

Goejûn, gutenabend, good evening.

Conquer the world....in your own language.

In the past minority language speakers often have been told that own languages and cultures will not get us very far. If you want to have a career and conquer the world, you should do that in English, German, Spanish or Chinese. This oldfashioned idea, ladies and gentlemen, is a huge misunderstanding. It must have been invented by jealous monolinguals.

Our movies only gain interest if we make them in our own way, in our languages. At the seminar of the attending directors said this morning: dare to show who you are. It takes courage to do this, because making a movie is a complex and expensive process. This is even more difficult if your minority culture has no film industry or tradition of making films.

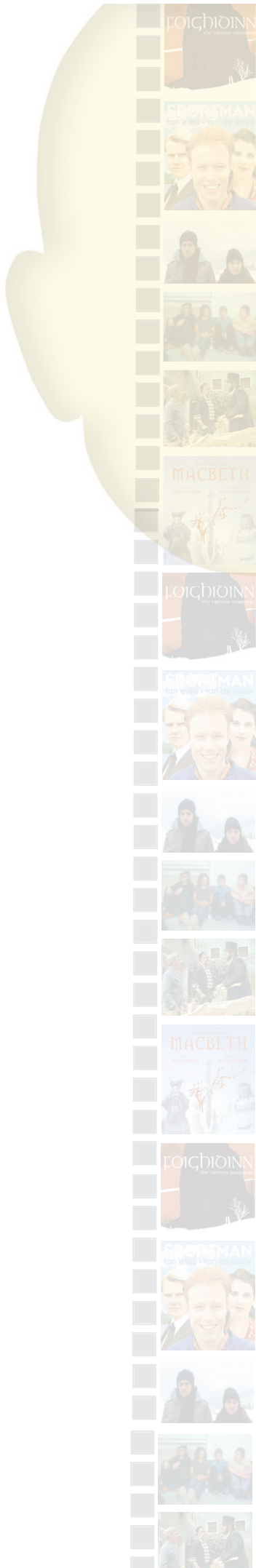
The organisers of this festival have understood this. We therefore want to congratulate them with this interesting first edition of the European Minority Filmfestival.

I also would like to add in my view all minorities should have their own public radio and television, regardless of their size. The moderators of this evening already have shown this evening that you already have moderating talent in Northfriesland.

As a jury we had a fascinating time. We noticed that in all movies the combination of the landscape and the language which belongs to this land makes the experience of watching these movies more intense. Ci co conta in Italian would have been less interesting, Sportman fan eieu/Sportler der Jahrhundert in Dutch or German even would have been quite unnatural. The jury also had a hard time, because comparing a low budget videofilm with professional movie productions is a bit comparing apples with pears. The only thing I want to reveal about the work of the jury is that we have been discussing three different movies as a possible winner...

In the movies we discussed most it is like nature almost plays an active part in the movie instead of being just the setting of the movie. We saw camerawork of high standard. We also want to praise both directors and editors, because as an audience we had the time to enjoy the beauty of the shots and experience the movies at its own pace.

Once a while you see a movie you only need to see once in order



to remember it for a long time. What we saw was quite unique. It was not only good acting in a fascinating setting, but we also saw witches changing into trees and hallucinations of ice. All is a great spectacle. The winning movie is: MacBeth.

Onno Falkena (head of jury)

Elin Fredstedt

Stephan Hartung

Renate Schnack