

**EMBARGO WEDNESDAY, 1ST MARCH 2023, 10.15 AM**

# FIFF serves up a gourmet menu for its 37th edition

A feast of 99 films from 52 countries



*Nezouh*, Soudade Kaadan (Syria, UK, France, 2022) | International competition: Feature Films, FIFF 2023

**The 37th edition of FIFF, the Fribourg International Film Festival, promises to be a feast for the eyes, and the taste buds. From 17th to 26th March, FIFF will show 99 films from 52 countries, including 3 World premieres, 3 International premieres, 3 European premieres and 55 Swiss premieres. It will also offer a brand-new culinary-themed experience 'Movie and a dinner'. Eight partner restaurants in Fribourg have created special dishes that tie in with selected films on the programme. Additional highlights include two FIFForum public conversations with director Fatih Akin and Francine Lecoultré, the renowned Hollywood sci-fi costume designer.**

For Thierry Jobin, Artistic Director of FIFF, "Artists always have the most interesting take on current events. Their creativity and intelligence allow us to put the non-stop news cycle into perspective. Their voices and views offer a breathing space that is at times cruel, at times violent, occasionally funny, but always engaged." The 12 feature films and 15 shorts in the International Competitions broaden our points of view on the lived realities in Iran, Syria, Ukraine, and other parts of Asia, Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe. Most of the artists behind these 27 films will attend the screening of their respective works.

**The 12 films in the *International competition: Feature Films***

- **Abang Adik**, Jin Ong, 2023, Malaysia – World premiere
- **Brothers** (*Bratya*), Darkhan Tulegenov, 2022, Kazakhstan – Swiss premiere
- **El Castigo** (*The Punishment*), Matías Bize, 2022, Chile/Argentina – Swiss premiere
- **Harka**, Lotfy Nathan, 2022, Tunisia/France/Germany/Belgium/Luxembourg/United States – Swiss premiere
- **Harvest Moon**, Amarsaikhan Baljinnyam, 2022, Mongolia – European premiere
- **Nezouh**, Soudade Kaadan, 2022, Syria/UK/France – Swiss premiere
- **Numb**, Amir Toodehroosta, 2023, Iran – Swiss premiere
- **Plan 75**, Chie Hayakawa, 2022, Japan/France/Philippines/Qatar – Swiss premiere
- **Untold Herstory**, Zero Chou, 2022, Taiwan – Swiss premiere
- **Un varón** (*A Male*), Fabian Hernández, 2022, Colombia/France/Netherlands/Germany – Swiss premiere
- **Winners**, Hassan Nazer, 2022, UK – Swiss premiere
- **World War III**, Houman Seyed, 2022, Iran – Swiss premiere

**The 15 films in the *International competition: Short Films***

Films from: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, Georgia, India, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Poland, Ukraine, Vietnam. Details of the films in the press kit pp.9-11.

**A feast for the five senses**

FIFF is both a window on world cultures and a reflection of life in its home region. This year, the Festival has drawn inspiration from Fribourg's status as the Culinary Capital of Switzerland (*Ville suisse du Goût 2023*) by choosing food-related films as the theme for its **Genre Cinema** section, appropriately named **Bon appétit!** There is a dinner date with Édouard Baer and Benoît Poelvoorde courtesy of the Swiss premiere of **Adieu Paris**. The programme also dishes up the tasty cinematic morsel **Heavy Craving**, a social satire from Taiwan that skewers the phenomenon of fat-shaming. The **Audience Choice** section features five cult culinary films, which more than 220 members of the public had voted for from a choice of 50 cinematic classics.

FIFF has partnered with eight Fribourg restaurants to offer the public a great new experience, **'Movie and a dinner'**. After enjoying an early-evening screening, the audience can prolong the pleasure by savouring a dish that has been specially created to tie in with the film they have just watched. For example, Les Trentenaires will be serving up the 'Poulet Lynch Frites Experience' following **Poulet Frites**, a film from the team behind the popular TV programme *Strip-tease*, or also following **Lynch/Oz**, the latest documentary from Alexandre O. Philippe. (See the press kit for more details about the films, the partner restaurants and their FIFF-specific menus, p.26)

The feasting does not end there. This year's *Sur la carte de* section is curated by the renowned director **Fatih Akin**, who will present six of his favourite films, which range from art house to kung-fu. It goes without saying that his iconic *Soul Kitchen* (Grand Jury Prize at Venice), which fits perfectly with FIFF's culinary theme, will also be on the menu. *Rheingold*, Akin's latest film, a hard-hitting biopic about a hip-hop producer, is part of the explosive **Midnight Screenings** line-up, which, as always, will be serving up chills and thrills to the delight of its hardcore fans. Further proof that FIFF has its finger on the pulse of the times is its decision to dedicate its *New Territory* section to largely overlooked filmmaking culture of the **Republic of Moldova**, which shares a border with Ukraine. Finally, there is lots of family-friendly fare on the FIFF 2023 menu thanks to the **Make it family time** section. This year's programme is the most extensive yet and features films for kids of all ages (4+).

### Reality check

More food for thought comes from the *Decryption* section, which challenges our versions of reality. This year's programme features four documentaries that deconstruct two forms of violence – white supremacy and violence against women. In the words of Raoul Peck, the director of **Exterminate All the Brutes**, a four-part documentary series presented in its entirety at FIFF, "A certain worldview holds that the historical account is only one fiction among many. This is wrong: there are no alternative facts." Also on the programme are **Brainwashed: Sex-Camera-Power**, an edifying lesson from Nina Menkes on the *male gaze*; **L'argent, la liberté, une histoire du franc CFA** from Katy Léna Ndiaye; and **Jane Campion, The Cinema Woman** by Julie Bertuccelli, which documents the filmmaker's battle to impose her unique voice and vision in a male-dominated industry. On 20th March, FIFForum will also host a roundtable discussion on 'Colonialism and Switzerland'.

### Juries, filmmakers and general public get together in Fribourg

FIFF is also famed for its informal and exciting side events which bring filmmakers and their audience together. Some 50 guests from all walks of life are expected in Fribourg this year. **Francine Lecoultre**, one of Hollywood's top costume designers, will return from Los Angeles, where she has lived for 30 years, to sit on the International Competition Feature Films Jury. She will also be In Conversation at FIFForum (Saturday 18th March), and has designed an exhibition, hosted by the J.-J. Hofstetter gallery, which offers the public a glimpse into her creative universe. Other Jury members include director **Patricia Mazuy**, whose dark and powerful film *Bowling Saturne* about toxic masculinity will be shown in the *Midnight Screenings* section, as well as Ukrainian filmmaker **Maryna Er Gorbach**, who catapulted to fame and acclaim with *Klondike*, which won the FIFF 2022 Grand Prix. "When we were working on our culinary-themed programme, I realised that big names from the world of gastronomy are rarely asked to sit on juries, even though their members typically come from different creative backgrounds. Chefs are, in fact, artists in their own right", recalls Thierry Jobin. FIFF therefore asked **Judith Baumann**, the chef who turned the Pinte des Mossettes into an award-winning, fine dining establishment, to sit on the Jury.

The International Competition: Short Films Jury members are Fribourg author and winner of a 2022 Swiss Literature Award, **Fabienne Rادي**; the musician **Alice Torrent** from Valais who released her second album *An Ode to your Sun* at the end of last year; and the investigative journalist **Mehdi Atmani**, who specialises in new information technologies and digital surveillance.

### Opening and Closing Film: odes to freedom

The Festival will kick off on Friday 17th March with **Umami – A taste of happiness**. **Slony Sow**, the French director behind the comedy will also attend the screening. The film stars **Gérard**

**Depardieu** as a renowned French chef in the doldrums after being dumped by his wife and suffering a heart attack. On the advice of an old friend (Pierre Richard), he sets off for Japan on a mission to uncover the secret of umami, the fifth taste. The film will be screened a further two times during the Festival, and goes on general release in French-speaking Switzerland in May 2023.

The closing film (Saturday 25th March) will take the audience to Algiers. ***Houria***, from director **Mounia Meddour** (*Papicha*, 2019) who will attend the screening, tells the story of a gifted young dancer whose dreams of becoming a ballerina are dashed after a violent assault. This film will also go on general release in French-speaking Switzerland in May 2023. With a spellbinding performance by **Lyna Khoudri**, this film is a fitting end to FIFF 2023 and an expression of hope for young people all around the world.

**Full programme and tickets at [fiff.ch](https://fiff.ch).**

## MEDIA INFORMATION

- **Presskit FIFF 2023:** Download at [fiff.ch/en/press-2023](https://fiff.ch/en/press-2023)
- **Interviews:** List of attending guests in the presskit.  
Please contact the FIFF Press office for interviews.
- **Film stills:** Download at [fiff.ch/en/press-2023](https://fiff.ch/en/press-2023)  
More film stills and trailers available upon request.  
Film screeners available upon request.
- **Press accreditation:** As of now at [fiff.ch/en/accreditations-fiff-2023](https://fiff.ch/en/accreditations-fiff-2023)

## PRESS CONFERENCE

**Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 10:15 am**

Crapule Club, Grand-Places 14, Fribourg

Presentation of the full programme

Last minute registration: [simone.jenni@fiff.ch](mailto:simone.jenni@fiff.ch) | 076 467 01 44

## Contacts



Simone Jenni  
Head of Press  
[simone.jenni@fiff.ch](mailto:simone.jenni@fiff.ch)  
+41 76 467 01 44



Carole Schneuwly  
Presseverantwortliche Deutsch  
[carole.schneuwly@fiff.ch](mailto:carole.schneuwly@fiff.ch)  
+41 76 308 37 44



Audrey Mabillard  
Press Assistant  
[audrey.mabillard@fiff.ch](mailto:audrey.mabillard@fiff.ch)