



## 74th IFFMH to honour Tim Fehlbaum with GRAND IFFMH AWARD

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This year, the International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg will honour Oscar-nominated director and screenwriter Tim Fehlbaum with the GRAND IFFMH AWARD. The award ceremony will be held at the Karlsruhahnhof Heidelberg on 8 November in conjunction with a special screening of his first feature-length film as director, the dystopian apocalyptic thriller ›Hell‹ (2011).



The IFFMH's 2025 guest of honour: Tim Fehlbaum © Tom Ziara

The IFFMH presents the GRAND IFFMH AWARD to contemporary filmmakers who have a distinctive and formative vision of cinema. Following Guillaume Nicloux (2021), Alice Winocour (2022), Nicolas Winding Refn (2023) and Lynne Ramsay (2024), this year's recipient of the award, which comes with €10,000 in prize money, is Swiss filmmaker Tim Fehlbaum.

Festival director Dr. Sascha Keilholz says: "It is with great pleasure that we've chosen to honour Tim Fehlbaum as one of the most fascinating younger voices in contemporary international cinema. Looking back on his work to date, we see a director who has established himself as an unstoppable force in his own right. Trained in classical Hollywood cinema, he employs tension and suspense with virtuosity and masterfully commands all the registers of genre cinema. All the while, his films reflect the very essence of cinema itself in an almost archaeological way. The power of images ultimately became the primary motif of his greatest success to date: ›September 5‹. Here, the historical subject meets media history. At the same time, the film refers to political contexts that still concern us today – as do numerous other entries in the current edition of our



festival. We are already excited and eager to see what cinematic visions Tim Fehlbaum will offer us in the future!”

### **Apocalypse again and again**

Born in 1982, Tim Fehlbaum comes from Basel in Switzerland and attended the University of Television and Film Munich (HFF). In his very first semester, he experimented with two different film roles and narrative levels: the short film ›Für Julian‹ about the kidnapping of a young man, which turns out to be a birthday prank, earned him the Shocking Shorts Award and a spot on a two-week programme at Universal in Los Angeles. It was thus clear from early on that he would make it to Hollywood. His first feature film, ›Hell‹ (2011), a dystopian post-apocalyptic vision of a Germany destroyed by heat, starred Lars Eidinger and Hannah Herzprung and brought him international acclaim. Roland Emmerich immediately produced his second film, ›Tides‹ (2021), which Fehlbaum shot entirely in English. This film also deals with a struggle for survival in a post-apocalyptic world – this time in the form of a science-fiction thriller. Finally, in ›September 5‹ (2024) the director turned his gaze to the past. This historical thriller recounts the attack at the 1972 Olympics in Munich from the perspective of a TV crew. The live broadcast of the hostage-taking and murder of the Israeli athletes chronicles a race against time.

On 7 November, the day before the presentation of the honorary award, Tim Fehlbaum will offer personal insights into his work in a master class at Cinema Quadrat Mannheim. His science fiction film ›Tides‹ will be screened prior to the discussion. On 14 November, the festival will welcome Moritz Binder, with whom Fehlbaum co-authored the screenplay for ›September 5‹. This collaboration earned them an Oscar nomination for best original screenplay. The film also netted nine German Film Awards. Prior to the discussion with Moritz Binder, the audience will have a further opportunity to see ›September 5‹ in the cinema.

### **The events at a glance:**

#### **Master class with Tim Fehlbaum and screening of ›Tides‹**

7 November 2025

5:30 p.m. screening

7:30 p.m. master class

Mannheim, Cinema Quadrat

#### **GRAND IFFMH AWARD ceremony and screening of ›Hell‹**

8 November 2025, 5 p.m.

Heidelberg, Karlstorbahnhof



**Master class with Moritz Binder and screening of ›September 5‹**

14 November 2025

4:30 p.m. screening

6:15 p.m. master class

Mannheim, Cinema Quadrat

Admission to the master classes is free of charge. For the film screenings, a ticket is required.

**The complete schedule will be announced on 17 October.**

**Tickets go on sale on 20 October.**

## Images

You can download images from our press area:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/08687r6tdj9ocaimd9cfs/ANda0qmK1DQ4vOxtsAKdMk4?rlkey=fb431kpufjohwjzyc732hk5ze&st=mu4ev0d7&dl=0>

## About the IFFMH

With “New Film Experience” as its credo, the IFFMH has been venturing new, interdisciplinary perspectives on and through the art of film since 1952. This makes it the longest-running film festival in Germany after the Berlinale, and it continues to be a major platform for cultural, social and political dialogue. With each subsequent edition, the IFFMH, as a festival for the public in cinemas, invites festivalgoers to discover the rising stars of the international film scene as well as to follow the careers of established filmmakers and to become more familiar with film in the context of other art forms.

## Media inquiries:

Rebecca Raab

Media and public relations

e-mail: [rebecca.raab@iffmh.de](mailto:rebecca.raab@iffmh.de)

Tel. +49 621 489262 22

The festival would like to thank its sponsors and partners.