



UNIMED Award 2025 for cultural diversity and freedom of artistic expression

82nd edition of the Venice International Film Festival

On the occasion of the 82nd Venice International Film Festival, an international jury composed of 24 students from 13 UNIMED associated universities, representing 5 different countries, conferred the UNIMED Award 2025 to the film that best reflects the values of cultural diversity, freedom of artistic expression and promotion of intercultural dialogue.

The UNIMED Award 2025 was granted to the film “The Voice of Hind Rajab” by Kaouther Ben Hania, with the following motivation:

“The Voice of Hind Rajab” powerfully embodies the fundamental principles we promote: the defense of human dignity, dialogue between cultures, and the fight against injustice and discrimination.

Through the reconstruction of the story of Hind, a Palestinian girl victim of the war in Gaza, the film presents itself as a window between reality and fiction, bravely addressing the themes of blind violence, loss, and hope, giving voice to those who are often reduced to silence. The work acquires a particular strength thanks to the direct use of the girl’s own voice, an element that transforms real material into an authentic cry that resonates beyond the screen.

Hind’s story is not only a personal tragedy, but a universal symbol of civilian suffering in contemporary conflicts. The close-up camera and the emotional power of the acting allow the viewer to experience the story firsthand. The film demands attention and openness from those who watch, offering a voice to the innocent and placing them at the center of our gaze, reminding us that no war can erase the right to memory, compassion, and justice.

The work fully embodies the spirit of the UNIMED Award, offering an act of memory and an appeal to universal conscience, reminding us that only through mutual listening and the recognition of shared humanity we can hope to overcome the spiral of violence and conflict.

The award ceremony was held on Friday, September 5th, 2025, at 5pm at “La Villa,” Lungomare Guglielmo Marconi 56, Lido di Venezia.

For the occasion, a video dedicated to the initiative was screened, featuring contributions from jurors of previous editions. The video is available [here](#).

The 2025 jury was composed as follows:

- Kevin Kqira, University for Business and Technology (UBT)
- Çlirimtare Llumnica, University for Business and Technology (UBT)
- Roaa Draidi, Palestine Technical University Kadoorie
- Jenan Qotmosh, Palestine Technical University Kadoorie
- Daniel Soler Pérez, University of Murcia
- Javier Lizáran López, University of Murcia
- Miquel Munar Pizà, University of Barcellona
- Mariona Rodríguez Canals, University of Barcellona
- Ahlem Chihaoui, University of Sousse
- Eya Ben Youssef, University of Tunisi
- Leonardo Francesco Gentile, International University of Rome (UNINT)
- Giorgia Morganti, International University of Rome (UNINT)
- Chiara Silvani, International University of Rome (UNINT)
- Giulia Carniti, IULM University
- Lea Luptakova, IULM University
- Martina Vallotto, Ca' Foscari University
- Vittoria Caporali, Ca' Foscari University
- Agnese Cappellazzo, University IUAV of Venice
- Gabriele Boglich, Università IUAV di Venezia
- Isabel Frisenda, University of Salento
- Manuel De Giovanni, University of Salento
- Alice Cavasino, Polytechnic of Turin
- Sara Gomaa Mabrouk, Polytechnic of Turin
- Serena Carrà, University of Pavia

The jury, coordinated by Prof. Antonio Falduto (UNINT), was also joined this year by a group of student observers from Ethiopia, Morocco and South Africa, with a view to further opening up and promoting international dialogue.

Established in collaboration with the Venice Biennale, and now in its ninth edition, the Award was created to recognize films that reflect a commitment to a more open and inclusive society, capable of acknowledging and respecting cultural differences. It was established in memory of Prof. Franco Rizzi, former Secretary General and Founder of UNIMED, for his lifelong commitment to improving dialogue between the two shores of the Mediterranean through cooperation among Euro-Mediterranean universities. UNIMED aims to advance research and higher education in the Euro-Mediterranean area in order to contribute to scientific, cultural, social and economic cooperation in the region.

The ninth edition of the UNIMED Award was co-funded by the Ministry of University and Research (MUR).

For more information, please contact unimed@uni-med.net or visit the website <https://www.uni-med.net/events/unimed-award-at-the-venice-international-film-festival/>

Rome, 5th September 2025