great start with passionate editing and high value shooting. Its direction is superb as well as the photography.

**KOSAKENLAND IN ITALIEN**  
***KOSAKENLAND IN ITALIEN***  
**RAI 3 Trieste - Italy**  
**(90'00)**

This is a historical documentary about the occupation of Carnia – the hinterland of Trieste - by the Cossacks during World War Two. It reveals unknown events using rare film footage. It has a solid and coherent narrative structure with short and well-balanced interviews.

**INTERNATIONAL HORIZONS:**  
***INTERNATIONAL HORIZONS***  
**TVS 1 Ljubljana - Slovenia**  
**(75'00)**

A straightforward journalistic research programme about the outcome of the terrorist attack in New York and how it has affected the way Americans see Muslims today. There is a good use of archive footage and successful editing. However, it is a rather pedestrian compilation and without any real fresh insight.

**TORY ISLAND**  
***OILEAN THORAI***  
**TG 4 - Ireland**  
**(55'49)**

This is an atmospheric and “cinema-style” documentary about a remote and hostile island and the 150 people who insist living on it. It has a well balanced development and a rather slow and steady pace that does not bother you at all because every shot is unique and powerful.

**LIVING IN A BOX**  
***LIVING IN A BOX***  
**Channel TV - UK**  
**(25'00)**

A factual report about poor and sick children in Romania who receive help from British students. It has a strong informative and educational manner but in the structure of a news report only longer. There are some strong images of people at the rubbish dump. It is a factual report and has no personal view or coherent storyline.

**BETWEEN IDOLS**  
***C' DOTE THOTE***  
**RTVH Tirana - Albania**  
**(21'00)**

This was an interesting programme about life in the countryside with a strong start and unusual use of sounds and music. We consider it a cultural-performance piece of work with rich images. It includes enjoyable segments of performances at ancient theatres and “directed” sequences of folk everyday life. The absence of narration is a plus for enjoyment but limits its strength as a documentary.

**WELL MAN**  
***BUNARMAN***  
**HRT 1 - Croatia**  
**(30'00)**

This follows one of the last masters of a dying craft - drilling wells with man-powered tools. There is a great sense of “passing time” while the craftsman builds the well and at moments it is even entertaining. Direction and editing are balanced and we pleasantly follow the technical process of the drilling. There is not, however, a specific personal point of view or a storyline with any conflict or follow through. What happens to the craftsman after all this? Is the craft is truly dead? It is important to our interest in the story.

**SURVIVING THE WATER**  
***BOVEN WATER***  
**Omroep Zeeland - The Netherlands**  
**(93'00)**

This is a programme about the people who survived the flood of 1956 in Holland. We see some talking to camera about the way they lived through the event and the damage it caused them, mostly psychologically. There is excellent direction and cinematography as well as editing. However, there is a lack of dramatic drive and it is too long.

**WOMEN FROM ITALY**  
***FEMMES D'ITALIE***  
**France 3 Lorraine - France**  
**(26'23)**

On two levels that do not really link well, we are told of Italian migrant workers who came to the mining area of Lorraine in France. While elderly French men recall how these men arrived and where they worked until 1928 (when, we are told) they stopped coming and Poles came in their stead, we find a group of middle aged Italian women in France making pasta in a kitchen and recalling how women got the men out of sordid bars. But we are left confused, as these ladies cannot possibly remember anything of those times in the 1920s.

**THE SOLDIERS OF THE GOSPEL**  
***LES SOLDATS DE L'EVANGILE***  
**France 3 Rennes - France**  
**(56'57)**

This is an interesting and fresh documentation of the history of French missionaries in Africa. There is lavish use of unseen footage showing missionaries with pith helmets scrambling all over Africa to “civilize” the “Dark Continent”. They were often in competition with the other, worldly White Men who were after the Black Man`s resources and work power - and not always just their souls. We thought the film relied a little too much on the old footage and less on critical self-reflection of the interviewed ex-missionaries who seemed ready to talk.

**SPINY JANUARY**  
***KAPINSI INVARI***  
**School TV - Russia**  
**(51'55)**

The story of the first revolt in the history of the Soviet political concentration camps. There is much information and history but not much documentary investigation of the evidence. Too much voice over from the narrator strikes a moralizing tone.

**JOURNEY IN THE PAST**  
***ZEITREISE***  
**MDR Leipzig – Germany**  
**(29'25)**

The documentary tells in an individual, original way what happened after the fall of the Iron Curtain by interviews with people in a train going from Leipzig to Rostock. It is dynamic and interesting to watch but the opinions are too personal and limited. There is so much to say about the fall of the Iron Curtain that these individuals cannot present the whole situation.

**END OF ALGARABIA**  
***EL FIN DE LA ALGARABIA***  
**TVE 2 Madrid - Spain**  
**(28'22)**

This entry was originally in Cross-border category, but then moved to documentaries by judges - second entry from the same station.

## **PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003 CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES**

### ***WINNER***

*PEOPLE FOR SALE*

*BBC 1*

*Northern Ireland*

### ***SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS***

*INSIDE OUT*

*BBC South*

*THE NIGHT THE FISH COME*

*TVR 2*

### ***JUDGES***

|          |                  |                  |             |
|----------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Chairman | Dippy Chaudhary  | BBC London       | UK          |
|          | Jean-Marie Belin | France3          | France      |
|          | Vanda Condurache | TVR Iasi         | Romania     |
|          | Martine Kruidier | Omroep Flevoland | Netherlands |

### ***CHAIRMAN'S REPORT***

This year the Current Affairs jury viewed twenty-six tapes. Whilst a large number of countries participated, the overall entry level was down: last year there were forty-two entries. It is difficult to ascertain the exact reason for the drop but what is clear is that the overall standard of the programmes submitted was far lower compared to last year.

The jury had difficulty in creating a short list of twelve programmes and only managed to select seven. The low level of entries may account in part for this difficulty but the jury worried that there was a more profound reason for the poor standard of entries. Too many programmes lacked ambition, content to tell stories with little or no narrative drive. The subject matter of these programmes were often ill thought out and had no clear journalistic purpose. The story telling was also of a low standard. Many programmes displayed little visual flair or desire to keep the viewer engaged.

Of the seven programmes shortlisted, the overall standard was refreshing and impressive. Many programmes showed a fresh and innovative approach to film making. The judges were impressed with the creative approach to some subjects: BBC South's treatment of people living in derelict and crime ridden estates was a notable example. Powerful and strong images, clear structures and well written commentary was also evident in many of these films. Selecting a winner with such strong contenders was not easy. The undercover investigative film, *People For Sale*, deserved to win as journalism of this nature and calibre was rare in the programmes entered this year.

In conclusion, the jury hopes that next year the number of entries rises and that broadcasters raise their game in this field of current affairs journalism.

Dippy Chaudhary, BBC London - Chairman

**PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003  
CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES**

**WINNER**

**PEOPLE FOR SALE**  
***PEOPLE FOR SALE***  
**BBC 1 Northern Ireland - UK**  
**(29'40)**  
**by Declan Lawn and Andrew Martin**

This exposes the industry of people-trafficking ring operating between the criminal underworld of Eastern Europe and the farms and factories of Northern Ireland. The programme recruited two Lithuanian journalists to pose as illegal immigrants and followed them as they go illegally across Europe to South Armagh. The judges were impressed by the quality of the investigation and the journalism. The story telling was robust and skilfully combined powerful tales of illegal immigrants hoping for a better life and the exploiters along the way. Confronting both the Irish and Lithuanian agents towards the end of the programme was particularly powerful both journalistically and visually. The programme was gritty and bold, exposing a hidden world of human of exploitation. A worthy winner.

## **SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS**

### **INSIDE OUT -EP.4**

#### ***INSIDE OUT-EP.4***

**BBC South - UK**

**(29'05)**

**by Jonathan Bigwood, Jane French and Chris Packham**

This magazine tells three interesting stories in three different ways. In this edition, the first is the moving story of an ex British soldier who claimed he had been tortured in a psychiatric hospital in Germany and who now tries to deal with his past in the place where he suffered most.

The next story is about the seven “best things” in South England. The third is about a rich young man introducing in a cynical yet humorous way what it is like to live in a block of rundown flats. This programme hits the viewer hard in many ways and at many levels: compassion, warmth and a bit of amusement: the perfect mix. Good camerawork, good editing and a good professional presentation from the host. It just failed to win because of the tough competition.

### **THE NIGHT THE FISH COME**

#### ***NOAPTEA IN CARE VIN PESTII***

**TVR 2 - Romania**

**(10'22)**

**by Sabina Pop**

The story about an environmental disaster which hit a village in North Romania. As a result of a local detergent factory closing, high levels of cyanide leaked into the Siret River. The film highlighted the devastating results of the pollution both for the locals and the environment. Powerful shots open the film and set the tone and the story slowly unravels the double tragedy in the village. The judges felt the filming, editing and the stories of the people were of the highest quality. The film was beautifully paced and the commentary was sparse and skilfully used. The film overall was of a very high standard and came as a close contender to the winner. The judges deemed that this should also be entered for the Special Award of F3 category.

## **OTHER ENTRIES**

### **BRATISLAVACENTRISM**

#### ***CENTRALIZMUS***

**STV2 - Slovakia**

**(26'22)**

“Bratislavacentrism” explores the relationship of other Slovakian cities to the centre. The programme analysed what benefits Bratislava has compared to other regions touching upon issues such as unemployment. The judges felt the programme makers handled a complex subject in a thorough and accessible way. However, the visual aspects of the programme were often unimaginative and unoriginal.

### **EUROPE**

#### ***EORPA***

**BBC 2 Scotland - UK**

**(29,00)**

Europa, BBC Scotland’s Gaelic language European current affairs series, dealt with three stories. The first item looked ahead to the French Presidential elections. The judges thought this item was well and clearly told giving the viewer an understanding of the key political issues. The second film asked how and if the Gaelic language was being encouraged in Scotland and the third film looked at the controversy surrounding phone masts in Spain. The judges felt the stories were well told but in a very conventional and unimaginative manner.

### **20 eme RALLYE SAINT LOUIS DU SENEGAL**

#### ***20EME RALLYE SAINT LOUIS DU SENEGAL***

**France 3 Sud - France**

**(26,00)**

This is a current affairs part of a regional magazine dealing with the history of L' Aeropostale, the first airport transport company, which connected Toulouse to Senegal in West Africa. There is good journalism and the piece is well built with many relevant interviews and intelligent use of archive material. The jury would have preferred the producers to have followed one character throughout the whole adventure to add some personal interest.

### **STAR CHILDREN**

#### ***STJERNEBERN***

**TV2/Estjylland - Denmark**

**(23'05)**

A film that looks behind the scenes of the child model industry. The film follows the story of one family that has two successful child models and the story of a young girl and her attempts at breaking into this tough world. The filming and editing felt very contemporary and the story was entertaining and informative. Although the judges agreed it was a good watch they felt the programme lacked a hard edge and that it ran out of steam towards the end.

**TO BE ENGLISH OR NOT TO BE EUROPEAN**  
***TO BE ENGLISH OR NOT TO BE EUROPEAN***  
**France 3 - France**  
**(26'32)**

The programme focuses on five characters who live in England and asks if they see their future in England or as part of Europe. The programme makers travel the length and breadth of Britain meeting a cross section of people. The programme touched upon some interesting and thorny issues. Although the characters were well cast the show did not allow enough time for the characters to fully develop and therefore the complexities of the issue felt superficial.

**UPPER CLASS HUNTING**  
***JAKT TIL HOYSTBYDENDE***  
**NRK 1 - Norway**  
**(26'26)**

“Upper Class Hunting” explored the controversy surrounding rich people in Norway who buy themselves exclusive shooting rights to the wilderness to hunt grouse. Hunting is a popular pastime and local hunters say they are being priced out of this sport. Told through several hunting parties the film explores the issue. An engaging film, shot well with characters that were well cast. However, the judges felt the subject matter did not warrant a treatment of this length.

**INSIDE OUT**  
***INSIDE OUT***  
**BBC 1 West - UK**  
**(29'10)**

A magazine programme telling three stories from the region. The first film looked at the welfare of greyhounds; a film about a cancer centre and a behind the scenes look at the Lydney State Circus. The mix of the stories were interesting and well told although in a conventional manner. The judges felt the visual treatment of the three films was very similar despite the subject matter and the use of the presenter in all three films did not give the half hour enough light and shade.

**WHERE IS MIHALIS OR FEELINGS FOR DEFROZING**  
***KADE E MIHALIS ILI CIUSTVA ZA RAZMRA ZIAVANE***  
**BNT Kanal 1 - Bulgaria**  
**(25'40)**

This film looks at the impact of drugs on young people and what the neighbouring countries are doing to help them. A very powerful and harrowing opening with strong visual images highlighting the dangers of drugs. Despite the strong opening, the judges felt the programme lingered on this for too long before coming to the heart of the programme which followed the stories of drug takers in a rehabilitation centre. A judicious use of commentary would have enhanced this documentary.

**INSIDE OUT - PR. FOUR**  
***INSIDE OUT – PR. FOUR***  
**BBC 1 Birmingham - UK**  
**(29'10)**

A magazine programme with three stories from the region. The lead story explores the rise of cheap flights by following a group of travellers from Birmingham to Prague. Story two is a moving one about a brother and sister, owners of a historic building and their desire to keep it. Film three was dedicated to racial problems in the Midlands. All three stories were journalistically strong. The judges felt item one adopted a fresh and innovative approach. However, story two adopted a very different visual style. The different approach to the films gave the programme overall a disconnected feel which let it down.

**ETHNIC CLIMATE**  
***ETNICZNE KLIMATY***  
**TVP3 Krakow - Poland**  
**(45'52)**

A programme on national and ethnic minorities in Poland, this told the story of Lithuanians living in north eastern Poland. Presenter Brian Scott explored how they manage to preserve their identity. The programme was held together by the strong performance of the reporter but otherwise very disappointing. It was too heavy on interviews, lacked any sequences and the editing and camerawork was poor.

**POLDER MASH**  
***POLDERPRAK***  
**Omroep Flevoland - Holland**  
**(11'41)**

Not an easy programme to describe! A cross between stories of unusual characters - like the grandmother learning to play the drums; short comedy sketches and just some quirky and unusual camerawork. This is not really current affairs as we know it. However, the judges selected this to be entered into the most original category.

**CULTURAL SLAUGHTERHOUSE**  
***JATKA KULTURALNA***  
**TVP3 Wroclaw - Poland**  
**(40'17)**

A debate on the controversial idea of creating a centre for refugees in Berlin or Wroclaw. A fiery debate with well chosen international speaker and handled well by the presenter. However the judges felt the treatment of the subject was intense and the debate was not always easy to follow.

**GABET CHAPUISAT**  
***GABET CHAPUISAT***  
**SRG SSR - Switzerland**  
**(5'13)**

A short film about a famous retired footballer who now coaches a football team of French speaking Swiss players. In a Sunday game his team is up against a German speaking Swiss players - and it's make or break for both teams! A programme full of insight examining the pressures of coaching a team when all that counts is winning – even at below top level.

**EVERLASTING STORY**  
***POVESTE FARA SFARSIT***  
**TVR Iasi - Romania**  
**(39'42)**

A magazine programme, studio based with two human interest stories. This programme had two very powerful stories, one of which followed the life of Ionel, who suffered from diabetes and had lost his desire to live. Three years later the programme makers revisit Ionel to discover he has fallen in love and, with the help of his partner, now wants to live. The film deals with a very difficult subject sensitively and intercuts skilfully the story of the couple now and three years ago. The second film, A Midwinter's Night Dream, was an equally powerful story about two missing children and the search by villagers to find them. The storytelling was particularly strong and the judges were very impressed by the film making skills. However the overall programme was let down by the studio element and as result it just missed out on the highly commended section. The judges felt the A Midwinter's Night Dream should be considered for the Special Award of F3 category.

**IN FOCUS**  
***V ZARISCU***  
**TV Maribor - Slovenia**  
**(33'05)**

In Focus is a kind of debate about the floods threatening some Slovenian villages. The guests are the mayor of the village, Duplek, and two specialists. The guests have to answer not only questions asked by the host, they also people on the phone. The judges would have liked to see some relevant footage of the previous floods as well as how the people of the villages reacted. This could have added more life to the viewers calls and made the programme more vivid.

**FIGHTING AGAINST TERRORISM**  
***I KAMP MOD TERROR 1+2***  
**TV 2 Nord Digital - Denmark**  
**(22'10/19'22)**

The programme following Danish air force troops who are posted in Kazakhstan to participate in the international struggle against terror. It follows the soldiers and pilots at the base and seeks to give an image of their everyday life in the military base as well as of their activities. The judges thought the programme a little too descriptive and would have preferred to discover more individuals in their everyday life inside the base.

**WEEKDAYS IN BACS-KISKUN COUNTY**  
***HETKOZNAPOK BACS-KISKUNBAN***  
**MTV Szeged - Hungary**  
**(45'00)**

The programme offers snapshots of every day life of the Slovakian people living in Hungary. The producers decided to give the impression of the way the Slovaks live by presenting significant moments of their everyday life. This makes for an interesting social document but it needed a linking theme or plot to give a better structure.

**LEGACIES**  
***SVEDOSTVA***  
**MKRTV - Macedonia**  
**(26'37)**

The programme is about the cultural legacy of Macedonia presenting the culture and tradition of the city of Ohrid. The judges liked the good camerawork and the variety of items but they would have liked a warmer presentation that could have introduced the viewer better in this interesting and little known world.

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE PEROPALO**  
***LA FIESTA DEL PEROPALO***  
**TVE Extramadura - Spain**  
**(25'00)**

This is the story of one of the most original carnivals in the world. The entry lacked both script and subtitles so it was impossible for the jury to make an adequate verdict.

**IL 2 STURMOVIK**  
***IL 2 STURMOVIK***  
**MTV Pecs - Hungary**  
**(22'16)**

This is a story of a search for the wreck of a Soviet aircraft which was shot down in 1945. during an air battle over Hungary. We have the opportunity to hear some eye witnesses and watch the hard work people do to find the wreck. Despite the good use of archive footage, however, the story lacks rhythm and the music is not very "happily" chosen. The jury thought that the editing could have been faster.

**THE FIRE FROM THE WORLD'S END POINT**  
***FOCUL DE LA CAPATUL LUMII***  
**TVR Craiova - Romania**  
**(17'24)**

This production presents an old Romanian rural custom: the calling over the village. The viewer has an opportunity to meet interesting people and we get an image of life in a village with its traditions and picturesque parts. The judges were impressed by the good camerawork but they would have liked a plot to be more obvious.

**INSIDE OUT -5**  
***INSIDE OUT -5***  
**BBC1 Yorkshire - UK**  
**(29'10)**

A magazine programme with an interesting story about where “recycled” household rubbish really goes. In this case, from a “wheelie bin” in the north of England to Indonesia. Is this what the people with their rubbish expect when they think of saving the planet? The judges thought the report well constructed and balanced with a human story illustrating two different worlds. Good dynamic presentation and editing. The interviews are well conducted, revealing the facts as they are.

**THE SEA**  
***MORE***  
**HRT Zagreb - Croatia**  
**(30'00)**

A regional magazine, produced every two weeks in Split, which is all about the sea. The judges were impressed by the variety of stories and the beautiful pictures. We want to make special mention of the good shooting. However, we thought the role of the host could have been stronger. This would have given the magazine a stronger unity which unfortunately it lacked.



## **PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003 CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMMES**

**WINNER**                      *EURO 3*                                      *France 3 Nord-Pas de Calais-Picardie*

### ***SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS***

*HANG GLIDERS FROM BOSNIA*                                      *HRT Zagreb*  
*THE UNSEEN SIDE OF APHRODITE*                                      *ERT3 Thessaloniki*

### ***JUDGES***

|          |                 |                          |          |
|----------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Chairman | Raymond Maxwell | Committee of the Regions |          |
|          | Ove Mulvad      | TV2/Fyn                  | Denmark  |
|          | Istvan Hegedus  | MTV Budapest             | Hungary  |
|          | Mojca Recek     | RTV SLO Maribor          | Slovenia |

### ***CHAIRMAN'S REPORT***

The aim of the Cross-Border programme prize is to promote a deeper and better understanding of our neighbours and their cultures, which can often be quite significantly different to our own. It is a particularly difficult job for journalists to explain and to enlighten their viewers about issues in a neighbouring country bearing in mind the historical baggage we all carry. However, the jury was genuinely impressed with the number of examples where the requisite objectivity produced both informative and interesting programmes which contributed to a greater understanding amongst the regions and people of Europe.

While noting the long history of cross border regional programmes in certain countries in western Europe, especial credit should be given to eight central European regional TV stations who are producing the "Quartet" magazine programme. However, it is important to note that crossborder co-productions must ensure that stories and the approach to the stories be based on interactivity and not a series of stand-alone reports on the same subject strung together by presenter links. The programmes must be not only worthy, but also entertaining and most certainly must hold the attention of the viewers.

Some entries dealt mistakenly with subjects whose elements were more historical or of physically distant places and more suited to the documentary category.

Raymond Maxwell, Committee of the Regions - Chairman

**PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003  
CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMMES**

**WINNER**

**EURO 3**  
***EURO 3***  
**France 3 - France**  
**(26'10)**  
**by Olivier Brumelot**

This monthly programme opens with a fresh and appetizing approach: flash news items and tantalizing clips. The subjects treated ranged from the ITV company Meridian in the south of England on objections to a hotel becoming a refugee hostel to an excellent report on French citizens living in Belgium but paying their taxes in France. The jury was impressed with the original camerawork and pacy treatment of a subject which, by its nature, is not strongly visual. This programme dealing with current cross border issues is an excellent example of the type of programming that Europe needs for greater understanding between its citizens. This station and this team know well how to make this sort of programme and have succeeded over many years. The quality, however, remains outstanding and it is a clear winner.

## **SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS**

### **HANG GLIDERS FROM BOSNIA**

***ZMAJ OD BOSNE***

**HRT Zagreb - Croatia**

**(10,00)**

**by Joško Martinović**

We learn flying before walking, is one of the statements in this story. Another is: - by flying you are closer to God, whichever God it is.

Being related to people that not long ago fought each other viciously, these statements express optimism and the will to get on with life across the border.

The programme is an excellent example of how to describe serious matters at the same time humorous and thoughtfully

### **THE UNSEEN SIDE OF APHRODITE**

***I AHEATI PLEVRA AFRODITIS***

**ERT 3 Thessaloniki - Greece**

**(72'44)**

**by Vasilis Kaysikis**

This programme deals with a highly topical issue of the future for the divided island of Cyprus. The programme, although very long (72 minutes), nonetheless moves at a very reasonable pace covering the torturous, emotional subject of meetings between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in a unique film portrait shot in Northern Cyprus. It certainly succeeded in explaining the enormity of task of reconciliation that faces the two communities on the island.

## **OTHER ENTRIES**

### **GERMAN AND POLES 3 *DEUTSCHE UND POLEN TEIL3***

**ORB - Germany  
(45,00)**

This is part of a four part series investigating relations between Germans and Poles. This episode dealt with the traumatic period of 20th century history of the two peoples. The narration treated the most difficult historical moments with exemplary care and the use of excellent visuals and archive footage made for gripping viewing.

### **BIO ECOLO AND CO *VIS-À-VIS/BIO ECOLO AND CO***

**France 3 Alsace - France  
(26'32)**

How do the French and the Germans sort their household garbage? You are getting the answer in this funny and well produced programme, with two routined journalists from the two countries switching between their own and the foreign language. The subject could be boring – and often is – but not in this case!

### **EUROZIGZAG;LA TAUROMACHIE *EUROZIGZAG: LA TAUROMACHIE***

**France 3 Aquitaine et France 3 Sud - France  
(28'51)**

The love of bulls, bull running and bull fights are common to the people of South West France and Spain. This programme set out to show the common heritage and the regional differences related to bulls - from Bordeaux and Tolouse to Barcelona and Bilbao. While the images, including some archive footage were good, the jury felt that the programme would have benefited from a much more interactive style – intercutting between the various French and Spanish interviewees - rather than the sectoral approach adopted.

### **MIX MAGAZINE**

***MIX MAGAZIN*  
STV Kosice - Slovakia  
(26'12)**

The themes selected ranging from royal visits to minorities in Slovakia to remembrance of the holocaust of Slovakian Jews to coverages of events in Czech Republic. The issues chosen help to increase understanding between peoples. However, the jury felt that the programme could extend its geographical spread to good effect and could enliven the reports by sharper editing and less dependance on interviews.

**ARCTIC STUDENT ON TOP OF THE WORLD**  
***STUDENT PA VERDENS TAK***  
**NRK 1 - Norway**  
**(28'29)**

A group of foreign students at an Arctic University on Spitsbergen Island was the subject of this production. The programme was very interesting and well put together. However, the emphasis was placed more on the students coming to grips with the extreme climate than on a real exchange of cultures or real cross border issues.

**THE BALLET OLYMPIADE IN VARNA**  
***VARNENSKATA BALETNA OLIMPIADA***  
**Kanal 1 - Bulgaria**  
**(28,00)**

In a classic way of television storytelling, we learn about a world famous ballet competition for young talents. There is no shortage of information and facts but this also makes the programme a little old fashioned in style.

**THE MAINTOWER VACATION GUIDE**  
***DER MAINTOWER URLAUBSKNIGGE***  
**HR Hesse - Germany**  
**(9'57)**

Maintower is a programme about the land of Hessen where Frankfurt is situated. The programme broadcast a special vacation guide last July with the aim of informing its viewers in a humorous way of the social and cultural differences they encounter as tourists. The programme succeeded in developing understanding of other cultures - and thus avoiding accidental insults - whilst on holidays in five different countries, ranging from Turkey to Japan.

**WITH SUITCASE AND RUCKSACK-ON THE GOTHIC TRACK**  
***Z PLECAKIEM I WALIZKY-NA GOTYCKIM SZLAKU***  
**TVP3 Krakow - Poland**  
**(28'29)**

This programme succeeded in showing the common gothic heritage in the religious architecture of Poland and Slovakia. However, the jury felt that the programme was more of a travelogue than one that explores contemporary issues concerning cross border relations.

**QUARTETTE**  
***KWARTET***  
**TVP3 Rzeszow - Poland**  
**(25'58)**

This programme linking together eight regional stations of the Visegrad Countries (Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Czech Republic) is a very good example of cross border cooperation. Its aim is to inform the people of these countries about important issues affecting their neighbours. The programme submitted concentrated on opportunities and difficulties faced by

young scientists in the four countries. The jury felt that the presentation lacked somewhat in sparkle. There was too many talking heads and not enough interaction or intercutting between the various participants.

**BALTIC REPORT**  
***OSTSEEREPORT***  
**NDR kiel - Germany**  
**(44,00)**

This monthly programme covering various lifestyles in the Baltic area is very well presented and filmed and very varied in its subject matter. The programme was made entirely on location and features excellent reports on subjects as diverse as environmental concerns for the region and the future for the young people in Kaliningrad. However, in terms of the criteria for the Cross Border prize, the jury felt that the reports could put emphasis more on the links between the people whose common border is the Baltic sea.

**FACTS FROM ACROSS THE RIVER**  
***FAKTY ZZA ODRY***  
**TVP3 Wroclaw - Poland**  
**(7'07)**

“Learn more about your neighbour, the better to know him”, could be another title of this weekly element at TVP3 Wroclaw. The pace is almost too fast with the audience being overwhelmed by many short stories from their German neighbours.

**ABENDSCHAU FRANKEN**  
***ABENDSCHAU FRANKEN***  
**BF Nurnberg - Germany**  
**(13'45)**

The programme describes several aspects of the co-existence between Czechs and Germans across their common border. The viewer is given good examples: for instance, the way of life for a Czech doctor working in Germany. However, there are less convincing moments when there are problems dealing with the difficult art of staging situations yet making them look spontaneous.

**PASSING PEOPLE**  
***LUDZIE PO PRZEJSCIACH***  
**TVP3 Lublin - Poland**  
**(22'20)**

The highly topical issue of human trafficking across Europe's eastern borders is the subject of this well made programme. Excellent use of visual effects heightened the atmosphere of filming along Poland's eastern border. The programme succeeded in explaining the reasons and the real need for people to risk all to find a better life.

**ISIDOR**  
***ISIDOR***  
**TVR Iasi - Romania**  
**(28,00)**

A moving story of a Romanian's life in a Soviet gulag. The treatment was sensitive and the use of the archive footage placed the experience of this one human being in the broader historical context. Unfortunately, the programme was an international documentary rather than a cross border programme.

**EUROPEAN MAGAZINE**  
***EVROPSKI MAGAZIN***  
**TV Maribor - Slovenia**  
**(28'41)**

Sustainable development is the topic of this European Magazine. The subject is well described with information from several European countries. But this wandering also weakens the programme because it creates a little confusion in the viewer's mind: Where are we? Which season it? It might have helped to have waited until summer when there would have been more obvious picture possibilities.

**WORDS' JOURNEY**  
***VIATGE DE PARAULES***  
**TV Catalunya - Spain**  
**(58,00)**

The film documents how the Catalan dictionary was made. This is not quite what the criteria of the category expects from a "cross border" programme. But this programme is extremely well produced using elements from drama, inspiring graphics, special effects and good editing.

**CHARCOAL DRAWING**  
***SZENRAJZ***  
**MTV Szeged - Hungary**  
**(26'12)**

This is another example of the Quartet Magazine programme produced by eight regional stations of the Visegrad country. The programme, about the visit by a Hungarian regional TV station to a Czech counterpart, had some very nice touches. The jury felt, however, that the subject matter would not be particularly interesting to those not working in the media and would prefer to have seen a report on differences or similarities in approach to issues contributing to greater understanding of peoples.

**STEREO**  
***STEREO***  
**SVT1/DR2 - Sweden**  
**(28'57)**

Take two singers from neighbouring countries Sweden and Denmark, let them meet to sing each other's songs - and go in deeper from there. Add good graphics, high production values, reflective questions and you get a relevant programme of relations between countries.

**GERRY ADAMS**  
***GERRY ADAMS***  
**TG4 - Ireland**  
**(56'10)**

A portrait of an important political figure from his youth until today. It always helps to introduce nuances of key political personages and to explain their personal stories. This is done in a classical style and it would have helped if the cross border dimension had been made more clear.

**LET'S BE GOOD NEIGHBOURS**  
***AUF GUTE NACHBARSCHAFT***  
**MDR Leipzig - Germany**  
**(28'45)**

A German dentist settled in Warsaw has explored the possibilities of the new Europe. He is one of the examples in this well made programme. Well directed, well shot, well edited it can serve as an example to inspiration for other programme makers.

**SHADOW ON BUKOWICA**  
***SJENKA NAD BUKOVICOM***  
**RTV Montenegro - Montenegro**  
**(29'20)**

A sad story of how Bukowica turned into a ghost village after the Yugoslavian army suppressed the people there. It was moving to hear the story from the survivors, who says "Everybody knows what happened, it cannot be a secret."

**THE TER VALLEY MOUNTAINS**  
***TERSKE DOLINE IN GORE***  
**TV 1 Ljubljana - Slovenia**  
**(53'12)**

A beautiful and well produced film about the Italian part of Venetian Slovenia. In classical documentary style, the viewer learns about history of the region and background for today's life. If something in the film is missing, it might be a stricter relevance to the contemporary relations between Slovenians and Italians in the area.

## **PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003 SPECIAL PROGRAMME**

**WINNER**                      *DEATH AT DEEPCUT*                      *BBC Scotland*

### ***SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS***

*GERMAN AND POLES 3*                      *ORB*  
*THE QUEEN IS COMING*                      *TV2 Ost*

### ***JUDGES***

|          |                  |            |        |
|----------|------------------|------------|--------|
| Chairman | Jean-Marie Belin | France3    | France |
|          | Dippy Chaudhary  | BBC London | UK     |

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

C'est la première fois que le Prix Special se tient dans le cadre de Prix Circom. Les cassettes qui ont été retenues ont été sélectionnées par les jurys de chaque catégorie. En fait, les sujets venaient des catégories documentaires, current affairs et cross border, aucune des catégories news et magazine.

Ce qui était particulièrement recherché dans cette sélection était "un programme qui se révélera particulièrement brillant dans la recherche approfondie, dans son approche journalistique, dans son exclusivité (scoop) ou dans son impact visuel".

Huit sujets ont été visionnés par le jury, qui répondaient à ces critères.

Jean-Marie Belin, France3 - Chairman

**PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003  
SPECIAL PROGRAMME**

**WINNER**

**DEATH AT DEEPCUT  
*DEATH AT DEEPCUT***

**BBC Scotland - UK**

**(21'05)**

**by Ross McWilliam and Jane MacSorley**

Dans ce cadre le choix du jury s'est porté de façon incontestable sur un reportage de BBC Scotland grâce à deux qualités principales, la rigueur et la recherche journalistique. C'est là, une véritable enquête qui ne tombe jamais dans la facilité ni dans le sensationnel. On entre vite dans le sujet. Ce reportage, sur quatre morts déguisés en suicide met en cause l'armée et la police. Les témoignages parallèles des parents sont très durs, ainsi que l'interview, forte, de spécialistes du Home Office. C'est un bon exemple d'une démarche journalistique sérieuse et honnête qui respecte les faits.

## **SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS**

**GERMAN AND POLES 3**  
***DEUTSCHE UND POLEN TEIL3***  
**ORB - Germany**  
**(45,00)**  
**by Johannes Unger**

Ce documentaire de l'ARD de Brandenburg aborde un sujet délicat, celui de l'amitié – sois-disant – impossible entre Allemands et Polonais. Il utilise les images d'archives fortes et peu vues, et des témoignages de grand valeur. Les interviews sont traitées à égalité. Beau travail de banc-titre. C'est un documentaire historique, raconté comme une actualité, avec un certain courage dans le propos.

**THE QUEEN IS COMING**  
***DRONNINGEN KOMMER SIGER DE***  
**TV2 Ost - Denmark**  
**(26'00)**  
**by Henriette Ladegaard Pedersen**

Ce documentaire traite de façon originale d'un sujet particulièrement conventionnel et classique la visite de la reine dans un village portuaire du Danemark. Ce documentaire, à travers des images intimes, fait le portrait des habitants du village de façon très humoristique. Les plans sont particulièrement bien choisis et les images bien mises en valeur par un montage très dynamique.



## **PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003 MOST ORIGINAL PROGRAMME**

**WINNER**      *POLDER MASH*      *Omroep Flevoland*

### **SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS**

*CLOSE-UP WEST STREET LEVEL*    *BBC 2 West*  
*A GUARD*      *RTV Montenegro*

### **JUDGES**

|          |                  |                    |         |
|----------|------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Chairman | Vanda Condurache | TVR Iasi           | Romania |
|          | Phil Davies      | Thomson Foundation | Wales   |

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Most Original category focused this year especially on creativity, original ideas and, of course, good television.

The jury had to select among seven productions recommended by the chairmen of the other sections. I think this is the best way to choose; one may grasp in an easiest way what's "original" from productions meant to compete in specific categories than just ask for "most original productions" from the very beginning. This way originality applies for the journalistic approach and does not mean just "art for the sake of art".

We took into account both style and unusual ways of dealing with the story as well as high television standards.

Vanda Condurache, TVR Iasi – Chairman Most Original

**PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2003  
MOST ORIGINAL**

**WINNER**

**POLDER MASH  
*POLDERPRAK*  
Omroep Flevoland - Holland  
(11'41)  
by Rejo van der Weide**

PolderMash is a weekly TV programme made by only four people. Their intention is to offer, every week, surprises to their viewers. The magazine we saw includes six very different snapshots, presenting simple people in an original way. We meet a 63-year old lady who started drum lessons; a man totally addicted to Donald Duck; an Origami enthusiast; and two eccentric bird-watchers.

There are also a couple of so-called "nonsense clips" which, in an amusing way, make you think of real life. The producers manage to give viewers not only a grin and smile but also stimulate them to make some further thinking.

The judges appreciated the good and imaginative camera work, the dynamic editing, as well as the skilful use of graphics and animation that punctuate the clips. The rhythm of the programme was also enhanced by an appropriate choice of musical "stings".

We considered PolderMash a worthy winner of the category because of its immediate freshness and humour, but also since the producers succeeded in bringing alive characters and situations of universal human interest.

## **SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS**

### **CLOSE-UP WEST STREET LEVEL**

***CLOSE-UP WEST STREET LEVEL***

**BBC 2 WEST - UK**

**(30'06)**

**by Clive Smith and James MacAlpine**

A production that changes traditional film grammar using the material of community filmmaker Clive Smith, a man who tells his own story and that of his community in Bristol, in a very personal way.

Clive succeeded in drawing the human complexity of a so-called problem area in an engaging but realistic manner. We see real people speaking openly about their lives and problems. The subtle professional post-production allowed Clive to remain the focal character developing his story in several original ways.

It is a production that makes you think more, long after the programme has ended.

### **A GUARD**

***ČUVAR***

**RTV Montenegro - Montenegro**

**(17'50)**

**by Vlado Perović**

An original way of telling a story of distress and hope; a 17-minute succession of expressive images with natural sound only. The story of a man who keeps to his everyday job even though the factory he has to guard has closed a long time ago. A metaphor of sadness and hope, lyrically expressed.

## **THANK YOU**

Circom Regional would like to pay particular thanks to those organisations and individuals who have contributed so much to making the Prix 2003 a success.

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**  
**Sponsors of the Current Affairs category**

**COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**  
**Sponsors of the Cross-Border category**

**TVP, Poland**  
**Sponsors of the Most original category**

**FRANCE 3**  
**Sponsors of the Prix Spécial**

**TVR, Romania**  
**Hosts of the judging**

**RAI, Italy**  
**Hosts of the award ceremony**