



## 74th IFFMH: 2025 Cutting Edge Talent Camp kicks off its sixth edition with new directorship and 15 participants

*Press release – Mannheim, 13 October 2025*

The International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg's eminent young talent programme is entering its sixth edition this year with 15 individuals taking part and new directors at the helm. After five inspiring years under the directorship of Zsuzsi Bánkuti, the baton has been passed to a new team of three industry experts who have long been involved with the Cutting Edge Talent Camp (CETC): Tina Haagmann, Titus Kreyenberg and Cécile Tollu-Polonowski.



The three new directors (left to right): Tina Haagmann, Titus Kreyenberg, Cécile Tollu-Polonowski  
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“The cinema of tomorrow is one that will allow new voices to be heard. Especially in changing times, it is an important space for conveying bold ideas, critical thinking and inspiring visions. The Cutting Edge Talent Camp is precisely that space – a platform for up-and-coming filmmakers whose outstanding first and second films will soon give them exposure. We honour the impressive achievements of previous participants, whose films have since premiered at major international festivals and markets, and look forward to leading the Talent Camp into the future together. Ahead of us lie ten days of new voices, creative inspiration and the common goal of strengthening and showcasing the diverse potential of young German filmmakers,” the three new programme directors said.

The 2025 Cutting Edge Talent Camp will be held online from 5 to 11 November. From 13 to 16 November, participants will meet with international mentors and industry experts in person at the 74th IFFMH.

### The Future of German Cinema – The 2025 Talents

Some of this year's participants are already able to boast some initial achievements. ›Lovers Sleep Alone (working title)‹, Massih Parsaei's first feature



film, was invited to this year's Work in Progress Europe programme at the San Sebastián Film Festival. Lin Htet Aung's ›A Metamorphosis‹ won the Tiger Short Competition at the 2025 International Film Festival Rotterdam. Riccardo Dejan Jurković's feature film debut ›Frank Meyer‹ was successful at international festivals and received the Granit-Preis at the Hof International Film Festival in 2023, among others. Shahab Habibi's graduation film (short film) ›Ba Ham‹ was screened at Max Ophüls 2021 and other festivals and received several awards. At the Festival de Cannes in 2025, Katharina Mumper took part in the Impact Lab, a programme curated by German Films and the Marché du Film for which two up-and-coming producers from Germany are selected each year.

#### **The participants in 2025:**

- **Lin Htet Aung** (Städelschule)
- **Nina Sophie Bayer-Seel** (Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF)
- **Carla Armanda Buchal** (Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF)
- **Ella Cieslinski** (Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen München)
- **Florian Dedek** (Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln)
- **Laura Engelhardt** (Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln)
- **Florinda Sakura Frisardi** (Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin)
- **Shahab Habibi** (Hamburg Media School)
- **Riccardo Dejan Jurković** (Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln, Hochschule Darmstadt)
- **Kevin Koch** (Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg)
- **Katharina Mumper** (Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg)
- **Massih Parsaei** (Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF)
- **Juan Rmzv** (Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin)
- **Larissa Tretter** (Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF)
- **Nina Wesemann** (Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen München)

#### **Recent success stories:**

Former participants have achieved recognition with the projects they developed further at the Cutting Edge Talent Camp. ›The Good Sister‹, directed by Sarah Miro Fischer (CETC 2022) premiered at Berlinale Panorama in February and is currently on its festival run. Steffen Goldkamp's ›Regen fiel auf nichts Neues / Rain Fell on the Nothing New‹ (CETC 2021) participated in Karlovy Vary IFF 2025 and will now be screened at the 74th IFFMH in 2025. ›Cómo caminar sobre el agua / How to Walk on Water‹ by Sofía Ayala, produced by Maritza Grass (CETC 2024), participated in Locarno Pro as part of the Alliance 4 Development programme. ›Babystar‹ by Joscha Bongard, produced by Lisa Purtscher and Lotta Schmelzer (CETC 2023), had its world premiere in the Discovery section of the 2025 Toronto International Film Festival and has been invited to the International Competition at the Warsaw Film Festival.



## About the Cutting Edge Talent Camp

The Cutting Edge Talent Camp is a hybrid coaching programme for young filmmakers who have attended a German film or art school and who are currently in various phases of developing, financing or post-production of their first or second feature film. The Talent Camp offers participants the opportunity to meet key professionals from the international film industry and to learn about pitching, festival, co-production and marketing strategies. The programme also includes master classes and film screenings. Programming directors at film festivals, international distributors and producers from around the world are among the experts who mentor the talents and offer them initial feedback on their projects. The Talent Camp receives funding from the MFG Baden-Württemberg, the Federal Commission of Culture and Media (BKM), and the Schwiete Stiftung. It is held in partnership with the San Sebastián Film Festival and the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

## 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.

## Images

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The festival would like to thank its sponsors and partners.