



Media Release | Festival Start | 6 November 2023

27th Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur: Highlights and Insider Tips

The 27th edition of Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur kicks off tomorrow, 7 November, with a festive opening. The free Opening Programme at 20:30 offers glimpses of the upcoming festival week, which ends on Sunday, 12 November, with the Award Ceremony at 18:00 at blue Cinema Maxx 1. Afterwards, the two programmes And the Winners Are... I & II showcase the award-winning films, while a Best-of screening offers yet another opportunity to review the festival. Here's a summary of key figures, highlights, insider tips, and information on the six-day festival.

The festival in numbers

The 27th edition features 272 short films in 25 thematically curated programmes and 16 competition programmes, plus numerous special events, including concerts, parties, installations, performances, workshops, and more, for a total of 98 events over six days, as well as five multi-day exhibitions in the Expanded Cinema section. 12 of the 17 films in the Swiss Competition will celebrate their world premiere in Winterthur. The International Competition also features three world premieres and five European premieres. Which of the 52 films in competition are selected for an award (cash and in-kind prizes totalling CHF 69 000.–) will be announced at the Award Ceremony on Sunday.

For young and old: 100 Years of Disney

For a century, films from the studio founded by Walt Disney have shaped pop culture and delighted generations of viewers. We are presenting rare masterpieces from the early days of animation art, timeless classics, and popular shorts. In «Alice's Wonderland» (1923), for instance, Alice visits an animation studio and later dreams of a train ride into cartoon land, where a red-carpet reception awaits. «Trolley Troubles» (1927) features Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, who will soon be replaced by Mickey Mouse in 1928: «Steamboat Willie» marks the public debut of Mickey Mouse and was the first animated film with synchronized sound.

A slice of film history: 100 Years of 16 mm

16 mm film is also 100 years old, and at least one important contribution to its successful history came from Switzerland: the Bolex camera. Our diverse anniversary programme features the camera's inventor, Jacques Boolski, as well as a 1932 documentary from the Basel Education Department, an advertisement for Ovomaltine from 1948, and Swiss experimental films. 16 mm was considered the ideal format for experimental cinema; and let's not forget the countless hours of footage from private households.

Exclusive insights: Master Class with Willy Hans

German director Willy Hans is currently also working with 16 mm for his first feature film, «Skill Issues». His trilogy «Das satanische Dickicht» (The Satanic Thicket) is considered a masterpiece of short



filmmaking. It features a dark and mysterious world, where the supernatural encounters the mundane. As this year's Person in Focus, Hans also presents works of his collective with Paul Spengemann, Jan Eichberg, and Steffen Goldkamp in Winterthur. In a moderated Master Class, he will talk about his work as director and as part of the collective.

New perspectives: Beyond Nollywood

For the Country in Focus: Nigeria, Kurzfilmtage looks Beyond Nollywood: The younger generation of Nigerian filmmakers has grown up with Nollywood, the mainstream film industry based in Lagos. But these young directors aim to make films that are more diverse and complex than typical Nollywood movies. This programme offers a fresh take on classic African themes, where ancient spiritual powers meet contemporary life in Nigeria.

Live: You Are in Bear Country

Our insider tip from our Main Focus: O Canada is this showcase for Matthew Ranking, who has made many films with the Winnipeg Film Group and also appears in that programme. Here, he talks about his strange, inspiring, and ultimately failed year as a propagandist for the Canadian government. The performance combines Public Service Announcements, a live bear, a half-dead bureaucrat, live music by Nico Feer, and of course, short films.

Mixed-media installations: Ursula Biemann, Baron Lanteigne, and Marc Lee

Audiovisual art that goes beyond traditional film screenings – that's Expanded Cinema. In collaboration with oxyd – Kunsträume, Kurzfilmtage once again presents works outside the cinema. How do humans perceive the natural world that surrounds them, and how do they treat it? This question connects the works by Ursula Biemann, Baron Lanteigne, and Marc Lee, which will be on show at oxyd starting on 8 November.

For the whole family

On Saturday morning, Sparks Junior aims to spark a passion for short films among kids. The selection of serious, amusing, and exciting works inspires discussion and offers families an ideal introduction to the universe of short films. And on Sunday morning, the Magic Lantern film club for children aged 6 to 12 presents movies for the youngest moviegoers: «Little Mysteries on the Big Screen» features seven shorts from France, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the US, with an interactive introduction by our moderators.

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.

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

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