

AND THE WINNERS ARE . . . The MLS Awards 2022

It is a delight for the judges (Lydia Jakobs, Nicholas Hiley and Ine Van Dooren) to announce the winners of the 2022 Magic Lantern Society Awards. This year's distinct and varied entries were a joy to consider and it is great to see the high standard of insight and creativity presented in the Award applications. We are sure we speak for all MLS members in looking forward to seeing the results of the winners coming to fruition and being presented to us.

The Mervyn Heard Award of £300 will go to Miguel Herrero Herrero (see Fig. 1) – as it did in 2021. Miguel has a background in teaching and film, with an interest in magic and pre-cinema optical devices. In Spain, Miguel has combined these skills and passions in his shows *Illusionism XIX* and *Phantasmagoria*, as well as using material from his personal collection in a travelling exhibition entitled *Artifugios para ilusionar (Devices That Thrill)*, which has been shown in museums, theatres, and at film festivals.

Miguel's proposal is to catalogue his collection and mount it on the web so that it can be shared more widely, and to create audiovisual presentations which can be used in future shows. The judges were impressed by the way that his work combines research, artistic practice and archival collecting. He is promoting the magic lantern across a wide cultural and educational spectrum, and acting as a digital travelling lanternist, using a small collection of images in different ways to delight new audiences. We hope that his project can be a model for other collectors and performers to share their material, both on their own websites and by contributing to joint projects such as *Lucerna* – the magic lantern web resource.



1. Miguel Herrero Herrero



Mervyn Heard



Dick Balzer

The Dick Balzer Award of £300 will go to the 'Annet Duller Troupers'. We are sad at heart that Annet will be unable to receive this award in person (see p. 2) but we see the proposed inspirational performance of *Turbulent Times 1770–1820* as part of her exceptional magic lantern legacy. Annet had many jewels in her crown and it will be fantastic to see this special gem performed as she would have loved to do it as part of the troupe.

Collaboration was important for Annet and this performance, following the highs and lows of the upper crust of Dutch society in tempestuous past times, is another example. The show is to bring together the fantastic hand-painted slides from different collectors closely working with Annet – Henk Boelmans Kranenburg, Else Flim, Adrian Kok and Monique Wezenberg (see Figs 2 and 3). The history retold is done with flair and humour showing many twists and turns, plentiful fibs yet always with attention to detail. The technical task to present such a performance, requiring swift changes of different types and sizes of slides and accompanied by music and a complex storyline, is daunting but Annet and her troupers do not seem not fazed. This is a proposal that truly deserves the accolade of 'performance at its best'.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to submit their work. We will also take this opportunity to remind members to start considering their own research, performances or digitisation efforts for the 2023 Magic Lantern Society Awards. Don't be shy – we know you are also doing great work and you deserve to see it recognised.

Lydia Jakobs



2. and 3. Two of the slides proposed for the Annet Duller Troupers' *Turbulent Times 1770–1820*