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26th Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur: Main Focus on the Andes

Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, held from 8 to 13 November, has a new home at Sulzerareal: for the first time, all film programmes will be screened in fully equipped cinemas. The Main Focus is dedicated to Los Estados Andinos – Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela – with eight programmes. The Country in Focus is Israel (four programmes), and the Person in Focus is Kurdwin Ayub, whose most recent work, «Sonne» (2022), received an award for best first feature at Berlinale. Notably, issues of identity permeate both the focus programmes and the competitions. Installations and a variety of special events round off the programme, showcasing the wide range of short filmmaking. The full programme and tickets will be available on 19 October.

Competitions

A total of 55 short films have been selected for the ten programmes of this year's Swiss and International Competitions. In the Swiss Competition, the 19 films competing for two awards include 18 world premieres plus «The Newt Congress» by Matthias Sahli and Immanuel Esser. The screenplay of this short will be presented in a dramatic reading staged by the cultural magazine Coucou. Once again, established filmmakers like Jorge Cadena, whose new film «Flores del otro patio» portrays a queer activist group in Colombia, will mingle with upcoming talents like Morgane Frund, who explores the voyeuristic power and violence of the gaze in her documentary «Ours». Another contender in the Swiss Competition is «Il Muratore» (dir: Matteo Gariglio), last year's winner of the Postproduction Award. The International Competition also features many award-winning works, among them «Amok» (dir: Balázs Turai), which won a Cristal for best short at the Annecy Festival. «Hideous» by Yann Gonzalez had its world premiere at the Critics' Week in Cannes; the three-part short features songs from the album «Hideous Bastard» by Oliver Sim (from The xx).

[Video 1: John Canciani](#)

Los Estados Andinos, Israel, and Kurdwin Ayub in Focus

From magic realism to essayistic documentary, from family relations to social critique, from landscape footage to mega cities: the eight programmes of the Main Focus: Los Estados Andinos bring a variety of realities to the big screen, raising uncomfortable questions about issues that currently confront the seven Andean nations. The programme Free Your Mind, Free Your Body, for instance, shows four films with protagonists who resist the principles of a Christian, patriarchal society sometimes more, sometimes less actively, thus freeing not just their bodies but also their identities from repressive

norms. The Context Talk on Sunday also centres on gender and body norms between church and indigenous traditions.

Video 2: John Canciani

Israel is featured at Kurzfilmtage as Country in Focus. Three of the four programmes are dedicated to issues of identity and memory: Reflections on Identity, Replay Memory, and Borderline, with the latter referencing national borders as well as mental states in a conflict zone where daily life offers many shades of grey between simple black and white. The fourth programme is dedicated to the theme Mother/Daughter.

Video 3: John Canciani

Kurdwin Ayub, the Person in Focus, is one of Austrian cinema's most interesting voices. Her works address gender roles, identity and migration, patriarchal structures, youth culture, and the fast pace of our time – always in an authentic and personal manner. In addition to a Master Class with the director, Kurzfilmtage presents a programme of her shorts as well as her feature «Sonne», a story of rebels between social media and self-discovery.

Video 4: John Canciani

Additional Highlights

In addition to the Focus programmes and competitions, the festival once again showcases the whole range of short filmmaking: Death by Sports is a cinematic homage to the absurdity of sports; the cult programme Dismissed features films that didn't make the competition selection despite being dear to at least one member on the selection committee; and Films in Dialogue – Re: Dear Oleksiy... is a programme that evolved intuitively and collaboratively from an email dialogue between John Canciani and Oleksiy Radynski (Ukrainian filmmaker, author, and activist).

On Saturday, Swiss artist Hannes Schüpbach presents two of his video projects, «Instants» (2012) and «Essais» (2020), in a unique performance with cellist Flurin Cuonz and Werner von Mutzenbecher. Schüpbach's oeuvre encompasses installation-paintings, performances, photographs, and 16 mm films without sound. And the collective A Wall is a Screen from Hamburg invites viewers on a stroll through Winterthur, making familiar locations in the city appear – quite literally – in a new light. The audience follows the projection team from wall to wall and thus from film to film. Only the starting point is known in advance: 19:30 at oxyd – Kunsträume.

Video 5: Stefan Dobler and John Canciani

New location, new look

For the 26th festival edition, Kurzfilmtage is moving to Sulzerareal. The existing partner venues Cameo, oxyd – Kunsträume, and Alte Kaserne are joined by blue Cinema Maxx, Kraftfeld, and Museum

Schaffen. With an additional six screens at blue Cinema Maxx, all films will be presented on cinema screens and with the appropriate sound equipment. And finally, Kurzfilmtage also has a new visual and digital look this year.

[Video 6: Stefan Dobler](#)

Information for media professionals

Short film of our press conference

Access to films: Our preview platform provides access to the films from this year's programme. To request an exclusive film selection for media professionals, a personal login, and film clips for editorial use, please contact media@kurzfilmtage.ch.

Link to the [official trailer](#) of the 26th Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur

Film stills and images of past festivals that are free for editorial use (on condition of citing the stated photo credits) are available [here](#).

Accreditation: Media professional reporting on Kurzfilmtage can request a free accreditation [here](#).

Media contact

Philine Erni, +41 79 127 52 12, media@kurzfilmtage.ch