

Media Release | Festival Start | 4 November 2024

28th Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur: Tips and Numbers

The 28th edition of Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur kicks off tomorrow, Tuesday, 5 November. The free Opening Programme at 20:00 offers glimpses of the upcoming festival week, which will conclude on Sunday, 10 November, with the Award Ceremony at 18:00 (blue Cinema Maxx 1) and the programmes *And the Winners Are... I & II*, which showcases the award-winning films. A Best-of screening offers yet another opportunity to review the festival. Below are some tips and key figures.

For the Whole Family

On Saturday, the Sparks Junior programme will spark a passion for short films among young audiences aged 9+: this selection of serious, amusing, and exciting works aims to inspire discussion. The two Sparks competition programmes, judged by the Youth Jury, are also ideal introductions to the world of shorts for all age groups. And for kids aged 6+, the Magic Lantern screening on Sunday morning presents courageous characters who overcome their fears and discover new things. Those who would like to learn something new themselves will have an opportunity on Sunday afternoon: in a stop-motion and pixilation workshop, participants learn various techniques to bring imaginary characters to life.

A Piece of Film History: 100 Years of Praesens-Film

Kurzfilmtage is celebrating the centennial of the oldest Swiss film production company still in existence with a look back at its history. Today, the Zurich-based company mainly distributes independent films. The programme features commissioned shorts from the 1920s to the 40s about fashion, the economy, modern architecture, democracy, and tourism, showcasing a largely forgotten chapter of Swiss film history and offering insight into the country's historical self-image. The screening is followed by a conversation between media scholar Yvonne Zimmermann and producer Stefan Bircher (Shing Film, Produktion Tschugger).

For Industry Professionals

The Industry Lab on Friday is dedicated to collectives this year. Apart from its ideological and ethical dimensions, which inevitably carry political connotations, a collective is also a specific organizational structure that entails unique opportunities and challenges. Starting with a keynote by filmmaker and scholar Libertad Gills, the Industry Events offer a variety of formats dedicated to information, education, and networking for national and international short film professionals. The Creators' Room on Saturday focuses on the practice of filmmaking with workshops, a Master Class, and a public pitching competition.

Master Class with Vytautas Katkus

This year's Master Class is held by Lithuanian director and cinematographer Vytautas Katkus, Person in Focus and member of the jury for the International Competition. In this moderated event, Katkus will talk about his work both as a director and as a cinematographer. His last three films as a director premiered in Cannes, at the Critics' Week, and in Venice, respectively. He has also been extremely successful as a cinematographer: the feature film «Akiplėša» («Toxic») won the Pardo d'Oro at the Locarno Film Festival this year.

Q&As with the Egyptian Delegation

Egyptian short films have successfully toured international festivals in recent years. Time for an in-depth look at this year's Country in Focus: Egypt. In our three programmes, Egyptian filmmakers offer candid yet affectionate looks at their cities and fellow citizens. Six filmmakers are travelling to Winterthur to participate in multiple Q&As about contemporary Egyptian cinema between precarious conditions, censorship, and a love of experimentation.

Dialogue with the Oskar Reinhart Collection «Am Römerholz»

With the Main Focus: Beyond the Frame, Kurzfilmtage enters into a dialogue with the internationally renowned Oskar Reinhart Collection «Am Römerholz». Inspired by artworks from the collection, the short film programmes address discourses that are both timeless and highly topical. Select screenings of the six programmes will be followed by Context Talks, while a Dialogue Room at the Oskar Reinhart Collection invites audiences to delve deeper into this encounter between the two cultural institutions and the two disciplines of fine art and film. In addition, the collection will offer guided tours to the public on Wednesday and Sunday during the festival.

The Festival in Numbers

The 28th festival edition presents 205 short films in 23 thematically curated programmes and 15 competition programmes as well as numerous special events such as concerts, parties, workshops, and more in a total of 102 events across six days. Of the 55 short films selected for the competitions, 27 are world or European premieres. Which of these 55 films in competition receive an award (cash and in-kind prizes totalling CHF 69 000.–) will be announced at the Award Ceremony on Sunday.

Info for Media Professionals

The full programme is available [here](#). The festival directors are available for interviews. We are also happy to arrange interviews with filmmakers and other professionals.

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

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