



## FIFF's 33rd journey around the world

Now in its 33rd year, the Fribourg International Film Festival (FIFF) will once again celebrate cinematographic diversity in all its forms: a total of 105 films from 58 different countries will be screened in Fribourg's cinemas from 15 to 23 March 2019. They will all tell the other side of the story: the story that allows filmmakers to communicate their own vision of the society and culture of their home countries, but one that also deconstructs clichés, challenging and asking questions of audiences. One third of these productions will come from Asia, most notably from Afghanistan, Bhutan and South Korea, and one fifth from Africa, from countries such as Rwanda, Niger and Burkina Faso. Caribbean cinema, in the spotlight this year, will offer FIFF audiences an unprecedented look at Haiti, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

Across all its sections, FIFF will show 72 features and 33 shorts, including 46 world, international, European and Swiss premières.

### Discovery is the order of the day for the International Competition

Among the 12 feature films in the *International Competition*, two films will be given their European première, with their director in attendance: *The Red Phallus*, the first feature film from Tashi Gyeltshen, which explores the confused world of masks in Bhutan, and *Swing Kids* by Kang Hyeong-cheol, which transfigures the horrors of the Korean War into a tap-dancing show staged in a prison camp. Alongside these, other films include the portrait of a declining Mexican middle class in *The Good Girls* by Alejandra Márquez Abella (which won a prize at FIFF 2016), the documentary *A Thousand Girls Like Me* by Sahra Mani about Afghan justice in the face of rape, and the quest for truth in the Chinese detective thriller *The Looming Storm* by Dong Yue.

The international jury that will judge these feature films will include the Nigerien filmmaker Rahmatou Keïta, the Dominican director Natalia Cabral, the Syrian-Palestinian cartoonist Hani Abbas and the Indonesian director Kamila Andini, winner of the Critics' Choice Award at FIFF 2018 for *The Seen and Unseen*. They will be joined by a fifth member of the jury.

The *International Competition: Short Films* includes 15 short films from countries such as Rwanda, Nicaragua and Mexico. With more than a third of them made by women, they will be scrutinised by a jury of Swiss filmmakers Jela Hasler, Alice Riva and Philippe Pellaud, also known as Kid Chocolat.

### A different vision of black women

A long way from films peddling racist clichés and other caricatured roles, the 16 actresses of African descent, jointly responsible for *Noire n'est pas mon métier*, offer a respectful filmography of women of colour or those who have left their mark on history. With this in mind, Firmine Richard has chosen *Romuald et Juliette*, a comedy by Coline Serreau in which she acted alongside Daniel Auteuil in 1989; Aïssa Maïga has selected two films by Idrissa Ouedraogo from Burkina Faso, *Tilai* and *Yaaba* (co-produced by Switzerland); Mata Gabin will give us another chance to see *Mandingo* by Richard Fleischer, while Eye Haïdara and Marie-Philomène Nga will delight in the success of Euzhan Palcy's *Rue Cases-Nègres*. Finally, and among others, the former Miss France Sonia Rolland has chosen to pay tribute to her home country, Rwanda, with the TV movie *Sometimes in April*, directed by the Haitian Raoul Peck, starring Idris Elba and produced by the American channel HBO. A round table on Sunday 17 March will bring these actresses together to discuss their roles at the forefront of this struggle.

### Discovered in the Caribbean

For the *New Territory* section, FIFF will share some of its Caribbean discoveries: receiving its international première, the inflammatory *7:20 Once a Week* by the Dominican Matías Bize, plus *El Chata* by the Puerto Rican Gustavo Ramos Perales and *El hombre que cuida* by Alejandro Andújar, both Swiss premières. Filmmakers Guetty Felin, Natalia Cabral and Oriol Estrada will present their films in person, respectively *Ayiti mon amour* and *Miriam Lies*.

### **Exploring romantic territory**

The *Genre Cinema* section will include classics such as *Bringing Up Baby* by Howard Hawks and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* by Blake Edwards, as well as recent comedies such as *Aleksi* by Croatian Barbara Vekarić, the Argentine hit *El Fútbol O Yo* and *A Place in the Caribbean*, by the Honduran Juan Carlos Fanconi, receiving its European première.

### **A fresh look at South Korea**

The tastes of Elisa Shua Dusapin and Bong Joon-ho, guests of FIFF 2019, will be compared and contrasted: the writer's selections include the thrillers *Memories of Murder* and *The Host* by the prodigious director. *ExamiNation* by Judy Suh explores the unforgiving entrance exam at a South Korean college while *Counters*, by Lee Il-ha, looks at xenophobic anti-Korean movements in Japan. Filmmaker Bong Joon-ho has chosen some masterpieces he has never seen on the big screen: *Red Beard* by Akira Kurosawa, *Days of Being Wild* by Wong Kar-wai and *The Sugarland Express* – a little-known gem by Steven Spielberg!

### **A new side to Swiss cinema**

To coincide with the second meeting of professionals from Fribourg's own film industry, one evening during the festival will be devoted to films from Fribourg. On 19 March, audiences will have the opportunity to discover the latest films by the Guillaume brothers, Annie Gisler and the documentary filmmakers Francesca Scalisi and Mark Olexa. To showcase emerging talent, some charming shorts by David Nguyen, Stéphanie Dauth, Henri Marbacher and Stephan Eigenmann will also be on the bill.

### **Night sweats**

Films receiving their Swiss premières will thrill audiences as night falls, from *Farming* by Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje to *The Factory* by Russian Yury Bykov, as well as *The Witch: Part 1 – The Subversion* by Park Hoon-jung, a South Korean action film that won an award at the Festival Gérardmer 2019. And, last but not least, *Walter*, the first feature film by Varante Soudjian, the French comedy that almost had the FIFF's artistic committee dying with laughter.

### **Sharing diversity**

Finally, taking discovery one step further, and because the FIFF wants its audiences to be as varied as the films on its programme, this 33rd edition includes a range of inclusive activities. *Planète Cinéma* will give some 11,000 students the chance to discover cinema from other countries, while cultural mediation projects will bring together film lovers of all ages and horizons. Screenings in medical centres for elderly people are planned, as well as a session signed in French Sign Language and tickets donated to those in a precarious situation. Finally, exhibitions and after parties will bring the city of Fribourg to life between the screenings, at the BCU, Fri-Art, Le Nouveau Monde and Fri-Son.

### **SAVE THE DATES**

**15 March 2019, 7.30 pm Opening Ceremony**

**With the president of the Swiss National Council Marina Carobbio Guscetti**

*How Long Will I Love U*, Su Lun, China, 2018

**15 to 23 March 2019 The 33<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Fribourg International Film Festival**

### **Accreditations**

Accreditations are available **until 9 March 2019** from [fiff.ch](http://fiff.ch).



**Festival International  
de Films de Fribourg**

33° 15 > 23.03 2019

Press release  
27 February 2019  
**Embargo 12h**

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

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