

EMBARGO SATURDAY 25TH MARCH 2023, 8.30 PM

Japanese Grand Prix and record attendance at the 37th FIFF FIFF 2023 Award Winners



“Sensitivity”, “subtlety”, “maturity”, “empathetic gaze”: the film *Plan 75* by the Japanese director Chie Hayakawa, which comes to Swiss cinemas from 3rd May, won the Grand Prix, the Critics’ Choice Award and the Comundo Youth Jury Award at the 37th edition of the Fribourg International Film Festival (FIFF). The event draws to a close this Sunday with a historic attendance record: with its online presence and screenings in Bulle over the coming weeks, the ceiling of 45,000 entries will certainly be easily surpassed. This success seems to have come from the Festival’s partnership with the city’s restaurants and the choice of the culinary theme. The public embraced the FIFF like never before. It rediscovered its taste for collective emotion with continually packed cinemas, as much for encounters with artists such as Fatih Akin or Francine Lecoultre as to see productions from Malaysia, Iran, Morocco or Japan. Here is an overview of the Festival and a look at the award-winners of an extraordinary edition.

Plan 75, an ode to life by the Japanese director Chie Hayakawa, won three prizes. Set in a futuristic Japan burdened by an overpopulation of elderly people, this dystopian film imagines a governmental programme of voluntary euthanasia for the over-75s. This masterpiece, which, according to the jury, dissects the “radical consequences of a cold and cynical society”, received the prestigious Grand Prix, the Critics’ Choice Award and the Comundo Youth Jury Award. The powerful Iranian film *World War III*, by Houman Seyedi, was also twice rewarded, with the Special Jury Award of the International Competition (the jury consisted of Judith Baumann, Maryna Er Gorbach, Francine Lecoultre and Patricia Mazuy) as well as with a special mention from the Comundo Youth Jury. Finally, the International Jury gave a special mention to 12-year-old actor Tenuun-Erdene Garamkhand for his performance in *Harvest Moon* (Mongolia) by Amarsaikhan Baljinnyam.

As for the much coveted Audience Award and the Ecumenical Jury Award, these went to the Malaysian film *Abang Adik* by Jin Ong, a poignant portrait of the relationship between two undocumented brothers and a “plea for justice, solidarity and human dignity.” As a World Premiere thus still unseen in Malaysia, it was shown for the very first time at the Fribourg International Film Festival. This public recognition will open the doors to the international market for the film, undoubtedly leading it to rights sellers as well as to other international festivals.

For the International Competition: Short Films, the Iranian film *Split Ends* by Alireza Kazemipour won over the jury (comprising Fabienne Radi, Alice Torrent and Mehdi Atmani), with its ability to “speak about serious issues with a disconcerting humour and a subtle intelligence”. The CH Cinema Network Award, which is awarded by a jury of Swiss film school students, went to the Franco-Moroccan production *Sur la tombe de mon père* by director Jawahine Zentar. The winner of the Prix Röstigraben is Anaïs Bourgogne from the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts for her short film *Dazwischen*. Finally, the jury of the Foreign Visa Award – bringing together four members of the Moldovan delegation invited to represent the *New Territory: Republic of Moldova* section – chose the short film *Motër* (Sister) by Dorentina Imeri.

Culinary film was given pride of place this year and imbued the whole edition with a unique form of conviviality, particularly by inviting the public to “Movie and a dinner” experiences and daily gourmet delights. Mathieu Fleury, President of the FIFF Association, is thrilled: “2023 will have been the year of reunions. The public responded enthusiastically to the invitation. This has enabled the Festival to break its attendance record, easily surpassing 45,000 entries – that is several thousand tickets more than last year.”

But what is the recipe for this success? **Thierry Jobin**, the Festival's Artistic Director, is moved: "Day after day, I asked spectators about their loyalty. Some of them told me that the culinary theme was particularly appealing; others mentioned the excitement of the post-pandemic period. However, the majority said that the Festival's sense of hospitality and its welcoming team were the main ingredients for this achievement, repeated year after year: making everyone feel at home in Fribourg." He goes on: "And to top it all off, we have noted the same movement of recognition from sponsors and partners, many of whom wish to be associated with FIFF's new image."

And for audiences wishing to continue the FIFF adventure, from Monday onwards, for three weeks, around twenty short and feature films from the 2023 selection will be freely available on the **Festival Scope** streaming platform. A selection of Swiss culinary films, chosen in line with the theme of the edition, is also available free of charge on the **Play Suisse** streaming platform. Then, from 28th to 30th April 2023, the **Bulle de FIFF** event comes back to the cinemas, providing an opportunity to (re)discover ten films from the programme of the 37th edition. Once these two extensions have concluded, a definitive overview of the 37th edition will be published.

The 38th edition of the Fribourg International Film Festival (FIFF) will be held from 15th to 24th March 2024.

Sunday 26.03.2023 – Rex 1

fiff.ch/en/festival-2023/by-day/26

11.00 am : Special Jury Award: **World War III**

1.30 pm : Best International Short Film Award: **Split Ends**
and Grand Prix : **Plan 75**

4.00 pm : Audience Award: **Abang Adik** (free admission, booking mandatory)

FIFF online : festivalscope.com (27.03–16.04.2023)
playsuisse.ch (as of now)

FIFF in Bulle : Bulle de FIFF, from Friday 28th to Sunday 30th April 2023

MEDIA INFORMATION

- **Interviews:**
Please contact the FIFF Press office.
- **Award winners HD film stills and trailers:** download at fiff.ch/en/press-2023
More film stills available upon request.
- **Photos of the Closing Ceremony:** download at fiff.ch/en/press-2023 from Sunday 26th March

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AWARD WINNERS FIFF 2023

International competition: Feature films

The **International Feature Films Jury**, comprising Judith Baumann (Switzerland), Maryna Er Gorbach (Ukraine), Francine Lecoultre (Switzerland, USA) and Patricia Mazuy (France), awards

- the **Grand Prix of the Fribourg International Film Festival**, consisting of CHF 30,000 jointly supported by the Canton of Fribourg (CHF 20,000) and the Municipality of Fribourg (CHF 10,000), to:

Plan 75 by Chie Hayakawa

Swiss Premiere | Japan, France, Philippines, Qatar, 2022 | 112' | Fiction



Jury's Statement:

«At the times when the world is being terrorized by the fear of the third world war, we watched a film that speaks against any kind of discrimination and very tenderly says: life is the best plan. The wonderful actress is taking off her mask et pulls back her energy. It seems that she has nothing in her life, but she has life.»

→ Additional screening: Sunday 26.03.2023 at 1.30 pm, Rex 1 (tickets at fiff.ch)

- the **Special Jury Award**, consisting of CHF 10,000 supported by FIFF, to:

World War III by Houman Seyed

Swiss Premiere | Iran, 2022 | 107' | Fiction



Jury's Statement:

«Personal and political Iranian cinema has always been so powerful and alive. This film is very bold and challenging when mixing comic and drama; asking to the world "who is the Führer?" The Special Jury Award goes to Houman Seyed the director of World War III. He succeeds to have a cinematographic language to talk about the Dictatorship which is the most dangerous poison for the future.»

Additional screening: Sunday 26.03.2023 at 11.00 am, Rex 1 (tickets at fiff.ch)

- and a **special interpretation mention** to:

Tenuun-Erdene Garamkhand, for his interpretation of the young Tuntuulei in **Harvest Moon by Amarsaikhan Baljinnyam**

European Premiere | Mongolia, 2022 | 90' | Fiction

The **Audience Award**, consisting of CHF 5,000 and supported by the Banque Cantonale de Fribourg, goes to:

- **Abang Adik by Jin Ong**
World Premiere | Malaysia, 2023 | 115' | Fiction



→ Additional screening: Sunday 26.03.2023 at 4.00 pm, Rex 1 (free admission, booking mandatory at fiff.ch)

The **Ecumenical Jury**, comprising Philippe Cabrol (France), Stefan Haupt (Switzerland), Bernadette Meier (Switzerland) and Florence de Tienda (France), awards

- the **Ecumenical Jury Award**, consisting of CHF 5,000 and supported by Bread for All and Action de Carême, to:

Abang Adik by Jin Ong
World Premiere | Malaysia, 2023 | 115' | Fiction

The **Youth Jury COMUNDO**, comprising Mya Alena, Alex Krumm, Olivia Kuhnen, Louise Meisel, Eileen Mosca, Samuel Pochon and Léa Tobler awards

- the **Youth Jury Award COMUNDO**, consisting of CHF 5,000 and supported by COMUNDO, to:

Plan 75 by Chie Hayakawa
Swiss Premiere | Japan, France, Philippines, Qatar, 2022 | 112' | Fiction

- and a **special mention** to:

World War III by Houman Seyed
Swiss Premiere | Iran, 2022 | 107' | Fiction

The **Jury Critics' Choice Award**, comprising Norbert Creutz (Switzerland), Matthias Lerf (Switzerland) and Sabrina Schwob (Switzerland) awards

- the **Critics' Choice Award** to:

Plan 75 by Chie Hayakawa
Swiss Premiere | Japan, France, Philippines, Qatar, 2022 | 112' | Fiction

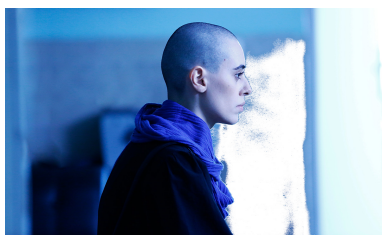
International competition: Short films

The **International Short Films Jury**, comprising Mehdi Atmani (Switzerland), Fabienne Radi (Switzerland) and Alice Torrent (Switzerland), awards

- the **Best International Short Film Award**, consisting of CHF 7,500 and supported by the Clinique Générale Ste-Anne, to:

Split Ends by Alireza Kazemipour

Swiss Premiere | Iran, 2022 | 14' | Fiction



Jury's statement:

« The short film that won us over both in form and content is a film that speaks about serious issues with a disconcerting humour and a subtle intelligence. A film that addresses the issue of the hijab in Iran while inverting the capillary roles (a woman with a shaved head and a man with long hair). A film that manages to show the absurd violence of the morality police in Tehran while delivering crazy dialogues about argan oil shampoos for split ends. Busting taboos by liberating hair! »

→ Additional screening: Sunday 26.03.2023 at 1.30 pm, Rex 1 (tickets at fiff.ch)
and from 27.03 to 16.04.2023 on www.festivalscope.com/page/fribourg-international-film-festival-2023/

The **Jury CH Cinema Network**, comprising Anna Joos (ECAL/HEAD), Elias Jutzet (ECAL/HEAD), Luca Leoni (USI) and Lisa Mouquin (UNIL), awards

- the **CH Cinema Network Award**, consisting of CHF 3,000, to:

Sur la tombe de mon père by Jawahine Zentar

Swiss Premiere | Morocco, France, 2022 | 24' | Fiction



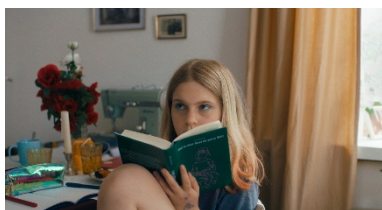
Passeport Suisse: Short Film Programme Foreign Visa Award

The **Foreign Visa Jury**, comprising Ion Gnatiuc (Republic of Moldova), Ana-Felicia Scutelnicu (Republic of Moldova), Eugeniu Popovici (Republic of Moldova) and Valentina Iusuphodkaev (Republic of Moldova), awards

- the **Foreign Visa Award**, consisting of CHF 1,000 and supported by E-CHANGER and Fribourg-Solidaire, to:

Motër by Dorentina Imeri

Swiss Premiere | Switzerland, 2022 | 14' | Fiction | ZHdk, Zürcher Hochschule der Künste



The **Jury Röstigraben**, comprising Morgane Frund, Hae-Sup Sin, Anna Lena Spring and Pietro Vitali, awards

- the **Prix Röstigraben**, consisting of CHF 500 and supported by Schweizer Jugendfilmtage (SJFT) and the FIFF, to:

Dazwischen by Anaïs Bourgogne

Switzerland, 2022 | 18' | Documentary | HSLU Luzern

