

Media Release | Programme Revealed | 16 October 2024

28th Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur: From Römerholz to Egypt and Lithuania

From 5 to 10 November, the 28th edition of Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur presents the wide spectrum of short filmmaking: programmes range from competitions to the Main Focus: Beyond the Frame and the Country in Focus: Egypt; in the latter, three programmes offer insights into big city life as well as very private moments. This year's Person in Focus, Lithuanian director and cinematographer Vytautas Katkus, will hold a Master Class and present two film programmes. A diverse selection of special events with concerts and parties, a family workshop, and Industry Events completes the programme, which will be revealed on 16 October. Tickets also go on sale that day.

The Main Focus: Beyond the Frame puts paintings from the internationally renowned Oskar Reinhard Collection «Am Römerholz» in dialogue with current issues and long-standing discourses. For example, Van Gogh's «Ward in the Hospital at Arles» formed the starting point for the programme Landscapes of the Mind, where films visualize emotional worlds. Inspired by portraiture, the programme Look at Me explores the self and its cinematic representation. And the commissioned painting «Portrait of a Cardinal», which shows a Spanish Grand Inquisitor, motivated an exploration of power imbalances – whether global, sociocultural, or private – in the medium of film. Selected screenings of the six programmes will be followed by interesting Context Talks. And at the Oskar Reinhart Collection «Am Römerholz», a Dialogue Room invites audiences to delve deeper into this encounter between the two cultural institutions and the two disciplines of fine art and film.

The Country in Focus: Egypt is a nation steeped in film history, having produced and consumed films since the advent of cinema. For a long time, the focus was on commercial success, so short films were rare historically; and insofar as they existed, they were subject to censorship. «Cairo As Seen by Chahine» (1991) by internationally renowned director Youssef Chahine is considered one of the first critical Egyptian short films. The Arab Spring in 2011 brought forth a new scene of filmmakers who used affordable digital equipment to document social injustices and tackled topics not previously talked about. While the new government's ascension to power in 2013 meant the end of these freedoms for other sectors, the short film boom continues, partly thanks to the improving quality of mobile phone cameras, largely flying under the radar of censors: director Morad Mostafa, for example, has been showing his films at hundreds of festivals. One of the three focus programmes is dedicated to him, and other guests from Egypt will join inspiring film talks.

Our Person in Focus: Vytautas Katkus has enjoyed considerable festival success with his last three short films: «Kolektyviniai sodai» («Community Gardens») had its world premiere in 2019 at the Critics' Week in Cannes. «Miegamasis rajonas» («Places», 2020) screened at the Venice Film Festival, and most recently, «Uogos» («Cherries») was presented in the short film competition in Cannes. Katkus is also successful as a cinematographer: the feature film «Akiplėša» («Toxic») won the Pardo d'Oro at the Locarno Film Festival last summer. In a moderated master class, Katkus will talk about his work and the timeless quality of the analogue in addition to presenting two programmes: one shows the films he directed, the other his work as a cinematographer.

Competitions

The competitions form the core of Kurzfilmtage: 55 short films, including 27 world and European premieres, were selected for the 13 programmes in the Swiss and International Competitions and the two Sparks programmes. Like every year, the Sparks section offers an excellent introduction to the world of shorts, with highlights from the competition submissions showcasing a diverse film culture beyond the mainstream and YouTube clips. In the Swiss Competition, 21 films are competing for two prizes, with works including several world premieres by well-known faces such as Nils Hediger, Alexandre Schild, Matteo Gariglio, and Liza T. Raheem. The Swiss Competition programmes will be screened four times during the festival – twice with German subtitles –, thus boosting the presence of Swiss filmmaking and improving accessibility.

A total of 39 films are competing in the International Competition. Social and political issues remain relevant in both competitions, with a particular focus on resistance this year. Other themes include the relationship between humans and nature as well as the climate. Deepfakes and artificial intelligence are also addressed and explored aesthetically.

Other Highlights

In the Hors Concours section, Züri Shorts and Hot Shorts present recent films from Zurich, Switzerland, and the world that were not selected for the competitions. And in collaboration with the Magic Lantern, Kurzfilmtage once again offers family programmes for ages six and up.

Nocturnal offerings include parties and concerts as well as short films ranging from true crime to porn: With the programme What the Porn!, the Porny Days festival offers glimpses into various approaches to alternative pornography. In the Context Talk after the screening, artists and collectives will question the intersections between post-pornography, mainstream porn, and art, and discuss what makes explicit content so appealing. The programme Like Me, Love Me, Fuck Me explores unconventional human bonds – with and without emotional confusion. And Death by Sports has been renamed Murder Is a Sport – a late-night programme with plenty of dark humour, violence, and, of course, murder.

To mark the centennial of the oldest Swiss production company still in existence, Kurzfilmtage is looking back on 100 Years of Praesens–Film with shorts from the 1920s to the 1940s. The commissioned works address fashion, the economy, modern architecture, democracy, and tourism, offering insight into a largely forgotten chapter of Swiss film history as well as the country's historical self-image.

Kurzfilmtage concludes with the Awards Ceremony on Sunday (10/11) at 18:00, followed by screenings of the winning films and a Best-of programme, and finally, Schtubetanz – the festival's legendary closing party.

[To the programme](#)



Information for Media Professionals

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

The Industry Events programme 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** – held at blue Cinema Maxx on 5 November at 20:30 – is free of charge. It offers select glimpses into the 28th festival edition, featuring national and international short films.

Access to films: 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** of the 28th Internationalen 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 on [Flickr](#).

Accreditation: Media professionals who report on Kurzfilmtage can request a free accreditation at kurzfilmtage.ch/akkreditierung.

For questions about this media release

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