



74th IFFMH: Successful sixth edition of Cutting Edge Talent Camp concludes / Invitations to participate in IFFR Pro and KABIA San Sebastián awarded

Press release – Mannheim, 18 November 2025

The Cutting Edge Talent Camp (CETC), the renowned young talent programme of the International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg (IFFMH), concluded this past Sunday, 16 November. The 15 talents who participated, all graduates of German film or art schools, completed a week-long online programme prior to meeting in person with international mentors and industry experts for four days at the 74th IFFMH in Mannheim to further develop their film projects. At a closing ceremony, six of this year's talents were awarded an invitation to participate in the industry platforms IFFR Pro in Rotterdam and KABIA in San Sebastián.

The programme's three new directors, Tina Haagmann, Titus Kreyenberg and Cécile Tollu-Polonowski, expressed their complete satisfaction with this year's edition of the CETC: "It's been ten days of intensive work and inspiration. The supportive environment of the CETC has made our talents and experts feel welcome. Being able to speak openly and on a trusting basis is a cornerstone of the Talent Camp, and this was once again very noticeable. Just as important is our ongoing cooperation with the festivals in Rotterdam and San Sebastián. It gives our talents meaningful access to the international film industry, bolstering their careers for the long term."

Six talents selected for IFFR Pro and KABIA San Sebastián

Four of the participants from this year's CETC have received an invitation to the International Film Festival Rotterdam in late January 2026. This accreditation will allow them to attend IFFR Pro – the CineMart co-production market, Pro Hub and Rotterdam Lab. Alongside this cooperation, the CETC is also continuing its valued partnership with the San Sebastián International Film Festival. Two talents from the current group have been selected to participate in the KABIA programme at San Sebastián in September 2026. The six talents were selected by Irati Crespo, representing San Sebastián, and Nikolas Montaldi, representing IFFR and IFFR Pro, who attended the CETC as experts in order to familiarise themselves with the CETC talents' projects and individual profiles.



The winners in 2025:

IFFR Pro Award:

- **Ella Cieslinski**, film director, University of Television and Film Munich
- **Florian Dedek**, film producer, Academy of Media Arts Cologne
- **Larissa Tretter**, film producer, Film University Babelsberg Konrad Wolf
- **Juan Rmzv**, film director, German Film and Television Academy Berlin



The recipients of the IFFR Pro Award (from left to right): Florian Dedek, Larissa Tretter, Juan Rmzv and Ella Cieslinski, with Nikolas Montaldi (IFFR Pro)
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San Sebastián KABIA Award

- **Florinda Sakura Frisardi**, film director, German Film and Television Academy Berlin
- **Lin Htet Aung**, film director, Städelschule



The recipients of the San Sebastián KABIA Award (from left to right): Lin Htet Aung and Florinda Sakura Frisardi, with Irati Crespo (KABIA San Sebastián)
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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 are currently in various stages of development, financing or post-production of their first or second feature film. The Talent Camp gives participants the opportunity to meet key players in the international film industry and learn about pitching, festival, co-production and marketing strategies. The programme also includes master classes and film screenings. Festival programming directors, international sales agents, distributors and producers from all over the world are among the experts who mentor the participants and give them initial feedback on their projects. The Talent Camp is funded by MFG Baden-Württemberg, the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) and the Schwiete Foundation. It is held in collaboration with the Popakademie Baden-Württemberg and in cooperation 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.

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