



Festival International
de Films de Fribourg

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The 32nd FIFF in orbit

On Friday evening, Alain Berset, President of the Swiss Confederation, kicked off proceedings for the 32nd edition of the Fribourg International Film Festival (FIFF) in front of a full house. He stated: "FIFF is a festival which puts Fribourg on the world map and makes Fribourg think about the world". High-profile figures from the worlds of politics, business and culture, as well as members of the Festival's various juries, alongside the public, were able to see the Swiss Premiere of *Makala*, the impressive documentary by French director, Emmanuel Gras, who was in attendance. Until 24th March, cinema lovers will be able to attend screenings of the short and feature films in competition and see the many other films from the programme representing 52 countries. The organisers are expecting dozens of filmmakers from around the world to attend, most notably British director, Ken Loach.

In his speech, Alain Berset emphasised that "the close relationship between the Festival de Cannes and FIFF might not exist if FIFF's artistic directors lacked creativity or did not have a fiery passion for cinema". He also underlined the importance of the Festival which "has always been ahead of the game in identifying new talents: it presented the first works by notable filmmakers, such as Raoul Peck, Souleymane Cissé, Hou Hsiao-hsien and Apichatpong Weerasethakul".

Georges Godel, president of Fribourg's State Council, reminded us that the role of artists is "to question history and current events, to provide personal insight and to promote dialogue. The *Decryption* section thus invites us to discover or rediscover the stories of the 2,000 Swiss people, 800 of whom were from Fribourg, who left for Brazil in 1818 in hope of a better life".

The President of the FIFF association, François Nordmann, emphasised that the Festival highlights real life "by presenting films created in faraway countries, which bring traditions and raise individual and yet universal questions."

Thierry Jobin, FIFF's Artistic Director, introduced this 32nd edition by picking up on the notion of courage highlighted in all the speeches given during the Opening Ceremony. He quoted Jean-Jacques Rousseau: "There is no happiness without courage nor virtue without struggle."

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday March 17th, 22 pm – **Midnight Screenings | *Revenge* supported by Wall Street English**

Sunday March 18th, 5 pm – **Conférence | Cinéma de genre : Films biographiques**

Monday March 19th, 6:30 pm – **Rencontre | Diaspora : Beki Probst et la Turquie**

Monday March 19th, 8:30 pm – **Masterclass | Ken Loach**

Tuesday March 20th, 4 pm – **Table ronde | Fribourg : Lieu de cinéma**

Wednesday March 21th, 6:30 pm – **Table ronde | New Territory: Mongolie**

Thursday March 22th, 5:30 pm – **Round Table | *Decryption: 200 candles for Nova Friburgo***

Friday March 23th, 6 pm – **Rencontre avec Gérald Duchaussoy**

Saturday March 24th, 4 pm – **Encounter with the International Jury**

For more information on the FIFF programme visit www.fiff.ch.

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

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