

To the European Film Academy

Agnieszka Holland, President  
Mike Downey, Chair  
Rebecca O'Brien, Deputy Chair  
Ada Solomon, Deputy Chair  
Matthijs Wouter Knol, CEO and Director  
Bettina Schwarz, Head of Awarding Procedures  
Jürgen Biesinger, Managing Director/Producer  
And all EFA Board Members

Subject: European Film Awards 2023

March 30th, 2023

Dear Madams, Sirs,

After careful reflection, having heard a substantial amount of concerns from many of our members, we write to you in an effort to point your attention to the following:

We were extremely disappointed with the way in which the awards for certain categories Cinematography, Editing, Production Design, Costume Design, Make-Up & Hair, Original Score, Sound, Visual Effects – were presented at the annual European Film Awards ceremony in December of 2022.

Notably, the presentation of these awards was grouped into a single segment in the show, with the recipients being 'paraded' on stage, and without them being allowed any opportunity to speak. To us, this form does not match the intention of the award: to "honour the greatest achievements in European cinema".

We feel it was utterly disrespectful!

The announcement of the winners on the EFA's Facebook page added insult to this injury, as neither the names of the winners nor the movie titles they were awarded for were mentioned in writing. It made it hard for anyone in our industry to share this news, let alone for the general public to notice any of these award winners and their films.

We appreciate that producing an awards ceremony requires certain choices be made. Those choices, however, directly reflect the values of your organization. And this awards ceremony showed the world that there are two types of European Film Awards, a first class tier, and a second rate tier, of less interest and importance, not worthy of the same attention from the industry itself, nor the worldwide audience.

This is especially hard to swallow in the year that the American Academy Awards (aka the Oscars) were widely criticized for excluding several award categories from their live show. The fact that the EFA appears to have chosen a similar path, is incomprehensible to us, as if the EFA has simply chosen to ignore the backlash against that poorly received – and completely unsuccessful! – decision.

If the EFA indeed "seeks to support and connect its 4,400 members and celebrates and promotes their work", and aims "to educate audiences of all ages about European cinema" and "strives to unite everyone who loves European cinema", this needs to be clearly and unequivocally demonstrated at events like the European Film Awards.

**ARTSCENICO**  
European  
Federation for  
Costume and  
Production  
Design

c/o CST  
9 rue Baudoin  
75013 Paris  
France

office@  
artscenico.com

Association  
loi 1901  
n° W751252536,  
registered in Paris  
31/05/2019

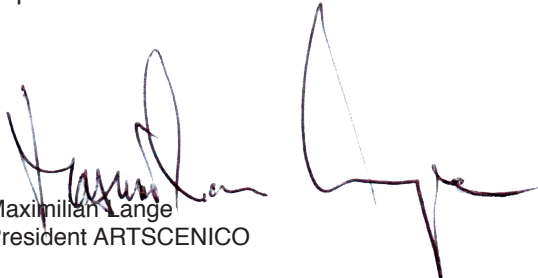
# ARTSCENICO

EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR COSTUME & PRODUCTION DESIGN

We strongly urge the EFA to ensure that in future ceremonies, all awards intended to honour the greatest achievements in European cinema will be presented in a manner that truly and respectfully honours all those individual winners and their movies.

We acknowledge that your organization, like ours, is run by filmmakers with the best intentions, and we would of course be more than willing to engage with you in an in-depth conversation about the representation of all filmmaking disciplines within the European Film Academy and the European Film Awards.

Sincerely,  
on behalf of the Board of ARTSCENICO,  
European Federation for Costume and Production Design.



Maximilian Lange  
President ARTSCENICO