

For the first time the Kassel Dokfest presents the Honorary Award, which is endowed with 3,000 Euros. In the 32nd edition of the festival Raymond Ley will be awarded.

Since 2001, the Kassel Video and Documentary Film Festival has been awarding prizes, which usually focus on young artist's talent. After 14 years, we now would like to create a new type of award and turn to already established directors, which have excelled with especially innovative works in film and art. The award is dedicated to filmmakers, who are locals or connected to the Kassel Dokfest in a special way. In this year the honorary prize, endowed with 3.000 Euro, will be awarded to the renowned director and screenwriter Raymond Ley. The prize is donated by the Kassel based company Hübner GmbH & Co. KG.

One of the Kassel Dokfest's declared aims is the intersection of regional and international artistic and cinematic works of all festival sections. Our concept of equal status between regional and international works is unique and of great importance as an stimulus and place of communication for the local scene. Raymond Ley's oeuvre is an excellent example for this: From his first "wild" Kassel works to his much respected TV productions.

Born in Kassel in 1958, Ley studied at the film department of the University of Kassel, which used to provide – long before Pisa-panic and Bologna-stress – the possibility for mostly free and self-determined work. He is one of the founding members of the Filmladen Kassel e.V., from which the Documentary Film Festival evolved in 1982.