Press release | Jury Statements | 8 November 2026

Awards of the International Competition

Jury of the International Competition
Basma al-Sharif (PS), Filmmaker and artist
Yun-Hua Chen (TW), Film critic, curator and programmer, Berlinale Shorts & Berlinale Forum
Aurélien Marsais (FR), Producer and programmer, Visions du Réel
Lisa Ogdie (USA), Short Film Programmer, Sundance Film Festival
Fransiska Prihadi (ID), Programme Director, Minikino Film Week

Grand Prize of the International Competition
«The Bovine Comedy» (Thailand, France 2026) by Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke
CHF 10 000.–, donated by Angela and Guido Magni

In Thailand and Southeast Asia, bovine animals are deeply revered. They serve as spiritual symbols, the backbone of agrarian civilization, and symbols of cultural prestige. Within 25 minutes, «The Bovine Comedy» delivers mystery, action, laughter, familial warmth, and a moving look at love yielding to capitalism. Our laughter ultimately turns bittersweet, as director Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke sets this story in a future dystopia. Yet, the core issue remains obvious and immediate: human greed.

Promotional Award of the International Competition
«A Bitter End» (France 2026) by Victoire Du Bois
CHF 10 000.–, donated by the City of Winterthur

Victoire Du Bois, who has established herself as an actress in over 40 films, demonstrates an impressively acute cinematic eye in her directorial debut. With remarkable sensitivity, sharp powers of observation, and a heartfelt sense for ambivalence, she captures the midlife crisis of a woman at the crossroads between a potentially stifling future and a past that is no longer available to her. «A Bitter End», for us, is not bitter, but deeply endearing: a gentle portrait of all its characters, rendered with attention to detail, and a humane look at a woman's tentative back-and-forth. It is a film that constantly eludes prediction: beautifully Parisian, yet refreshingly resistant to familiar French clichés, universally relatable and beautifully acted, multilayered and unusually mature. We are eager to see what Victoire du Bois does next and would like to honour her with the Promotional Award.

Prix George for the Best Documentary Form in the International Competition
«I Am the Film Motherfucker, But I Am Real» (Egypt, Netherlands 2026) by Meow X2
CHF 5000.–, donated by the Volkart Foundation

«I Am the Film Motherfucker, But I Am Real», whose author remains anonymous, is a testament to the world we are living in today. We are awarding «I Am the Film Motherfucker, But I Am Real» the Prix George for the Best Documentary Form in solidarity with Mada Masr, the only remaining independent media outlet based in Egypt, whose editor-in-chief, Lina Attalah, is awaiting criminal trial in a matter of days, potentially facing imprisonment and the closure of Mada Masr due to its independent reporting from within Egypt. We have chosen this film not simply because of its convergence with current events, but also because of its astute and unapologetic portrayal of the engorged masculinity and theatrics involved in continuing to prop up an evidently fascist nation state.

Candidacy for the European Film Awards (EFA)
«Ãsheghetam» (Iran, Switzerland, France 2026) by Filmsaaz

Filmsaaz constructs a film as a refuge. In Iran, two queer people whose romance is thwarted find themselves swept up in an epic journey, in which their dreams strive to combat the oppression that surrounds them. But far from presenting refuge as isolation, the film's strength lies in the worlds it creates through the possibilities of cinema and animation, crafting a subversive, powerful, and striking visual fantasy that serves as an alternative to the contemporary narrative in Iran. In every shot, the filmmaker accompanies these two queer warriors in their relentless struggle to experience the coming-of-age journey they desire.

Awards of the Swiss Competition

Jury of the Swiss Competition
Sasha Prokopenko (UA), Head of Programming, Kyiv International Short Film Festival
Samir (CH), Filmmaker and Producer, Dschoint Ventschr
Carla Vulpiani (IT), Short Film Advisor, Venice International Film Festival

Award for the Best Swiss Film
«Entre Deux» (Switzerland 2026) by Khalissa Akadi
CHF 10 000.–, donated by SUISSIMAGE and SSA

Migrants work in all entry-level jobs to keep the highly specialized societies of the Global North running. Yet their emotional turmoil is rarely addressed. The director succeeds in conveying the fundamental contradiction faced by every migrant on an emotional level.

Audience Award

«Who Are We Against God?» (Switzerland 2026) by Laura Adriana Weibel, Aimée Lavignac
CHF 5000.–, donated by the Friends of Kurzfilmtage association

Swiss Film School Day

The jury of the Swiss Competition selects the winner of the Award for the Best Swiss School Film.

Award for the Best Swiss School Film
«Twa7achtek» (Switzerland 2026) by Gabriel Berrada
CHF 5000.–, donated by SRG SSR

The door to adulthood always brings uncertainty and a search for belonging, especially when there are roots in different places, along with the hope that nothing will ever shift, when everything is already shifting. Realization, discovery, and change infuse the cinematic form directly, without tiptoeing, with honesty and graciousness, assembling the story into a layered coming of age that reunites generations.

Special Mention, Swiss Film School Day
«To Kill a Velofahrer» (Switzerland 2026) by Marvin Bueeler, Ines Nungaesser, Livio Frauendorf, Helmi Korhonen

This film is a true showstopper. In just a few minutes, it plunges us into a universally recognizable nightmare of urban life. And it does so with sharp humour, irresistible charm, and the unmistakable warmth of stop-motion animation. Technical challenges give rise to ingenious – and sometimes fatal – solutions. And behind this little miracle of animation are four creators whose collective crafts-human-ship deserves a round of applause.

Awards for the Best Films in the Section Sparks

Sparks Jury
Antonia Bijl (16)
Liam Grabow (16)
Andrina Wegener (17)

Award for the Best Film in the Section Sparks
«Heaven Will Wait» (Netherlands, Belgium 2026) by Silver Tjepkema
CHF 2000.–, donated by Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur

We chose this film because it captures the intimate atmosphere between the protagonists and presents the raw narrative style in all its blunt honesty, while by no means neglecting the aesthetics. The film won us over because it portrays a social taboo in a relatable way. The momentum between the scenes felt very varied and creative, with unconventional narrative

techniques and exciting contrasts. The dialogue also came across as very realistic and at times a little crude – it has multiple layers and really makes you think. This film really captivated us!

Industry Awards

Postproduction Award
Jury
Nina Cutkovic (CH), Jingle Jungle Tonstudios
Christof Hächler (CH), Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur
Eva Schweizer (CH), SRF Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen
Christian Witschi (CH), DOP and founder, Kamerawerk

«G.I. Showgirls» by Loïc Hobi
CHF 20 000.–, in-kind prize, donated by Jingle Jungle Tonstudios and Kamerawerk

It is 1942. The setting: a bunker. To maintain troop morale, the U.S. military has introduced an entertainment programme for soldiers: G.I. music revues for men, performed by men. The short film «G.I. Showgirls» is based on true events and shines a light on a little-known yet widespread chapter of military history. Through its drag show programme, «G.I. Showgirls» skilfully challenges the stereotype of the tough, battle-ready soldier, offering moments of escape amid the horror of war. This brief respite allows the humanity and individuality of the protagonists, Thomas and Homer, to come to the fore as they grow closer. With their previous short films, among them «L'homme jetée» (2019), Loïc Hobi and his film team have demonstrated their strong storytelling and visual talent. We are delighted that they are embarking on another unique project with «G.I. Showgirls». Congratulations to Loïc Hobi and the entire «G.I. Showgirls» team.

The Pitch: The Lab – Writing Hub at SFC | Rendez-vous Industry and P.AiR.S Project Development Residency 2027
Jury
Sonja Baksa (CA), Programmer, TIFF
Tam Dan Vu (CA), Artistic Director, Head of Communications, Travelling Distribution
Rimantė Daugėlaitė (LT), Head of Lithuanian Shorts & Vilnius Short Film Festival
Morgane Frund (CH), SO PRO, Solothurner Filmtage

The Pitch: P.AiR.S Project Development Residency 2027
«Kokhop» by Selam Tesfu-Michael

We were moved by the director's clear creative vision and rooted perspective. In the project, we also admired her great ability to find allegorical language for complex traditional elements, a strong visual sensibility, and storytelling flair. We were able to envision this world and are eager to

see it come to life on screen. The Pitch jury awards the P.AiR.S Project Development Residency to Selam-Tesfu Michael for «Kokhop».

The Pitch: SFC | Rendez-vous Industry
«Monsieur M.» by Kilian Feusi

This is a project fully fleshed out with its original and visual storytelling, showing strong potential. Playing with what is visible and what is hidden, the project also serves as an homage to the history of queer imagery and delivers a simultaneously funny and subversive romantic fairytale. The Pitch jury awards the invitation to The Lab – Writing Hub at SFC | Rendez-vous Industry to «Monsieur M.» by Kilian Feusi.