

FIFF

Festival International
de Films de Fribourg

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

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In 2017, Fribourg reaches new heights!

Nepal will be the highlighted country in the *New Territory* section of the 31st Fribourg International Film Festival (FIFF). From 31 March to 8 April, the public at the FIFF will be able to discover at least twenty long and short Nepalese films. This first theme of the 2017 festival was unveiled in Locarno, where the FIFF also established the new short film jury, which was launched this year and is comprised of students from RÉSEAU CINÉMA CH, the national program for training and research in film studies. This collaboration will be celebrated at a cocktail party on Monday 8 August at 4 p.m. as part of the Festival del Film Locarno activities.

The discovery of Nepalese cinema will transpire in the *New Territory* section and follow in the footsteps of previously explored cinema from Bangladesh (2012), Uzbekistan (2013), Madagascar (2014), North American Indians (2015) and African film-makers (2016). This exploration will include long and short fictional films and documentaries that recount, among other things, the birth of a cinematographic tradition. Several prominent figures will be in attendance at Fribourg.

Thierry Jobin, FIFF's Artistic Director, joyfully recounts that "The decision to choose Nepal was born from the same notions that have guided the programming of the last five editions and led to the Festival's formidable success: a spark, and then a desire to stoke the fire. This spark dates from our 2013 edition, when the Swiss premier of the short film *The Flute (Bansulli)*, by Min Bahadur Bham, took place at Fribourg with its writer-director in attendance. This was Nepal's entry into the history of the FIFF. The spark took hold, as the 2016 FIFF selected Min's first feature film, *The Black Hen (Kalo Pothi)*, to compete in the *International Competition*. This autobiographical film, which was awarded a prize at the 2015 Venice Film Festival, was supported by funding from the **SDC Visions Sud Est**, for which FIFF is an expert with the Nyon and Locarno festivals. The fact that Locarno is highlighting Nepal this year in the Open Doors program shows that things are indeed going well in this country with extreme film shooting conditions."

The FIFF would also like to announce that it is thrilled about celebrating its collaboration with the **RÉSEAU CINÉMA CH** in Locarno. For the first time during the last edition of the FIFF, a jury comprised of students from the universities of Lausanne and Zurich as well as the ECAL, HEAD and ZHDK had the opportunity to judge the *International Competition* short films and thus act as film critics and engage in democratic debate. This experience, filled with lessons, with meetings with industry professionals and with exchanges with other students in Switzerland, will take place each year.

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Please don't hesitate to contact us for any further information, interviews or photographic material.

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