

Press Release | Festival Start | 7 November 2022

Highlights of the 26th Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur

The 26th edition of Kurzfilmtage kicks off tomorrow, 8 November with a festive opening and a sneak peek of the upcoming festival week. Below is a summary of the six festival days. The Award Ceremony on Sunday, 13 November (18:00 at blue Cinema Maxx 1) is followed by screenings of the award-winning films in And the Winners Are ... I & II. The Best-of and What People Talked About programmes offer additional opportunities to look back at some festival highlights.

The festival in numbers

The 26th festival edition features 259 short films presented in 27 thematically curated programmes and 16 competition programmes, plus a diverse offering of special events including concerts, parties, installations, performances, workshops, and more: a total of 103 events over the course of six days, plus six multi-day exhibitions in the Expanded Cinema section. In the Swiss Competition, 18 out of the 19 selected films will have their world premiere in Winterthur. The International Competition features 3 world premieres, 2 European premieres, and an international premiere. At the Award Ceremony on Sunday, the jury reveals which of the 55 competition entries receive an award this year (cash and in-kind prizes totalling CHF 69 000.–).

Festive opening and closing nights

Festive gala events at blue Cinema Maxx 1 open and close the festival: On Tuesday, 8 November, festival directors John Canciani and Stefan Dobler and the curators of the thematic programmes will kick off this year's edition, offering a sneak peek of the upcoming week with a selection of their favourite shorts (one world premiere, one European premiere, and several Swiss premieres). The week concludes with the Award Ceremony on Sunday, 13 November, followed by the Best-of programme.

Exclusive insights: Master Class with Kurdwin Ayub

This year's Person in Focus: Kurdwin Ayub is one of Austrian cinema's most interesting voices. A selection of her shorts traces the evolution and versatility of her film style between performance, documentary, and fiction from her earliest works to her debut feature, «Sonne» (2022). Ayub will talk about her inspiration and approach to the medium of film in a Master Class on Saturday afternoon, followed by screenings of the shorts programme and «Sonne» at blue Cinema Maxx.

Independent and queer: The xx

«Hideous» by Yann Gonzalez also seems to offer a glimpse behind the scenes and into the life of a pop star. The three-part music short with and about Oliver Sims (The xx) and his first solo album, «Hideous Bastard», premiered at the Cannes Critics' Week. Beginning with the pop star's life with HIV, the film increasingly descends into a queer horror fantasy reminiscent of splatter films, glam rock, 1960s TV shows, and soft porn. The short is one of many gems in the International Competition.

Self-Empowerment: Free Your Mind, Free Your Body

The programme Free Your Mind, Free Your Body in the Main Focus: Los Estados Andinos showcases four queer and body-positive films. What unites their protagonists is that they resist the conventions of a patriarchal society through performative self-expression and empowerment, thus freeing not just their bodies but also their identities from repressive norms. The screening on Sunday is followed by a talk on body and gender norms in the context of Christian and indigenous traditions in the Andean nations. The

guests are Simon(e) Jaikiriuma Paetau, Alexandra Gelis, and Jorge Cadena, whose portrait of a queer activist group in Colombia, «Flores del otro patio», will premiere in the Swiss Competition.

Mixed media installations: Alice Bucknell and frölicher | bietenhader | pifragile

Kurzfilmtage once again collaborates with oxyd – Kunsträume to present a variety of audiovisual works outside the cinema. Among these is a mixed media installation by Alice Bucknell, who recently exhibited her video works at the 17th Venice Biennale of Architecture. In «E-Z Kryptobuild», she uses satire, speculation, and AI technology to create an architecture of postapocalyptic lifestyle scams with the imagery of reality shows such as «Selling Sunset» and «Love Island».

Zurich-based video artists Selina Frölicher and Micha Bietenhader present a location-specific, space-consuming, and immersive video installation in collaboration with programmer pifragile, who has programmed an image-generating and -dissolving software. The result is an interplay between analogue images and digital code, between video projection and computer.

For the whole family

On Saturday morning, Sparks Junior aims to spark a passion for short films among children aged 9 and above. And on Sunday morning, the Magic Lantern film club for kids aged 6 to 12 presents films for the youngest movie fans dedicated to the theme of «Differences». Seven shorts from different countries and genres show that while we all have our individual everyday challenges, we need to work together to overcome them.

Information for Media Professionals

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.

[Accreditation](#)

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[Trailer of the 26th Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur](#)

Tickets are available [online](#), at the Tourist Information (Winterthur railway station), and at the Ticket Desk during the festival.

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