

The program of the 70th International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg

Mannheim, 25.10.2021

In 2021, the International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg (IFFMH) will screen more than 90 films from 53 countries. In addition to cinema's most vibrant new voices in the competition ON THE RISE and the most exciting work by international auteurs exploring cinema's new frontiers in the section PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES, the anniversary program further expands its horizon with the sections FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHT and FILM EXPERIENCE 2021. The online tickets pre-sale starts 26.10.2021.

Lou Lampros in ›My Night‹ © Cercamon



In its 70th edition, the IFFMH is screening more than 90 films from 53 countries. Across all sections and programs, the focus is on discoveries: progressive, sometimes polarizing and, above all, inspiring works of cinema that stimulate discussions as well as reveries.

Anchored in the present: new talent in the competition ON THE RISE

This year's ON THE RISE competition highlights the urgency and intensity that is driving contemporary cinema, from Bangladesh to Bulgaria. Several films in the section, including three from Eastern Europe, find original ways of showing efforts at emancipation by young women who are rebelling against patriarchal structures and claiming their autonomy one step at a time.

In Kaltrina Krasniqi's ›Vera Dreams of The Sea‹ (›Vera andrron detin‹, Kosovo, Albania, Northern Macedonia 2021), an unusual heroine crosses the blue night with a cigarette in her mouth. She plots her revenge against the corrupt men who still call the shots in her country. In Vesela Kazakova and Mina Mileva's film ›Women Do Cry‹ (Bulgaria, France 2021), five women confront toxic masculinity with a wonderful mixture of hysteria and humor, pushing back hard against chauvinistic double standards and reactionary family images. And in ›Blue Moon‹ (›Crai Nou‹, Romania 2021), Romanian filmmaker Alina Grigore explores why her young protagonist Irina wants to break out of the tangled family structures of her rural clan.

New films from Bolivia, China and the Philippines employ highly unique styles and genre traditions to reflect on their respective current socio-political situations.

Between cinematic tradition and revolution

French cinema once again proves its vitality and originality across different sections of the IFFMH. In the competition ON THE RISE, Antoinette Boulat, one of Europe's most renowned casting agents (from collaborations with Mia Hansen-Løve, Sofia Coppola, Olivier Assayas and Wes Anderson, among others), presents her beguiling directorial debut ›My Night‹ (›Ma Nuit‹, France, Belgium 2021) – with a light touch and a keen eye for detail, she depicts first encounters and creates a very contemporary film about falling in love.

The section PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES features Mathieu Amalric, whose acting career, not least when he played a Bond villain, sometimes threatens to eclipse his work as a director. Amalric will be in Mannheim and Heidelberg to personally present his latest directorial effort ›Hold Me Tight‹ (›Serre-moi fort‹, France, Germany 2021). Luxembourg's Vicky Krieps shines in this intense meditation on farewells.

The director Claire Simon, known for her documentaries, will celebrate the German premiere of her narrative feature ›I Want To Talk About Duras‹ (›Vous ne désirez que moi‹, France 2021) at the IFFMH, a captivating portrait of the last life partner of writer and filmmaker Marguerite Duras.

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES: pioneering cinematic pleasures

Other German premieres in PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES include the latest work by Golden Bear winner Nadav Lapid: ›Ahed's Knee‹ (›Ha'berech‹, France, Israel, Germany, 2021). The Israeli filmmaker returns to his native country after ›Synonyms‹ (2019), crafting an angry autofiction about freedom of speech in art that, through his alter ego Y., denounces the censorship and pressure to conform of an authoritarian cultural policy.

Just as Lapid explores the limits of filmmaking through narration, Óscar Aibar, from Spain, pushes against genre boundaries with his new film ›The Replacement‹ (›El sustituto‹, Spain 2021). In this police thriller, the director brings motifs from pulp and colportage together with a classical mise-en-scène and political-historical

analysis, thus elucidating Spain's transition from dictatorship to democracy in 1980s.

70 years of IFFMH: FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHT and FILM EXPERIENCE 2021

The IFFMH's anniversary program celebrates the international tradition of film festivals. Program and festival directors from Montréal, Jerusalem, Sitges, Berlin and Ouagadougou have accepted the IFFMH's invitation and will each personally present a film from their latest edition in the section FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHT.

With FILM EXPERIENCE 2021, on the occasion of its 70th edition the IFFMH offers an additional cinematic kaleidoscope that includes such films as ›Mass‹ (USA 2021) by Fran Kranz, a nuanced chamber play about guilt and atonement that is screening for the first time in Germany. This debut, which premiered at Sundance, focuses on bereaved families on both sides of a deadly rampage.

Also featured is Alexandre Koberidze with his graceful declaration of love to cinema (and to soccer): ›What Do We See When We Look at the Sky?‹ (›Ras vkhedavt, rodesac cas vukurebt?‹, Germany, Georgia 2021). Last year, the film took part in the first CUTTING EDGE TALENT CAMP at IFFMH as a work in progress and now returns for a Rhine-Neckar premiere after its award-winning participation in the main competition of the Berlinale.

Payal Kapadia's essayistic debut ›A Night of Knowing Nothing‹, about student unrest in India, also links back to Satyajit Ray's ›Pather Panchali‹ (India 1955), the opening film of this year's retrospective, thus bringing full circle the reflection on the festival's history and the history of film festivals.

The full program can be accessed here: iffmh.de/programm/filme/

The above link also gives access to the pre-sale, starting on 26.10.2021.

The 70th IFFMH is taking place from 11-21 November.

Accreditations can be requested until 5 November on iffmh.de/service/akkreditierung

For the press, there will be two to three daily press screenings during the festival, as well as a number of reserved tickets for all screenings. A list of the planned press screenings can be found here:

https://www.iffmh.de/pressevorfuhrungen/index_ger.html

Additionally, a press screening of the opening film ›You Resemble Me‹ by Dina Amer will take place on Monday, 8 November at 10am at the Atlantis Kino in Mannheim.

Afterwards, there will be a press discussion with festival director Sascha Keilholz in the cinema hall.

To request an interview with Sascha Keilholz as well as the festival guests, please contact our partner press agency Filmpresse Meuser.

Press materials can be found in our download area:

https://www.iffmh.de/presse/pressematerial/index_ger.html


For any questions, please get in touch with our partner press agency Filmpresse Meuser, Anne Schütz, a.schuetz@filmpresse-meuser.de, Carola Schaffrath, c.schaffrath@filmpresse-meuser.de or Clara Vogelsang, c.vogelsang@filmpresse-meuser.de, Tel. 069-405 804-0.

The festival thanks its sponsors and partners.

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