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**26^e GENEVA INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL**

G I F F . C H

Press release .
October 29, 2020

The 26th GIFF has been cancelled

Following the Swiss Federal Council's recent announcement in regard to the daily worsening of the health situation, the Geneva International Film Festival has taken the heavy decision to cancel its next edition, which was scheduled to take place from November 6 to 15. Many personalities, including Mads Mikkelsen, Carice van Houten, Sara Forestier, Abel Ferrara, Woodkid, Luca Guadagnino, Sophie Letourneur and André Dussollier were meant to be present in Geneva for this occasion. More than 130 works had been selected, including the latest works of Frederick Wiseman, Naomi Kawase, Kiyoshi Kurosawa, Katori Hall, Ethan Hawke, Elena Hazanov and Gaspar Noé. The original creation by Stephan Eicher and GIFF at the Plaza will be maintained however, although postponed to a later date. GIFF's professional event, the Geneva Digital Market, will take place online, as originally planned. The Festival will also feature retrospective selections on the digital platforms of SRG/SSR and myCANAL of Canal+ Suisse.

Following the Federal Council's announcement to ban all public events involving more than fifty people in Switzerland, the Geneva International Film Festival's Foundation Board, its management and team have sadly decided to cancel the 26th Festival. The screenings, the digital program and the various special projects, exhibitions and collaborations that made up this year's very rich program are therefore cancelled. Tickets that have already been purchased will be refunded upon request (see information in the coming days on our website). Unless otherwise advised by the management of the Théâtre de Saint Gervais, the collaboration between the Locarno Film Festival, this theatre and the GIFF around the show *Les Bonimenteurs* by Jonathan Capdevielle is maintained.

"The minimum conditions for holding the Festival are no longer met and we have therefore drawn the necessary conclusions. We would like to show our support to all our collaborators who have been working hard for months to hold this event in a particularly difficult context, as well as to all the creators, producers and rights holders who have entrusted us with their works. We would also like to thank the public, who booked tickets in large numbers for the events we were offering, as well as our partners, who chose to accompany us in this adventure," said GIFF Artistic and General Director, Emmanuel Cuénod. "We had decided to offer festivalgoers a deliberately ambitious program. More than any other year perhaps, our aim was to formulate a generous, lip-smacking

project. We will now strive to bring these films, series and digital works to the public. Our work does not stop with this announcement. In some respects, it has only just begun”.

In agreement with the Plaza Foundation, GIFF is nevertheless pleased to announce that the creation *It's Alive: A Journey into Invisible Cinema*, imagined by Stephan Eicher and the festival, will be postponed to a later date. Ticket holders for this show will be informed shortly of the new date.

GIFF will also be present on small screens, through two retrospective online programs. The first, free of charge, features older works on SRG/SSR new player, Play Suisse, available as of November 7 and scheduled to be officially launched during a special GIFF night. The second offer will be subject to a fee, with the opening of a GIFF program on MyCanal. The public will be able to find a selection of works featured in previous years.

GIFF's professional event, the Geneva Digital Market, is being maintained in its essentially digital form – the preferred format this year for the organizers. The only notable change is that the inaugural conference, organized in association with AROPA (Association Romande de la Production Audiovisuelle) and dedicated to the impact of Covid-19 on production and distribution in French-speaking Switzerland, will not take place physically, but online. The Nuit Numérique, a gala evening that was meant to be held this year as a dinner, has also been cancelled.

The 26th Geneva International Film Festival was the last under the direction of Emmanuel Cuénod, in office since 2013. He will leave his post on December 31, 2020 and will be replaced by Anaïs Emery.

We are already looking forward to meeting our festivalgoers for the 27th GIFF, which will take place from November 5 to 14, 2021.