



FIFF unveils its “34^{1/2}” edition

The Fribourg International Film Festival presents its “34^{1/2}” edition, following the cancellation of the 34th edition. FIFF offers an abridged version of the 2020 programme with screenings of selected films from its 2020 programme at other festivals, online, on TV and at special one-off events during the year. This quick change of plans would not have been possible without the incredible and overwhelming show of solidarity from the public and the Festival’s partners, as well as the high calibre of the programme itself and FIFF’s important network of contacts.

Selected partner events to go ahead as planned

During Festival week, FIFF has organised a series of events in partnership with other structures and institutions, a few of which will go ahead as planned, public health-related restrictions permitting, of course. The following events are confirmed:

- To round off the **Action Week against Racism**, a free screening of three episodes of *The Twilight Zone* as well as the short films by Swiss film students which would have been in the running for the Foreign Visa Prize (21st March, cinema STERN/blueFACTORY, [presskit p.15 and p.25](#))
- Brunch at the **Fri Art Kunsthalle Fribourg** (22nd March, Fri Art, [presskit p.34](#))
- The pitching session organised by the **Fribourg Films. Association** (24th March, cinema STERN/blueFACTORY, [presskit p.32](#))
- The following events at **Fri-Son** will also take place as planned: DJ night *God is a woman* (25th March), a performance by Rwandan band Cyusa n’Inkera, and an evening of film and music, with Emilie Zoé and Christian G. Gaucher who will pay their unique musical tribute to a cinematic masterpiece by director Roy Andersson (27th and 29th March, [presskit p.35](#))
- The **Cinémathèque suisse** will host a William Friedkin retrospective of 13 of his films between 10th March and 28th April (Friedkin was going to be the special guest of the FIFF 2020 *Sur la carte de...* section, [presskit p.22](#))

Overwhelming show of solidarity from other festivals

The FIFF team is incredibly touched by the spontaneous support that came pouring in from other festivals and institutions. A selection of films from the FIFF 2020 programme will now be screened at:

- **FIFOG** in Geneva | 8th-14th June
- **NIFFF** in Neuchâtel | 3rd-11th July
- **Les Georges** in Fribourg | 13th-18th July
- **Numerik Games Festival**, with the **Maison d’Ailleurs** in Yverdon | 28th-30th August
- the **Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur** | 3rd-8th November
- the **Nuits du Court métrage** in Fribourg and Lausanne | 2nd October and end of November

Much closer to home, talks are still ongoing with **Fribourg University Film Club**, **CinéBrunch** and **CinéPlus** on possible link-ups. The **Cinémathèque suisse** has flung its doors wide open, agreeing to screen almost the entire *Genre Cinema: Topsy-Turvy Worlds* programme, which this year takes a deep dive into alternate history ([presskit p.14-15](#)).

From silver screen to small screen

Of course, cinema screenings and direct interaction between the public and filmmakers will always be in FIFF’s DNA. However, given the current public health-related restrictions, the Festival will also show part of its programme on the small screen. Several partners have offered to stream selected films from the 2020 programme: between 30th March and 19th April the **Festival Scope** online platform will show the feature and short films in the 2020 FIFF *International Competitions* ([presskit p.7-11](#)); up to 200 free virtual tickets will be available worldwide for each film. The online platforms **cinofile.ch** and **filmingo.ch** (run by the trigon-film foundation) will offer the Swiss public the chance to watch some of the feature films on a pay-per-view basis. **Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS)** is currently in negotiations to purchase the TV broadcasting rights for one of the films on the FIFF 2020 programme; as of 12th March, RTS will also show

Bulle, a new series starring the actress Claudia Cardinale, who was going to be a special guest of the 2020 Festival ([presskit p.19 and p.25](#)).

FIFF to continue its cultural projects

Cultural projects are an extremely important part of the FIFF mission. The 34th edition may be cancelled but FIFF's outreach efforts will continue. A record number of teachers attended the orientation session last Saturday, during which director Pierre Monnard presented his latest film *Platzspitzbaby* ([presskit p.25](#)). Before the school screenings were called off, over 11,000 students had already signed up. The Festival will offer schools the opportunity to host classroom screenings of a few films from FIFF's renowned *Planète Cinéma* section ([presskit p.28](#)). This autumn FIFF will also participate in the **Festival Culture & École** organised by the Fribourg cantonal government.

Our top 10 unmissable films from the 2020 programme

New Territory: Rwanda was a pioneering achievement for FIFF as the programme was set to showcase almost the entire cinematic output of the country's nascent film industry ([presskit p.20-21](#)). Thankfully, an alternative has been found: the films in this section will be screened over a long weekend as soon as the public health situation allows. As Thierry Jobin, FIFF Artistic Director, explains, "Given the incredible amount of legwork that FIFF put in to curating the *New Territory: Rwanda* section, not to mention the unprecedented interest from the Rwandan diaspora, there was simply no way we were going to let our plans go to the wall", adding "We will, of course, reschedule the important public discussion events as well." FIFF will also be involved in **previews of the films on its programme before they open in Swiss theatres**. Finally, the Artistic Committee has chosen "**the 10 films [from the original selection of 116] that we were particularly looking forward to bringing to a wider audience.**" These will be screened in a number of different locations: in the cinemotion and ARENA cinema theatres, during the Open Air Cinéma Fribourg, in other, less conventional, settings, as well as in Bern, Bulle and Lausanne. FIFF will also join forces with one of its partners at each of these screenings in order to show its gratitude for the unconditional support it has received since the decision to call off the Festival's 34th edition.

Solidarity of the partners and the public, and social responsibility of the Festival

The Festival will honour its contracts – which are all maintained – of its permanent collaborators, and will offer compensation to the auxiliary personnel (some of whom are employed on short time retainer) affected by the cancellation of the event. "This is made possible thanks to the solidarity of the partners and the mobilization of the public since the cancellation announcement", says Philippe Clivaz, FIFF's Director of Operations. Indeed, the public reacted to the sad news with an incredible outpouring of support by buying the catalogue and merchandise for a Festival that unfortunately never was. Anyone wishing to follow their lead and snap up what are now collector's items should go to fiff.ch/en/edition-cancelled-support-sales.

35th edition – 19th to 27th March 2021

FIFF will postpone the 2020 section ***Decryption: History of Mexican Cinema by its Creators*** until 2021. Over the next year, it will continue to fine-tune the programme, which features the top 3 Mexican films as chosen by a panel of 30 or so Mexican directors ([presskit p.16-17](#)). During this time, FIFF will also endeavour to bring more filmmaking voices on board. While this section will live to see another edition, the rest of the 2021 FIFF programme will be created from scratch.

"The FIFF board and its committee would like to thank the entire team for their composure, energy and fantastic trouble-shooting ideas – especially the very original projects the technical team came up with – during this very difficult time", says Mathieu Fleury, FIFF's President. "With projected losses of CHF 100,000, the Festival is not out of the woods yet, but plans for the 35th edition are already in the pipeline." FIFF 2021 will be held from 19th to 27th March.

All the details regarding future events will be communicated on the Festival website fiff.ch and on its social media.

MEDIA INFORMATION

Download the 34th edition (cancelled) [press kit: fiff.ch/presse-2020](http://fiff.ch/presse-2020)

Contact

Simone Jenni, Press Officer
simone.jenni@fiff.ch | +41 76 467 01 44 | +41 26 347 42 03

Hélène Wichser, Press Assistant
presse@fiff.ch | +41 26 347 42 03