

**06 – 15.11.2020**

**26<sup>e</sup> GENEVA INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL**

**G I F F . C H**

Press release  
October 28, 2020

**Luca Guadagnino, Carice van Houten and Viktoriya Isakova join the guests of the 26th Geneva International Film Festival**

The GIFF is pleased to announce the arrival of three renowned talents, who will present exclusive series in Geneva from 6 to 15 November. Three big names join the already generous line-up of the 26th edition of the Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF). After Mads Mikkelsen, Woodkid, Abel Ferrara, Sara Forestier and André Dussollier, the event is pleased to announce that Italian filmmaker Luca Guadagnino (*Call Me By Your Name, A Bigger Splash, ...*), Dutch producer, actress and creator Carice van Houten (*The Black Book* by Paul Verhoeven, *Game of Thrones, ...*) and Russian actress Viktoriya Isakova (*The Island* by Pavel Lungin, *The Student* by Kirill Serebrennikov, ...) will all be in Geneva to present their latest works and collaborations.

Academy Award Nominated director and producer Luca Guadagnino, a rare filmmaker who is one of the great names in contemporary cinema, will personally present the complete HBO-SKY series *We Are Who We Are*, produced By The Apartment And Wildside, Both Fremantle Companies, with Small Forward, which he directed and co-created, and which the Festival is showing in association with the Director's Fortnight. On this occasion, Les Cinémas du Grütli will give the public the opportunity to rediscover more widely the work of this fascinating director, capable like no other of bringing out the beauty, the turmoil and the mystery in the course of a shot or a sequence. *We Are Who We Are* will be available in Switzerland on Starzplay in 2021.

Singer, actress, producer, scriptwriter: Carice van Houten has had several careers at the same time. Her emblematic role as Melisandre, the Red Witch from *Game of Thrones*, further strengthens her already well-established reputation, thanks to her performances in films by Paul Verhoeven, Bryan Singer and Brian de Palma. Through her company, Man Up, she fights to finance projects led by women, which deal with subjects that are not enough shown on the screen. The proof is in *Red Light*, a series on prostitution circles that she co-created and which she will defend with Halina Reijn at the GIFF.

Finally, the GIFF is pleased to welcome one of the most talented Russian actresses of her generation, Viktoriya Isakova. She is a famous member of the Moscow Pushkin Drama Theatre troupe and has won numerous awards, including the prestigious Tchaïka Prize and the Russian Federation Prize. She plays the lead role in *Hope*, a fascinating series by the Russian-Swiss filmmaker Elena Hazanov, which the Festival will present as an International Premiere.

However, "the arrival of this talent remains conditional on the decisions that will be taken over the next few days by the federal and cantonal authorities" the GIFF organisers point out. As a reminder, the current health measures already adopted by the GIFF provide for the compulsory wearing of masks, an automatic social distance between each group of spectator-riders, as well as specific tracking measures, via the allocation of numbered and nominal seats.