

FIFF

Festival International
de Films de Fribourg

31st FIFF, Fribourg International Film Festival (31.03-08.04.17)

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Douglas Kennedy will write a page for FIFF 2017

On Wednesday, September 21, during the general assembly that renewed his mandate until 2020, Thierry Jobin, artistic director of the Fribourg International Film Festival (FIFF), revealed the name of one of the first prestigious guests to be invited to the 2017 festival, taking place from March 31 to April 8: Douglas Kennedy. A passionate cinephile, the great American writer will present six films of his own choosing as part of the carte blanche *Sur la carte de...* section.

In August, the FIFF announced that its *New Territory* 2017 section will be devoted to the emerging cinema of Nepal. By unveiling a second section of the 31st edition on Wednesday, *Sur la carte de...*, the festival is making its intention to focus on contrast and diversity clear. The American writer Douglas Kennedy has agreed to take over the reins of the carte blanche guest section, following in the footsteps in recent years of the Dardenne brothers and, last March, of Geraldine Chaplin.

“Douglas Kennedy is not just one of the most widely read and translated contemporary authors, from *The Dead Heart*, his first novel, to *The Pursuit of Happiness*, all the way to his most recent *Toutes ces grandes questions sans réponse* [All these great unanswered questions],” said the overjoyed artistic director, Thierry Jobin. “He’s also an expert and eclectic film fan in line with the editorial direction of the festival. Being popular does not prevent him from being stylishly but deeply cutting, particularly with regard to his homeland, the United States. Much to his delight, several of his books have been adapted for the cinema: *Welcome to Woop Woop* by Stephen Elliott in 1997 (from *The Dead Heart*), *The Big Picture* by Eric Lartigau in 2010 and *The Woman in the Fifth* by Pawel Pawlikowski in 2011. He has also drawn on the cinema for material for his novels, including in *Temptation* (2006), his powerful and ferocious portrait of Hollywood. A builder of bridges between page and screen, Douglas Kennedy has picked six masterpieces for his selection, which, in his own words, describe ‘mid-20th-century America at its darkest’. As we wait for the titles to be revealed, festival-goers can look forward to welcoming to Fribourg next spring one of the most generous, spontaneous and accessible figures to be invited in recent years. From the screening of his carte blanche selection of films to a book-signing session, an unforgettable page in the history of the FIFF is about to be written and we are already very proud.”

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Mandate of Thierry Jobin, the artistic director renewed for three years

The news of Douglas Kennedy's presence at the 31st FIFF, which will take place from March 31 to April 8, 2017, was revealed on Wednesday by Thierry Jobin at the festival's general assembly, which, under the chairmanship of François Nordmann, renewed the artistic director's mandate for a further three years, from 2018 to 2020. Members also approved the accounts of the 2016 festival, which closed in March with record entrances of almost 43,000 festival-goers. The FIFF ended fiscal 2016 with a loss of 22'474.72 Swiss francs. The general assembly also approved the 2017 budget submitted by the executive director Giovanna Garghentini Python, which totals 2.3 million Swiss francs. In order to reach this, the festival, whose audience is growing at a faster pace than its resources, is throwing itself into a search to add to its private sponsors and partners, who are currently too few to support the exponential success of the event.

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