

FIFF

Festival International
de Films de Fribourg

29th Fribourg International Film Festival (FIFF), 21-28.03.2015

Press release (Embargo until March 21, 8pm)

The 29th FIFF is officially open

The 29th Fribourg International Film Festival (FIFF) opened on Saturday evening. The tone for the opening was set by a biting Uruguayan comedy, *Mr. Kaplan*, screened in the presence of director Álvaro Brechner. The event drew a large number of key figures from the cultural, political and business sectors. Eight days of festivities to celebrate the best of world cinema, dedicated this year to the cause of freedom, from the diverse perspectives of humour, eroticism and emancipation!

The members of the International Jury: Feature Films Alanis Obomsawin (Canada) and Rolf de Heer (New Zealand) will be joined on Sunday by the directors Ursula Meier (Switzerland) and Alix Delaporte (France). Actor and director Jean-Marc Barr will also attend the opening and hold a masterclass. With a rich programme of nearly 150 films from 57 countries in store, the International Competition: Feature Films will include 12 films from as many countries competing for the Regard d'or with its prize of CHF 30,000. Towards the middle of the week, 18 directors will come from around the world to present their short films in competition.

Proceedings got underway with official speeches from Manuel Sager, the new director of the Development and Cooperation Division (DDC), Pierre-Alain Clément, City Mayor of Fribourg and the former ambassador François Nordmann, newly elected to the presidency of the FIFF Association.

Quotes from Sager, Nordmann and Clément

CINEMATIC ENCOUNTERS AND DIALOGUES

As a forum for international cinema, FIFF will feature encounters, masterclasses and debates with a variety of guests throughout the week. At midday on Sunday, the director and producer Jean-Marc Barr will host a masterclass on desire and the body as part of the Genre Cinema: Terra Erotica I section. Jean-François Stévenin will introduce his favourite films in the Carte Blanche section and the masterclass he will hold on Monday, which Ursula Meier has kindly agreed to moderate. This year's FIFF will be honoured by the presence of a number of representatives of North American indigenous cinema. Militant director Alanis Obomsawin, a member of the International Jury, will take part in a round table with Jesse Wentz, director of the Toronto TIFF Bell Lightbox programme and Chris Eyre, director of *Smoke Signals*. An Encounter with Alanis Obomsawin, entitled "Cinema and Resistance" will also take place on Tuesday, March 24. The Syrian director Ossama Mohammed will host a masterclass on a burning issue on Wednesday, March 25.

MANAGEMENT

Thierry Jobin, Artistic Director

Esther Widmer, Administrative Director

PRESS OFFICE

The FIFF 2015 press kit, complete with high resolution images, is available to download at www.fiff.ch. We will be delighted to help you organise interviews with directors or the festival management committee. Images of the Opening Ceremony and the guests can be downloaded from 10pm on www.fiff.ch.