



74th IFFMH: a great success and a closing celebrated with guests from Hollywood

Press release – Mannheim, 18 November 2025

The International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg marked the close of its 74th edition this past Sunday, 16 November. A touch of Hollywood pervaded the Karlstorbahnhof Heidelberg and the Stadthaus N1 in Mannheim as the glamorous finale took place. As its closing film, the festival presented ›The Threesome‹ by American director Chad Hartigan, who was there in person along with actress Ruby Cruz and actor Jonah Hauer-King. This romantic comedy, featuring a star-studded cast, took the audience on an emotional rollercoaster while also venturing a surprisingly profound look at some of life's big questions.

Before the screening, Mannheim's mayor, Christian Specht, addressed the audience and thanked the festival team. He emphasised the welcoming culture of the IFFMH, which he said was a great match for the city's cultural diversity, and described the festival as indispensable. He said it was critically important that spaces such as the IFFMH exist, which gather international perspectives and promote democracy. The valuable nature of the festival is, he said, further validated by its new cooperation with SWR, which this year began presenting the German Documentary Film Award at the IFFMH. He added that along with the festival, the city of Mannheim is looking ahead. Festival director Sascha Keilholz expressed his view that the IFFMH is something that can only exist in cooperation with the city. He expressed particular appreciation to the festival team for their dedication and to the audience for numerous sold-out and well-attended screenings, as well as for their lively participation in the diverse supporting programme.



Hollywood at the 74th IFFMH: Ruby Cruz, Jonah Hauer-King and director Chad Hartigan with festival director Sascha Keilholz © Chiara Kuch



Feel Good?! Films that invite dialogue

This year, the main programme comprised 74 feature-length films from more than 50 countries. These films included entries from Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Paraguay, Chile, Iran, Hungary, Canada, Mexico, Israel and Palestine. The IFFMH thus underscored its importance as a platform for countries whose films are otherwise underrepresented in German cinemas. Twenty-seven of the films were German premieres.

The festival once again welcomed a large number of guests from all over the world. Among them was this year's guest of honour, Oscar-nominated filmmaker Tim Fehlbaum, who was awarded the Grand IFFMH Award and who discussed his work in a master class. Producer Thomas Wöbke and actress Lisa Vicari gave a laudatory speech. Moritz Binder, with whom Fehlbaum co-wrote the screenplay for ›September 5‹, also offered a master class at the festival. Further guests included director Charlie McDowell with his film ›The Summer Book‹, director Sophie Beaulieu and French actresses Marianne Basler and Zoé Marchal.

Attendance at the IFFMH this year was 35,500, including nearly 27,000 people who filled the cinemas and more than 8,500 who participated in the supporting events. The festival was thus able to match its strong showing from the previous year. The Planken Lichtspiele cinema in Mannheim's city centre was also very well received as a new venue. Now that this successful edition of the festival has been completed, Sascha Keilholz's team is eagerly looking forward to next year, when the festival will herald its 75th edition in a major anniversary campaign – Imagine Futures!



The team of the 74th IFFMH with Christian Specht, mayor of Mannheim (at left).

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The 75th IFFMH will be held from 5 to 15 November 2026.

Images

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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.

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The festival would like to thank its sponsors and partners.

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