

BTEC Creative Media Learner of the Year

Tiago Bastos Nunes

Escola de Tecnologias Inovação e Criação, Lisbon



The winner of our Creative Media Learner of the Year award, Tiago Bastos Nunes, is a passionate, innovative, motivated student who pushes himself hard, and has already established fantastic industry links.

He has gained recognition of his work through a wide range of national and international film and art exhibitions, culminating in him winning the Best Student Film Award at The Toronto Film festival. "His dedication was visible across the board and his commitment to studies has always resulted in distinction," says Pedro Senna Nunes, Pedagogical Coordinator at Escola de Tecnologias Inovação e Criação (ETIC) in Lisbon, Portugal, where Tiago completed a Higher National Diploma in Cinema and Television.

What comes up time and time again from his teachers at ETIC is the way in which Tiago combines passion and creativity with an exceptionally strong work ethic and willingness to challenge himself. "Tiago is a student with a creative, conceptual and deepening profile of work, significantly above average. He takes the effort in his work by developing it almost to the limit of the possible. He likes to take risks, aiming at demanding goals both technically and creatively," says teacher Joao Cunha. Pedro elaborates: "Tiago crosses a wide range of artistic experiences, always involving students from other courses. He is a transdisciplinary student who has been unsurpassed over the past two years. He always tries to apply new vision to cinema, innovating at the intersection of cinematographic genres, and he immerses himself intensely in the research process."

Tiago himself says he is passionate about cinema as a medium for exploring human experience and exploring difficult topics. "In a world where everything starts with white, we choose dark screens for canvas, the nothingness (ex nihilo) from which the entire universe was created. I believe in film as a means to say the hard things we're too afraid to put into words," he explains, continuing: "Whenever Nietzsche speaks out about God, he's writing about the truth of cinema. As you produce, with the touch of a maker, the plots of drama to be played by actors, the mysteries made of the who-killed-who, you unveil tools of self-knowledge that fly out of screens and take refuge in hearts."

About his BTEC, Tiago says: "It fuelled me to reach the places I wouldn't go by myself, and to reach the light I would never light alone. My mentors defied me, in a way I defied others, to show my real self."

As an outstanding talent, teacher Paulo Soares is confident that we will see more from Tiago in the future: "I am sure he will continue to walk a brilliant path in the metier of film and communication," he says.