



Festival International
de Films de Fribourg

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FIFF 2018 stands among the big ones

Over the last few years, the Fribourg International Film Festival (FIFF) has "taken on a new impetus, helping it become one of the smaller festivals that gets mentioned alongside the big hitters". These encouraging words from Alain Berset, President of the Swiss Confederation, written for FIFF's 32nd edition, will be reflected from March 16th to 24th in Fribourg in the presence of Ken Loach. FIFF will present two *cartes blanches* that will see it working closely with two much bigger festivals: Cannes, through a selection of films chosen by Thierry Frémaux, its General Delegate, and Berlin, with a *carte blanche* dedicated to Beki Probst, founder of one of the most important film markets, the Berlinale European Film Market. Across all its sections, FIFF will screen 71 features and 42 shorts, including 74 World, International, European and Swiss premiere. The Festival is always looking to strike a balance between art house and more commercial films, between new discoveries and great classics, and as such, the Festival will screen 113 films produced by 52 different countries. For example, the event will give festivalgoers another chance to see *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Citizen Kane* and Greta Garbo in *Queen Christina* on the big screen. This year, over 60% of the films will be subtitled in both French and German.

New discoveries

Most of the 74 premieres in this Festival feature in the two competitions, which are not afraid of presenting genuine genre films. The *International Competition: Feature Films* will present 12 films from 12 countries, including, for the first time in FIFF's history, a production from Trinidad and Tobago, *Green Days by the River*, by Michael Mooleedhar. Two films, *Foxtrot* by the Israeli Samuel Maoz and *What Will People Say* by the Norwegian-Pakistani Iram Haq, already have Swiss distributors. The others are exclusives and the Festival hopes they will find their way into cinemas. The International Jury for features will be represented by the Tunisian filmmaker Kaouther Ben Hania, Mongolian producer Ariunaa Tserenpil, the Swiss-French Alexandre O. Philippe and the Singaporean Boo Junfeng, who won the Grand Prix 2017.

The *International Competition: Short Films* will feature 16 films from emerging countries that will be under the informed gaze of three cinema professionals: Ilaria Gomasca from Italy, Delphine Jeanneret from Switzerland and Maria Raluca Hanea from Romania. Tanzania will make a rare appearance and could, along with other countries featured, see the rise of its own film industry – the kind of rise that FIFF has already uncovered in Mongolia through its *New Territory* section. 10 films will be screened under this section – 10 works from the last 20 years that show both the country's level of production quality and the wide variety of genres tackled, from comedy with *The Men with Blue Dots*, to a feminist thriller with *One Life of Two Women* or a historical western with *Ten Soldiers of Genghis Khan*.

Unmissable masterpieces

The *Genre Cinema* section bridges the gap between new discoveries and great cinematic classics with fifteen films that could just as easily open (*Makala*) or close (*Sergio & Sergei*) FIFF 2018, testing the rules and limits of the biopic. Alongside key features that you have to see at least once in your life on the big screen (*Citizen Kane*, *Lawrence of Arabia* or *Queen Christina* with Greta Garbo), works of fiction and documentaries from every continent painting portraits of extraordinary personalities will be under festivalgoers' informed gaze.

The Festival's three *cartes blanches* will also provide a chance to (re)discover a number of masterpieces: *Yol*, *Journey to the Sun*, *Honey* (*Diaspora: Beki Probst and Turkey*); *Lucia*, *Soleil O*, *The*

Ballad of Narayama (Homage à Cannes Classics); The Loves of a Blonde, The battle of Algiers, Bicycle Thieves (Sur la carte de Ken Loach). From Beki Probst, President and Founder of the Berlinale European Film Market, to Thierry Frémaux, not to mention the double Palme d'or winner Ken Loach – who will conduct a Masterclass on March 19th – FIFF is particularly proud of being able to interact with Berlin, Cannes and one of the most important contemporary filmmakers. It is also proud that these figures are supporting a Festival that, by putting such works of art back in the spotlight, is pursuing an educational agenda to raise cinematic awareness and cultural diversity among festivalgoers and the 10,000 students that will participate every morning in *Planète Cinéma*, the biggest school programme in Switzerland.

A space for synergy

As well as the special screenings on offer at the Festival, such as the always off-the-wall *Midnight Screenings* (supported by *Wall Street English*), which attract a growing number of thrill-seekers from all walks of life, *Decryption: 200 candles for Nova Friburgo* is probably the section that this year best sums up the extent to which FIFF has become a collaborative hub for various partners. As part of the bicentenary of the Brazilian town Nova Friburgo, the Festival will screen three recent Brazilian films, a documentary about Switzerland's history of emigration making its world premiere, along with exclusive short films shot in Nova Friburgo by students from the ECAL art school and short films shot in Fribourg by young Brazilian filmmakers.

In a similar vein, under the *Passeport suisse* section based around the film *Sarah plays a werewolf* by Katharina Wyss, filmed in Fribourg and selected for Venice, FIFF will host the first meet-up for members of Fribourg's cinema industry.

This year the FIFF will also promote this policy of diverse perspectives by teaming up with three exhibition venues: the Cantonal and University Library (*Hugo Corpataux: Action!*), the WallRiss (*Kein Wunder*, biopics) and the Musée gruérien (*Nova Vida – Brazil-Portugal: 10th Fribourg Photographic Investigation*).

FIFF's after parties will also be organised by Nouveau Monde, Belluard Bollwerk, Fri-Son and Bad Bonn.

SAVE THE DATES

March 9th 2018 9 pm – Fri-Son fait son cinéma

A Page of Madness, Teinosuke Kinugasa, 1926

March 12th 2018 7:30 pm - Preview in Bern, CineMovie

What Will People Say, Iram Haq, 2017

Accreditations

Accreditations are open until March 10th 2018 on www.fiff.ch

Please don't hesitate to contact us for any additional information, interviews or [photographs](#).

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