

Media Release | Programme Revealed | 18 October 2023

27th Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur: From Nigeria to Kanada

The 27th Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur will happen from 7 to 12 November, once again showcasing the wide range of short filmmaking, from competitions to the Main Focus on Canada and Nigeria as the Country in Focus. In the latter, four programmes bear witness to the new generation's creativity, which represents a conscious departure from the Nollywood mainstream. Person in Focus Willy Hans is holding a Master Class and screening his full trilogy «The Satanic Thicket» for the first time in Switzerland, as well as films by the collective Spengemann, Eichberg, Goldkamp, Hans. Installations and special events round off the programme, which is revealed on 18 October. Tickets also go on sale that day.

Competitions

The competitions are the centrepiece of Kurzfilmtage. This year, 52 short films have been selected for the ten programmes of the Swiss and International Competitions, including 20 world or European premieres. In the Swiss Competition, 17 films will compete for two prizes, among them several world premieres of works by familiar faces: directors showing their latest films include Jela Hasler, Marie de Maricourt, Morgane Frund, Ella Rocca, Jadwiga Kowalska, and Cosima Frei (winner of the Postproduction Award in 2022).

With «Daydreaming So Vividly about Our Spanish Holidays» (Spain 2022) and «Alpha Kings» (USA 2022), the International Competition features two of the season's big festival hits. The number of narrative films and the high quality of animated films are especially striking this year. Thematically, feminist stories of emancipation, gender issues, and current affairs stand out as prominent topics.

[to the interview with the artistic director](#)

O Canada, Nigerian New Wave, and Willy Hans in Focus

Spectacular images of nature often associated with Canada, high-profile filmmakers like Bruce LaBruce, film centres like the Winnipeg Film Group, and entertaining primetime programmes: the Main Focus presents a polyphonic cross-section of Canadian short filmmaking and its history in eight thematic programmes. In Nature & Nurture, we see how wildlife and indigenous traditions sometimes coexist, sometimes collide with industrialized, urban life in Canada. Behind The Masc challenges common stereotypes of Canadian masculinity – the lumberjack in the red plaid shirt, the lonely hunter in the snowy forest, the broad-shouldered hockey player. And with You Are in Bear Country, experimental filmmaker Matthew Rankin and musician Nico Feer offer an entertaining hallucinogenic experience that is part live performance and part screening of a commissioned film that was rejected by the government.

[to the programme teaser](#)

Since the 1990s, Nigeria's capital Lagos has been churning out films made with low budgets and improvised equipment. Nollywood is now the second largest film industry in the world (behind India, ahead of the US), and the younger generation has grown up with and been shaped by the Nollywood mainstream. Kurzfilmtage dedicates four programmes to the Country in Focus: Beyond Nollywood offers a fresh take on classic African themes, demonstrating what makes young Nigerian cinema unique. Ancient spiritual powers meet contemporary life in Nigeria. Tales of Emancipation features four stories about strong female characters emancipating themselves from patriarchy in Nigeria's fast-moving society. «Juju Stories» is a three-part film that explores juju rooted in Nigerian folklore and urban legend. And Love & War blurs the lines between the two extremes, asking existential questions that have no easy answers.

[to the programme teaser](#)

Willy Hans is this year's Person in Focus and a jury member for the International Competition. His trilogy «The Satanic Thicket» is considered a masterpiece of short film with its dark and mysterious world where the supernatural encounters the mundane. In addition to the trilogy, Hans will also present short films by his collective with Paul Spengemann, Jan Eichberg, and Steffen Goldkamp. The four are not a conventional production collective; they like to explore the limitless possibilities of a continuous exchange of ideas, collaborating in a wide variety of forms. In his moderated Master Class, Hans will talk about his work as a director and as part of the collective.

[Interview with Willy Hans](#)

Additional Highlights

Like every year, the competitions and focus programmes are framed by a variety of special events ranging from art and family programmes to concerts and parties. After last year's success, we are excited to present another cinematic homage to the absurdity of sports: Death by Sports. Hors Concours we showcase new short films from Zurich, Switzerland, and around the world that didn't make it into the competition in Züri Shorts, Hot Shorts, and the cult programme Kill Your Darlings: Dismissed.

And we celebrate two big anniversaries: 100 Years of 16 mm, with a selection of Swiss productions, and 100 Years of Disney. This programme features rare masterpieces from the early days of animation, timeless classics, and beloved Disney shorts. In contrast, South African director and film professor Jyoti Mistry's trilogy «Archival Disruptions» combines footage from colonial archives, travelogues, and amateur films to comment on racism, gender and sexuality, historical and contemporary violence, and our political consciousness.

Last but not least, the art spaces at oxyd explore the human perception of nature: a multimedia installation by Baron Lanteigne, a video installation by Ursula Biemann, and Marc Lee's computer-programmed audiovisual installation focus on what has been lost, what is possible, and what we can learn from nature.



Information for media professionals

General information about short films and the festival is available [here](#).

The festival directors are available for **interviews**. We are also happy to arrange interviews with filmmakers and other professionals.

The **opening programme** on November 7 at 8:30 pm at blue Cinema Maxx Winterthur is free and offers an exquisite insight into the 27th festival edition of national and international short filmmaking.

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.

Watch the **official trailer** for the 27th Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur [here](#).

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

Accreditation: Media professionals reporting on Kurzfilmtage can request a free accreditation at kurzfilmtage.ch.

For questions about this media release

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