

GREEN SCREEN

INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE FILMFESTIVAL ECKERNFÖRDE
SEPTEMBER 04TH - 19TH 2021

Laudatio

Special Jury Award

„Im Reich der Auen – Die Oker“

Director and Script: Georg Rüppell, Dagmar Hilfert-Rüppell

Cinematography: Georg Rüppell, Dagmar Hilfert-Rüppell, Beat Schneider, Jan Pascal Rüppell, Hans-Peter Kuttler

Production: Doclights/NDR Naturfilm, NDR and ARTE

Special Jury Award for Lifetime Achievements and for an exceptional film

What has started out in an inconspicuous meadow evolves into an epic wildlife film – shot in a regional ecosystem that does not appear to promise any sensations. “Reich der Auen” filmed along the river Oker shows the unexpected diversity of life in a region beloved by wildlife film pioneer Georg Rüppell since his early days and that he together with his wife and his son has now lovingly documented in great detail.

Razor-sharp images of broad-winged damselflies and their territorial behaviour, their flying skills and their mating rituals – the filmmaker has been focussing on that species for decades. Here he also shows the lives of their amphibian enemies, of birds of prey and small mammals in the wetlands, of larvae and river blackbirds. The images are supported by profound biological facts easily explained.

This exceptional film is the pinnacle of Georg Rüppell’s lifetime oeuvre crowning his activities as natural scientist, as ambassador of magnificent insects and as someone who at home, in lecture rooms or in cinemas has given many people access to fascinating creatures worthy of protection that live right outside their front doors.

For those many reasons the jury honours this film and its maker with a Special Lifetime Award: for a passionate wildlife filmmaker and an ambassador of indigenous species.