



75th IFFMH: The complete programme for the anniversary edition

Press release – Mannheim, 16 October 2026

From 5 to 15 November, the International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg will be celebrating a major anniversary. Under the slogan “Imagine Futures!”, the 75th edition will continue the story of the IFFMH: discovering and promoting new cinematic talent and trends, as well as exploring possible futures for cinema and society. Central to the IFFMH is the ON THE RISE competition, which is dedicated to the next generation of international filmmakers. The Cutting Edge Talent Camp, launched seven years ago as a programme to foster talented students from German film and art colleges, has since become a complementary success story. No fewer than five of its alumni will be presenting their latest films at the IFFMH. In 2026, the focus on the future will be bolstered further: through both the retrospective titled “Back to the Futures: Utopias vs. Dystopias” and the supporting programme, which will invite festival-goers to discuss pressing questions about the future in a variety of discussion events held free of charge that will involve distinguished individuals from society and academia.

To mark its anniversary, the festival is presenting 80 films from 50 countries, including the one-time anniversary section IMAGINE HEIMAT, which will showcase productions set in Mannheim or Heidelberg. As always, the IFFMH will be welcoming thousands of people from all over the world to cinemas in both cities. — Tickets for the 75th IFFMH go on sale on Monday, 19 October, both online and at ticket outlets.

“75 years of the International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg – that’s 75 years of artistic freedom, of meeting people from around the world, of sharing democratic ideas. We are proud that, along with Heidelberg and with the support of the state, we are home to Baden-Württemberg’s longest-running film festival. The IFFMH brings the world to our region and is a wonderful asset to our society,” Christian Specht, the mayor of Mannheim, said. He emphasised: “This anniversary is therefore not just a reason to celebrate, but a step towards the future! I hope the festival will continue to inspire the people of this metropolitan region and continue to make this region known far and wide as a cosmopolitan centre of the arts.”

Martina Pfister, Heidelberg’s deputy mayor for the arts, public services and creative industries, explains: “The IFFMH has traditionally stood for curiosity about fresh voices, untold stories and the social issues of our age. This openness fits perfectly with the ethos of our city as a centre of learning and academia. Furthermore, the IFFMH brings together people and institutions from inside and outside the city and exemplifies the close cultural ties between Mannheim and Heidelberg: two cities, one festival, one shared cultural region. Heidelberg is proud to have played a part in the history of this remarkable festival – and is looking forward to contributing to its future.”

The 2026 programme: German premieres and festival hits

As always, the IFFMH is presenting first and second films by up-and-coming international directors in competition as German premieres. The 16 films this

year include a world premiere: the Bolivian entry ›Pianoman‹ by Felipe Quiroga. This tragicomedy tells the story of an ageing, unsuccessful musician who was once a minor star in Bolivia and is now unexpectedly offered a gig at a trendy club. It is hoped that this performance will help him to reconcile with his estranged daughter. One of the film's most striking features is its atmospheric imagery, rendered in shades of blue, pink and yellow, which at times is reminiscent of Michael Mann's experimental use of digital cameras.



›Pianoman‹ © Alkamari Gangsta

Many of the other films in competition at the IFFMH this year explore relationship dramas as well. Quite a number of them are centred around female characters, while others among these emotional dramas focus on queer relationships. Time and again, the family aspect – either on its own or in the context of romantic relationships – plays a major role.

The anthology film ›Die Ideen‹ by Fabian Stumm, an alumnus of the festival's own Talent Camp, explores turning points and milestones in life through six short stories that are as light-hearted and funny as they are profound – featuring an outstanding cast, including Angelika Winkler, Maren Eggert, Marie-Lou Sellem, Jonas Dassler, Hans Löw and Godehard Giese. This film is having its German premiere, as is Rob Burnett's ›In Memoriam‹, a comedy characterised by both black humour and warmth. Burnett, a five-time Emmy Award-winner, has also assembled an outstanding cast featuring Marc Maron, Lily Gladstone, Judy Greer and Sharon Stone. Maron plays a terminally ill and by now only marginally successful actor who is desperately trying to be included in a video that will pay tribute to Hollywood legends at the Oscars. Furthermore, for the first time in Germany, the IFFMH will be screening ›Moulin‹, the latest film by László Nemes, about the French Resistance and martyrdom, starring Lars Eidinger as Klaus Barbie and Gilles Lelouche as Jean Moulin in the lead roles.



›Die Ideen‹ © Postofilm

The IFFMH is starting off this year's programme of major festival films with Ryūsuke Hamaguchi's ›All of a Sudden‹, Japan's entry in the competition for the Oscars. This is a very moving drama about a deep friendship that arises between two women, and at the same time a philosophical work that explores the capitalist system of our society and the role and means of caring for others within it. The lead actresses, Virginie Efira and Tao Okamoto, were each named best actress at this year's Cannes Film Festival. Meanwhile, Emmanuel Macchia and Valentin Campagne, who play the two lead characters in Lukas Dhont's ›Coward‹, were honoured as best actors at Cannes. This queer love story between two soldiers during the First World War is Belgium's submission to the Oscars. The Spanish entry ›La Bola Negra‹ is also likely to have a good chance of winning an Oscar in several categories. Javier Calvo and Javier Ambrossi (together known as "Los Javis") have already been awarded the prize for best director for this film at Cannes and have also won audience awards in Sydney, Telluride and Toronto. Their film, whose story spans multiple eras, is a powerful and gripping epic about being gay in Spain. Among other festival favourites, the IFFMH is screening Jordan Firstman's ›Club Kid‹ as well as the winner of the audience award at Locarno, ›Frank & Louis‹ by Petra Volpe, whose recent film ›Late Shift‹ met with great popularity in Germany.

Anniversary Special: IMAGINE HEIMAT

For 75 years, the IFFMH has been screening films from all over the world and welcoming guests from every continent. The festival forges links between global and local culture. Especially in this regard, it is a product of the two now international cities in which it is held. Saluting these cities with a minor special section entitled "Imagine Heimat" will therefore be part of this anniversary edition. This section exclusively features films set in Mannheim or Heidelberg. Three of the works shown here are important to the history of film in the region and were made around the time the festival was founded in 1952. Anatole Litvak's ›Entscheidung vor Morgengrauen‹ (1951) is a spy thriller exploring morality and betrayal. Otto Wernicke's and Max Diekhout's gripping crime thriller



›Wer fuhr den grauen Ford?‹ is set in the present day of the 1950 film, but the horrors of the Second World War are still very much present here, as is the subsequent American occupation. The Rhine near Mannheim, which in Litvak's film serves as the demarcation line between the opposing forces, has once again become a centre of industry. In Bernhard Wicki's 1958 film ›Warum sind sie gegen uns?‹, the story of a young romance set against a backdrop of class divisions and social polarisation, the Rhine is also a place of leisure and enjoyment. The screenplay for this film was written by IFFMH founding father Kurt Joachim Fischer, as was that for ›Wer fuhr den grauen Ford?‹. In ›And Tomorrow the Entire World‹ (2020), this section looks back at the recent past as director Julia von Heinz explores the threat to democracy and the question of how far one can and should go to defend this system.

YOUNG ACTORS AWARD: The nominees

This will now be the third time that the IFFMH is presenting the YOUNG ACTORS AWARD. This 10,000-euro award for acting is sponsored by cbs, a consultancy in Heidelberg. This year's nominees are: Pinea Matoshi for her authentic portrayal of a resilient young woman in Blerta Basholli's ›Dua‹, who manages to hold her own in the face of adverse living conditions and traumatic experiences in Kosovo in the late 1990s. Colas Quignard, meanwhile, has been nominated for his complex portrayal of a schoolboy named Toni in Marine Atlan's Centre Piece, ›La Gradiva‹. His performance impressively captures the unease that Toni feels inside and displays, from his spirited bravado to his ever-growing self-doubt. Sim Su-bin from South Korea has been nominated for her nuanced portrayal of 17-year-old Jin, who experiences passion for the first time in Yoon Danbi's competition film ›The World Before‹.

Looking to the future: The supporting programme and guests

Back in September, the IFFMH, together with its extensive network of partners, launched a diverse cultural programme under the slogan "Imagine Futures!", which runs right through to the festival period and will be complemented there by further events that explore the future from a wide variety of standpoints and perspectives. On the opening Thursday, 5 November, the Rosengarten Mannheim will host the panel discussion "Culture for All: Football and the Society of the Future", in cooperation with the DFB-Stiftungen. Guests will include Horst Hamann, a former footballer and now a notable photographer, and Klaus Schlappner, a former footballer and coach of SV Waldhof Mannheim, the Chinese national football team, and several others. On Sunday, 8 November, meanwhile, Dr Peter Kurz, former mayor and honorary citizen of the city of Mannheim; Thorsten Thiel, professor of democracy promotion and digital policy; Eva Weber-Guskar, professor of ethics and the philosophy of emotions; and Dr Nina-Kathrin Wienkoop, democracy researcher and board member at the Institute for Protest and Social Movements Research in Berlin, will discuss at the DAI in Heidelberg how we can make democracy more resilient in the face of authoritarian tendencies, disinformation and the impact of AI. The "Future Democracies" event, which will be held in cooperation with Karlshochschule International University, will be moderated by Dr Klaus Welzel, editor-in-chief of the Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung. In the "Weltklasse von hier" discussion series on



Friday, 13 November, Dr Andreas Bareiß, director of the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg; Nico Hofmann, film producer, director of the Nibelungen Festival in Worms and professor at the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg; and Wiebke Wiesner, managing director of MFG Medien und Filmförderung Baden-Württemberg, will discuss how we can fund and produce international cinema locally. The discussion will be moderated by Miriam Scharlibbe, editor-in-chief of the Mannheimer Morgen newspaper. On 14 November, directors Constanze Klaue and Eva Trobisch will speak at the Cinema Quadrat in Mannheim on “The Future of German Cinema”, highlighting opportunities and risks, tried-and-tested approaches, and possible and necessary changes.

In looking forward to the anniversary edition, Festival Director Dr Sascha Keilholz emphasises: “Cinema is a fascinating and constantly evolving art form to which we at the IFFMH are fully committed. At the same time, we continue to uphold the founding fathers’ fundamental democratic principles. We remain open to developments and changes, to new ideas, either in terms of content or artistic form, regardless of whether these are refreshing or even, at times, challenging. Sharing all this with our audience is not only our duty and responsibility, but above all a source of inspiration and great joy. Through the shared experience of cinema and the discussions it sparks at our festival, we can together find new perspectives. In this spirit of connection, our 75th edition is saying: Imagine Futures!”

Advance ticket sales & ticket prices

Tickets go on sale on Monday, 19 October, online at iffmh.de/tickets as well as at the official ticket outlets at the Tourist Information Centre in Mannheim and – starting this year – at the Karlstorbahnhof in Heidelberg, as well as at all Reservix ticket outlets in the region. For 2026, the festival will retain the ticket prices introduced in 2024 as part of a new solidarity-based pricing system: individual tickets cost 8 euros (Basic Ticket), 12 euros (Standard Ticket) or 14 euros (Solidarity Ticket). No proof of eligibility is required. The festival pass allowing the bearer to enjoy unlimited screenings is also available in three freely selectable price categories: 60 euros, 85 euros and 100 euros. There are also tickets for 5 and 10 screenings. Children and young people pay 3.50 euros at the JUNGES FILMFEST, while adults pay according to the categories of the solidarity-based pricing system. Holders of a Kulturpass from Kulturparkett Rhein-Neckar e. V. enjoy free admission.

All of the films at the 75th IFFMH, listed by section

Opening film

›**My Notes on Mars**‹ Lili Hórvath. Hungary, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Centre Piece

›**La Gradiva**‹ Marine Atlan. France, Italy

Closing film

›**Congo Boy**‹ Rafiki Fariala. Central African Republic, France, Democratic Republic of Congo, Italy



ON THE RISE competition

- › **Big Little Things**› Michelle Zhou. Hong Kong, USA
- › **Body of Glass**› Naëmi Ada. Germany, France
- › **The Color of the Sun**› Xavier Tera. Canada, Italy
- › **Cotton Fever**› Daniel Blake Schwartz. USA
- › **A Day in the Life of Jo: Chapter Phaedra**› Jacqueline Lentzou. Greece, France, Germany
- › **First Light**› James J. Robinson. Australia, Philippines
- › **Gelegenheitsdiebe**› Mate Ugrin. Croatia, France, Germany, Serbia
- › **The Golden Age**› Bérenger Thouin. France, Italy
- › **The Guest**› Mads Mangel. Denmark
- › **Lovers Sleep Alone**› Massih Parsaei. Germany
- › **Memorizu**› Miiku Sakanishi. Japan
- › **Pianoman**› Felipe Quiroga. Bolivia
- › **The Riverbank**› Enock Carvalho, Matheus Farias. Brazil, Germany
- › **Tear Gas**› Uta Beria. Georgia, France, Germany
- › **Union County**› Adam Meeks. USA
- › **The World Before**› Yoon Dan-bi. South Korea

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES

- › **All of a Sudden**› Ryūsuke Hamaguchi. France, Japan, Germany, Belgium
- › **A Bit of Light**› Ali Asgari. Iran, Switzerland, Italy, Canada, Turkey
- › **La Bola Negra**› Javier Calvo, Javier Ambrossi. Spain, France
- › **Coward**› Lukas Dhont. Belgium, France, Netherlands
- › **Eurotrash**› Frauke Finsterwalder. Germany, Switzerland, France
- › **Frank & Louis**› Petra Volpe. UK, Switzerland
- › **Guria**› Levan Koguashvili. Georgia, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Bulgaria, Turkey, Norway, Saudi Arabia
- › **Hokum**› Damian McCarthy. Ireland
- › **I Can't Say No to Myself**› Hadas Ben Aroya. Israel, Canada, Germany
- › **I Rarely Wake Up Dreaming**› Isabelle Stever. Germany, Ukraine
- › **The Man I Love**› Ira Sachs. USA
- › **Moulin**› László Nemes. France
- › **Never After Dark**› Dave Boyle. Japan
- › **A Place to Heal**› Cédric Kahn. France
- › **You Don't Belong Here**› Florin Șerban. Romania

FILMSCAPES

- › **Ben'imana**› Marie-Clémentine Dusabejambo. Rwanda, Gabon, France, Norway
- › **Chili Finger**› Edd Benda, Stephen Helstad. USA
- › **Club Kid**› Jordan Firstman. USA
- › **Conversation with the Sea**› Muayad Alayan. Palestine, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Qatar
- › **Dua**› Blerta Basholli. Kosovo, Switzerland, France
- › **The Education of Jane Cumming**› Sophie Heldman. Germany, Switzerland, UK
- › **Flesh and Fuel**› Pierre Le Gall. France, Poland
- › **From Inside Out: The Architecture of Peter Zumthor**› Wim Wenders. Germany, Switzerland
- › **Ha-Chan, Shake Your Booty!**› Josef Kubota Wladyka. USA
- › **I See Buildings Fall Like Lightning**› Clio Barnard. UK



- ›**Die Ideen**‹ Fabian Stumm. Germany
- ›**In Memoriam**‹ Rob Burnett. USA
- ›**Ink**‹ Danny Boyle. UK, France, USA
- ›**Objet a**‹ Ann Oren. Germany, Luxembourg, Greece
- ›**The Only Living Pickpocket in New York**‹ Noah Segan. USA
- ›**Queen at Sea**‹ Lance Hammer. UK
- ›**The Red Hangar**‹ Juan Pablo Sallato. Chile, Argentina, Italy
- ›**Sad Girlz**‹ Fernanda Tovar. Mexico, Spain, France

RETROSPECTIVE “Back to the Futures – Utopias vs. Dystopias” (chronological)

- ›**A Man Escaped**‹ Regie: Robert Bresson. France, 1956
- ›**2001: A Space Odyssey**‹ Regie: Stanley Kubrick. UK, USA, 1968
- ›**Invasión**‹ Regie: Hugo Santiago. Argentina, 1969
- ›**Touki Bouki**‹ Regie: Djibril Diop Mambéty. Senegal, 1973
- ›**Stalker**‹ Regie: Andrei Tarkovsky. USSR, 1979
- ›**Born in Flames**‹ Regie: Lizzie Borden. USA, 1983
- ›**Groundhog Day**‹ Regie: Harold Ramis. USA, 1993
- ›**Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind**‹ Regie: Michel Gondry. USA, 2004
- ›**Her**‹ Regie: Spike Jonze. USA, 2013
- ›**Under the Skin**‹ Regie: Jonathan Glazer. UK, Switzerland, 2013
- ›**Mountains May Depart**‹ Regie: Jia Zhang-ke. China, France, Japan, 2015
- ›**The Beast**‹ Regie: Bertrand Bonello. France, 2023

HOMAGE to actress Trine Dyrholm (listed chronologically)

- ›**Dancers**‹ Pernille Fischer Christensen. Denmark, Sweden, 2008
- ›**The Commune**‹ Thomas Vinterberg. Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands, 2016
- ›**Queen of Hearts**‹ May el-Toukhy. Denmark, Sweden, 2019

IMAGINE HEIMAT (listed chronologically)

- ›**Decision Before Dawn**‹ Anatole Litvak. USA, 1951
- ›**And Tomorrow the Entire World**‹ Julia von Heinz. Germany, France, 2020
- ›**Warum sind sie gegen uns?**‹ Bernhard Wickie. Germany, 1958
- ›**Wer fuhr den grauen Ford?**‹ Otto Wernicke, Max Diekhout. Germany, 1950

JUNGES FILMFEST

- ›**Dante**‹ Linda Hambäck. Sweden, Denmark, Norway, 2026
- ›**Gugu's World**‹ Allan Deberton. Brazil, 2026
- ›**Iron Boy**‹ Louis Clichy. France, Belgium, 2026
- ›**My Life in Versailles**‹ Clémence Madeleine-Perdrillat, Nathaniel H'Limi. France, Luxembourg 2025
- ›**My Neighbor Totoro**‹ Hayao Miyazaki. Japan, 1988
- ›**The Newcomers**‹ Rodrigo Plá. Mexico, Spain, 2026
- ›**Risa and the Wind Phone**‹ Juan Cabral. Argentina, 2025

SUPPORTING PROGRAMME

- ›**Nosferatu**‹ F. W. Murnau, Germany, 1922



**The 75th IFFMH will be held from 5 to 15 November 2026.
Tickets go on sale on 19 October.**

Images

You can download images via the “press material” section of our website:
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/fwvm1c69mfxwe5k2tmnq8/AD-XPm7MahyKeNle8HH5hQ?rlkey=3vmgbtsyboj9gxmplpq7zf5cu&st=4f7g8ryo&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
Head of Communications
e-mail: rebecca.raab@iffmh.de
Tel. +49 621 489262 22

The festival wishes to thank its sponsors and partners.

