

FIFF

30^e Festival International
de Films de Fribourg
11–19.03.2016

Founded in 1980, the FIFF celebrates its 30th edition this year!

Press release

The FIFF unveils the line-up of its 30th edition dedicated to women

A few days from its 30th anniversary edition, the FIFF has revealed the titles selected for the *Feature and Short Films Competitions*, as well as the programme covering over 100 films from 62 countries. From women fighters to the spotlight on African women filmmakers or female directors sharing their favourite films: the exceptional, global scope of the 2016 FIFF once again celebrates the festival's defence of diversity. Over 80 guests will attend the anniversary edition, among others Marthe Keller and Sophie Hunger, who will meet with the public during the opening weekend. The place held by women in film will also be the subject of two panel discussions at the FIFF FORUM. Planète Cinéma, the FIFF's school programme, has put together an educational programme aiming to raise awareness among pupils about the representation of women in cinema. A total of 127 films, 55 of which will have their Swiss premiere, includes some of the finest works celebrating feminine diversity, from the early years of cinema to present-day films to works revealed in the *Feature and Short Films Competitions*. The entire city of Fribourg will take part in the event. Four much anticipated exhibitions (Kathe Burkhart, Namsa Leuba, "Derrière la migrante, la femme" and "Truffaut – Passionné") enrich the programme of the 30th edition. The festival will open on Friday, March 11th in the presence of Federal Councillor Alain Berset. The programme features a screening of Charlie Chaplin's film *The Kid*, accompanied by live music performed by the Chamber Orchestra of Fribourg. Within the first part of the programme there will be presented a series of short films by Alice Guy.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS: NEW DISCOVERIES AND FAMILIAR FACES

This year, 13 feature films from 11 countries will vie for the **Regard d'or** award, which comes with a cash prize of 30,000 Swiss francs. None of the films have yet been screened in Switzerland, and for some it will be their world premiere. The films making up the 2016 selection cover a broad spectrum of themes and approaches. The protagonist of the Mexican thriller **A Monster with a Thousand Heads** (Rodrigo Plá) is a desperate woman who will do anything to save her ailing husband. In **Alias Maria** (José Luis Rugeles, Colombia), a teenage guerrilla soldier named Maria is put in charge of the safety of the commander's new-born baby during an epic jungle crossing. Two poetic family dramas, **Semana Santa**, a promising feature film by Mexican director Alejandra Marquéz Abella, and **Incident Light** by Argentinian filmmaker Ariel Rotter, both tell the struggle of a devoted mother trying to preserve her family in the face of bereavement. For its 30th edition, the FIFF is honoured to welcome back several directors whose work left its mark on earlier international competitions. Matías Meyer is back with **Yo** (Mexico), a portrait of a mentally disabled young man who discovers the opposite sex. Iranian director Mahmoud Ghaffari also makes an exciting comeback with the world premiere of his film **Hair**, a comedy-drama about three young deaf-mute karatekas and the challenges they face. Min Bahadur Bham (Nepal), whose short film was already in competition in 2013, is now back with his first feature film, **The Black Hen**, about the adventures of two young friends from different castes in the midst of the civil war. **Blanka** (Kohki Hasei, Philippines) tells the intrepid adventures of its eponymous heroine, a young orphan who roams the streets of Manila looking for a mother to buy. The employees of the Algiers slaughterhouse portrayed in the documentary **Roundabout in My Head** by Algerian filmmaker Hassen Farhani are dreaming of a different life. Just like **Siti** (Eddie Cahyono, Indonesia), a young mother whose life takes a dramatic turn after an accident leaves her husband paralysed. South Korean cinema is as well present at the festival, with a suspenseful thriller entitled **Madonna**, whose director Shin Su-Won was revealed in Cannes in 2015. Inspired by a Yiddish tale, Ukrainian filmmaker Eva Neymann gracefully triumphs with **Song of Songs**, a poetic film about the blossoming of first love. Yaelle Kayam's first feature, **Mountain** (Israel) is a comedy-drama about the loneliness and frustration of a mother in an ultra-religious environment.

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With the objective of supporting upcoming directors, the three programmes of the **International Competition: Short Films** (fiction, documentary and animation) showcase the new filmmaking trends emerging in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The best short film will receive a cash prize of 7500 CHF.

For the first time, this year a jury composed of students belonging to the **CH Cinema Network** will also award a prize worth 3000 CHF.

The majority of the directors participating in the competitions will be present at the festival.

THE JURIES FOR THE 30th EDITION: WOMEN CALL THE SHOTS

27 from the 30 jurors who will make up the seven juries of the 30th edition are women:

International Jury Feature Films: **Aline Schmidt** (Producer, Switzerland), **Diep Hoang Nguyen** (Filmmaker, Vietnam), **Jocelyne Saab** (Filmmaker, Liban), **Maja Zimmermann** (Producer, Switzerland), **Alanté Kavaité** (Filmmaker, Lithuania).

International Jury Short Films: **Marie-Elsa Sgualdo** (Filmmaker, Switzerland), **Corinna Weiss** (Artistic Director), **Annina Wettstein** (Programmer, Switzerland).

New this year: a jury composed of students of the **CH Cinema Network** will also present an award with an amount of 3000 CHF in the **International Competition: Short Films**

WOMEN'S RESISTANCE TRIUMPHS IN THE PARALLEL SECTIONS

They fight for their rights (**Free Angela and All Political Prisoners, He Named Me Malala**) and their country (**Queen of the Mountain**), struggle to raise their children (**Obama Mama**) or to keep their job (**Cart**), they fight in the ring (**Boxing for Freedom, Mary Kom**): women wage many different battles in the 18 films shown in the section **Genre Cinema: Fiercer than the Male**.

African women directors are not letting themselves be deterred by material difficulties or the restraints of patriarchal society: **Terra Incognita: Being a female filmmaker in Africa** presents about twenty works by women directors, ranging from the North to the South of the continent, from the 1970s (**Sambizanga**) to the present day – women who have taken the camera into their own hands in order to provide a critical perspective on contemporary African society (**The Revolution Won't Be Televised**) as well as women's place (**Les Sénégalaises et la Sénégalaise**) within it. Fribourg's African association (AMAF) has organised several events: a performance and an African fashion show will take place on Saturday, March 12th, and on Sunday, March 13th, a panel discussion will focus on the work of African women filmmakers.

In the section **Diaspora: Mira Nair and India**, filmmaker **Mira Nair** presents her native country through some of the major works of Indian cinema, among which are masterpieces by Ritwik Ghatak and Satyajit Ray, as well as two of her own films, **Salaam Bombay!** and **The Reluctant Fundamentalist**.

How do women filmmakers view cinema? What films inspired them to start making their own? Which female characters have left their mark in the history of cinema? **Decryption: And Woman created the cinema** asked thirty female directors from across the world, both established directors and newcomers, to share their favourite films with the FIFF. It's an opportunity to rediscover many works and to make out the traces of two leading personalities: Agnès Varda and Jane Campion. It is the latter who, during her presidency of the Cannes jury in 2014, inspired FIFF artistic director Thierry Jobin to devote an entire festival edition to women. As for female characters, it is the rebels that stand out. Vivien Leigh's impetuosity in **Gone with the Wind**, Gena Rowlands' strength of character in **A Woman Under The Influence** and the resistance displayed by Anna Magnani in **Roma Città Aperta** have influenced several generations of moviegoers.

Nicknamed "mother" throughout the 1950s, **Ida Lupino** was a fascinating actress with a striking determination to succeed in directing films in a male-dominated Hollywood. Pierre Rissient, an important figure in the history of cinema, pays tribute to her in the section **Hommage à...: Ida Lupino, by Pierre Rissient**.

Born into the world of cinema, **Geraldine Chaplin** generously shares her favourite films with us. From Robert Altman to Arthur Joffé to Buñuel, **Sur la carte de: Geraldine Chaplin** presents an eclectic selection that reflects her freedom of spirit. The festival will draw to a close with a feminist Bollywood comedy that resonates with the theme of this 30th edition: **Parched**, by Leena Yadav, which tells the story of four women striving to break free from the servitude of their village traditions.

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SPECIAL SCREENINGS AND EVENTS

The **Special Screenings** will delight film enthusiasts of all ages, from the youngest, with **FIFFamily in the Far East**, to older generations. Amateurs of night-time thrills will enjoy the **Midnight Screenings**.

Passeport Suisse presents the Swiss premiere of Elena Hazanov's film **Puppet Syndrome** after **Born in Battle**, the latest short film from the Swiss-Tibetan Yangzom Brauen. Ruxandra Zenide's **The Miracle of Tekir** will be screened as Swiss French Premiere

The FIFF opening weekend features a series of encounters with the public, starting with special guests Marthe Keller and Sophie Hunger.

WOMEN AND FILM AT THE HEART OF BOTH THE PROFESSIONAL AND SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

Planète Cinéma, the country's most important school programme (over 10,000 children enrolled) proposes to increase awareness among pupils of the representation of women in film through classroom interventions and educational material prepared jointly with the BEF, the Fribourg bureau for gender equality and family affairs.

Think Tank Screenplay: A place for women?! The **FIFF FORUM** proposes a panel discussion as well as a workshop focusing on the place of women in film. The event is organised in collaboration with the SSR. Following the various reactions generated by the theme of the 30th edition, Swiss and international filmmakers and producers will address the question **"So: must we really continue talking about women in film?"** on Sunday evening, March 13th, and on Friday, March 18th, filmmakers and screenwriters will give insight into their work during a workshop about the **Development of a female character**.

THE ENTIRE CITY CELEBRATES

The anniversary will extend its scope to the whole city, and numerous cultural venues, exhibitions and concerts will be a part of the celebrations. Four exhibitions will be held before and beyond the festival week.

The exhibition entitled **"Derrière la migrante, la femme"**, organized by the City of Fribourg and **espacefemmes-frauenraum**, can be seen in the storefront windows of the shops in the Rue de Lausanne. The twelve portraits show an image of immigrant women very different from their usual representation as submissive or under-qualified. After Paris and São Paulo, it is now Marly's turn to host the exhibition of **François Truffaut's** work curated last year by the Cinemathèque française. The event **"Truffaut-Passionnément"** is organized by the **Fondation APCd** and will be housed in the former Ilford factory premises. Based on a wealth of family archives, the exhibition allows us to delve deep into the oeuvre of Truffaut, a filmmaker passionate about cinema and celebrating his love for women in his films. In collaboration with the **BCU**, the FIFF presents the series **"Mmabatho"** by Swiss-Guinean photographer **Namsa Leuba**, whose work focuses on reconciling African culture with its perception in the West. The **Fri Art centre for contemporary art** will host the first retrospective of **Kathe Burkhart's** work in Europe. The American artist has created over 350 drawings and paintings that owe as much to punk collage techniques as to a more conceptual approach. Her unique work conveys a feminist critique of media representation while at the same time challenging the viewer's good conscience.

THE FIFF IN NUMBERS

This year the FIFF expects a stabilization of its numbers of viewers: around 40,000 admissions. The festival has become a must event for all audiences as well as for local and foreign filmmakers, journalists and partners. One fourth of the audience comes from other Swiss cantons. The majority of the FIFF audience are women. The 2 million CHF budget is constituted by the contributions of institutional partners, sponsoring agreements and admissions.

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SAVE THE DATES!

March 3	18:00	Opening «François Truffaut – Passionnément», APCd Fondation, Marly
March 7	18:15	Preview screening of <i>Le Challat de Tunis</i> by Kaouther Ben Hania, CineMovie 1, Bern
March 8	18:00	Opening «Derrière la migrante, la femme», Rue de Lausanne 1, Fribourg
March 10	20:30	Fri-son fait son cinéma
March 11	18:00	Opening «Namsa Leuba – MMABATHO», BCU, Fribourg
March 11	19:30	Opening Night, <i>The Kid</i> by Charles Chaplin with Orchestra, Théâtre Equilibre
March 12	12:45	Rencontre with Sophie Hunger, ARENA 6
March 12	18:00	Rencontre with Marthe Keller, ARENA 7
March 13	10:30	Brunch and opening of the exhibition by Kathe Burkhart, Fri-Art, Fribourg
March 13	14:00	Table ronde: Être réalisatrice en Afrique, ARENA 7
March 13	17:00	Think Tank: “So: must we really continue talking about women in film?”, ARENA 7
March 18	14:00	Think Tank: “Development of a female character”, ARENA 7
March 19	18:00	Closing Film and prize ceremony, <i>Parched</i> by Leena Yadav, Arena, Fribourg

NEW! DISCOVER THE TIMELINE OF THE FIFF

Founded in 1980, the FIFF celebrates its 30th edition and its 36 years of existence!

To celebrate its anniversary, the FIFF retrospects its history and offers an illustrated [timeline](#) of the last 29 edition's significant events.

FIFF APP

The FIFF App (**FIFF 2016**) with the programme, the function myprogram and the latest news is available for free on the Appstore and Google Play.

ACCREDITATIONS & TICKETS

Accreditation requests are open until **March 1st 2016** on www.fiff.ch

Presales on www.starticket.ch start on Monday, **February 29th 2016**.

FIFF Direction

Thierry Jobin, Artistic Director

Giovanna Garghentini Python, Administrative Director

The team of the Fribourg International Film Festival

Please don't hesitate to contact us for any further information, interviews or photographic material. At the [press area](#) there are special documents for the 30th edition: images, fact sheet, history of the FIFF, editorial of Thierry Jobin

FIFF Press Service

T +41 (0)26 347 42 00

presse@fiff.ch | www.fiff.ch

Aimée Papageorgiou

Head of Press Relations

T +41 (0)26 347 42 09

M +41 (0)79 605 06 05

aimee.papageorgiou@fiff.ch

Jenifer Oester

Press Assistant

T +41 (0)26 347 42 00

M +41 (0)79 776 62 60

jenifer.oester@fiff.ch

Valerio Bonadei

German-speaking Press

M +41 (0)79 653 65 03

valerio@filmbuero.ch

Anne Pampin

International Press

M +33 (0)6 77 08 29 44

anne.pampin@gmail.com