



NEW FILM EXPERIENCE:

SECTIONS, PROGRAMMING TEAM AND THEATRES OF THE 69TH IFFMH ANNOUNCED

Dear Sir or Madam,
dear colleagues,

at the first press event of the **International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg (IFFMH)** under the supervision of Sascha Keilholz, the new sections, the programming team and the theatres of the German film festival with the richest history just after the Berlinale were announced today. "The 69th International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg is characterised by diversity and bridge building. Between tradition and innovation, between genres, theatres and the cities", emphasised Keilholz.

NEW SECTIONS

Among the innovations is the introduction of multiple sections: **On the Rise** will be the future name for the traditional international newcomer competition which is dedicated to the discovery of talents and which will be presenting first to third films of directors as German premieres. As in previous years, an international expert jury will determine the winners of the endowed prizes. **Pushing the Boundaries** complements the competition and puts a focus on innovative and groundbreaking contemporary cinematic visions. **Facing New Challenges** will raise awareness for emerging trends in the threshold of cinema, visual arts and other media. The **Retrospective** and two **Homages** for one female and one male guest will highlight the history of film. These journeys through epochs and masterpieces will enable film mediation alongside the already established **Children's Film Festival**.

INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
MANNHEIM
HEIDELBERG



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMING TEAM

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For the creation of the program, festival director Sascha Keilholz will be assisted by international advisors and a team of curators. The new programming advisors will be **Daniela Persico** from Italy, **Violeta Kovacsics** from Spain and **Cécile Tollu-Polonowski** from France and Germany.

The curators will be **Ursula Schöndeling** (Facing New Challenges), **Lisa Niederauer** (Children's Film Festival), **Frédéric Jaeger** (On the Rise) and **Hannes Brühwiler** (Retrospective). Brief descriptions of the programming team can be found below.

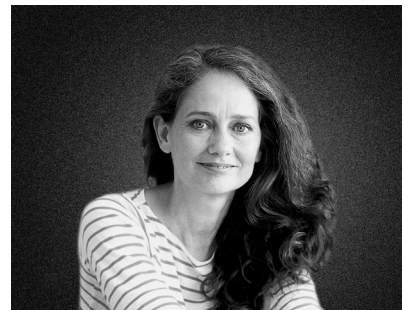
PARTNERSHIPS WITH ALL THEATRES IN MANNHEIM AND HEIDELBERG

The theatres of the upcoming IFFMH are just as diverse as its future program. All theatres in Mannheim and Heidelberg will be partners starting 2020. Among them are the municipal theatres **Cinema Quadrat** in Mannheim and the **Karlstorkino** in Heidelberg, the art house cinemas **Gloria** and **Atlantis** and the three family-owned multiplex cinemas of Mannheim and Heidelberg, the **Luxor-Filmpalast**, the **Cineplex Planken** and the **Cinemaxx**. The **Oststadttheatersaal** in Mannheim will also remain as location for premieres. The Stadthaus will be joined by additional lounges that emphasise the festival as a place of encounter.

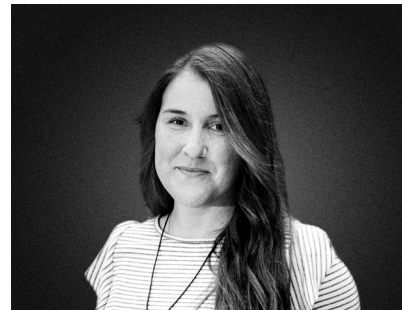


Programming Team

Ursula Schöndeling is a curator and the director of the Heidelberger Kunstverein. After her studies in art history, philosophy and literature at the universities of Cologne and Frankfurt, she worked as a freelance researcher at the Städel Museum (Frankfurt/Main), was a curator and project manager of AtelierFrankfurt as well as a curator at the Kunstverein Braunschweig. Between 2008 and 2017, she directed the Kunstverein Langenhagen. She realised numerous solo and group exhibitions with fine artists that highlight film in their transmedial projects, such as Kerstin Cmelka, Sofie Thorsen, Maya Schweizer, Christoph Girardet, Björn Melhus, Clemens von Wedemeyer, Korpys/Löffler und Eric Baudelaire. She is a member in the executive board of the Arbeitskreis Deutsche Kunstvereine.



Lisa Niederauer studied film in Mainz. Following an internship at the SWR in Baden-Baden, she continued to work for the SWR in the production department and has also worked as a motif recording manager throughout (e.g. for "Mackie Messer - Brechts Dreigroschenfilm", "Die Vierhändige", "Die Wolf-Gäng", "Tatort Münster"). In 2017, she completed a training as a film theatre manager in Wuppertal. At the same time, she and her business partner Alex Volz were realizing own film projects with Tausendsassa Filmproduktion. Since two years she and her partner have been hosting the program "Sneak im Original" at Karlstorkino in Heidelberg.



Frédéric Jaeger is a graduate of film studies and philosophy of the Freie Universität Berlin. Since 2004 he is chief editor of the German online movie magazine critic.de. Publications on film in Berliner Zeitung, Spiegel Online, taz, Der Freitag, Die Presse, Kolik.Film amongst others. He has been a jury member in Cannes, Venice, Turin, Marseille, Locarno and Oberhausen. He has been chairman of the board of the German Film Critics' Association since 2013 and Artistic Director of Berlin Critics' Week since its inception in 2015.





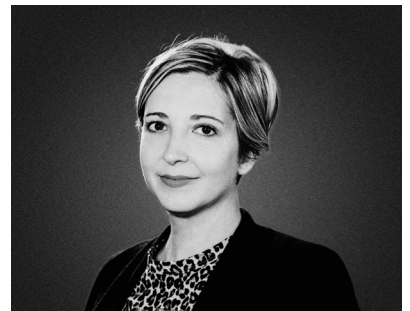
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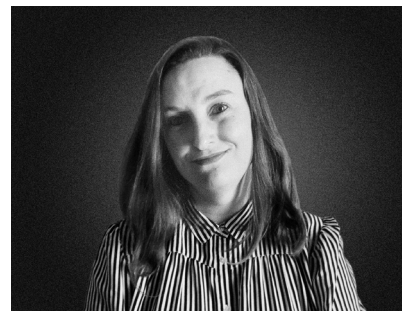
Hannes Brühwiler studied media and communication studies in Fribourg, Switzerland. He is working as a film curator and writer since 2006. In 2018, he curated the Hollywood Blacklist retrospective that was shown in Berlin, Frankfurt and Zurich. He is the founder of the American Independent Festival Unknown Pleasures, co-curator of the event series "Hands on Fassbinder" (2012) and the film series Kino-Atlas in the Austrian Film Museum (2015-2017). Hannes also worked on numerous other retrospectives, e.g. on Hou Hsiao-hsien, Whit Stillman, Elaine May and Stanley Kubrick. Since 2009, he is a member of the editorial staff of Revolver, Zeitschrift für Film.



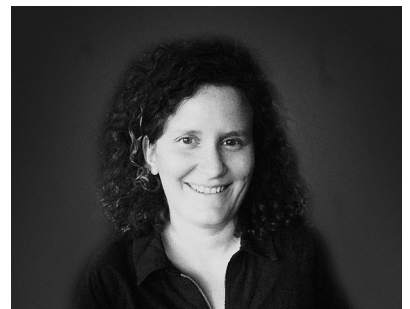
Daniela Persico is a member of the selection committee of the Locarno Film Festival, founder and editor in chief of the quarterly published online magazine Filmdee and a curator for L'immagine e la parola, a spin-off of the Locarno festival. In 2019 and 2020, she was also a member of the selection committee of the Berlin Critics' Week. She is a writer and published various books on film makers such as Claire Simon and Wang Bing.



Violeta Kovacsics works as a film critic for magazines, newspapers and other publications like Caimán, Cuadernos de Cine (formerly Cahiers du Cinéma Spain), La Vanguardia, Time Out Barcelona and Icat. Violeta is working as editor in chief of Sitges - International Fantastic Film Festival in Catalonia. She obtained a doctorate from Pompeu Fabra University for her thesis on contemporary cinema and the philosophy of language and is working as a lecturer for film history on multiple universities.



Cécile Tollu-Polonowski studied German and culture management in Paris, Berlin and Saarbrücken. She has been contributing to the Berlinale Forum since 2007 and was a program advisor from 2011 to 2019. She studied production at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (DFFB) from 2011 to 2016 and was a film editor at the magazine Berlin Poche. From 2016 to 2019, she was a producer at Match Factory Productions and Pola Pandora. She is a member of the editorial staff of Revolver, Zeitschrift für Film.





If you have any questions or need further information,
please feel free to contact me.

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Mischa Smeljanskij

Head of Communications

P +49 621 489 262 77

M mischa.smeljanskij@iffmh.de

IFFMH - Filmfestival

Mannheim gGmbH

Kleiststraße 3-5

68167 Mannheim

Germany

IFFMH.DE



@iffmh