

Press release
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For immediate release



28th GIFF AND 10th GDM: A PROGRAM EXPLORING THE DEPTHS OF CONTEMPORARY AUDIOVISUAL FICTION

The Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF) has unveiled the program for its 28th edition (November 4th - 13th), and the program for the 10th Geneva Digital Market (GDM, November 7th - 11th). The 2022 selection is celebrating audiovisual culture through the best productions in all available formats. Ten days of films, series and digital works, offering the public (over 30,000 attendees in 2021) a rebellious and resolutely future-focused selection. A mosaic of 120 inspiring works, newly released in Switzerland, which explores contemporary audiovisual fiction. The Geneva Digital Market (GDM), the only professional marketplace in Switzerland dedicated to audiovisual innovation, will celebrate its 10th edition from November 7th to 11th.

Anaïs Emery, now in her second year as General and Artistic Director, explained during the press conference: *"The GIFF is positioning itself as a festival of audiovisual culture in the broadest possible sense. It is rooted in an unconditional love of cinema, but is currently employing a renewed sense of fascination and curiosity to pursue the new possibilities afforded to audiovisual storytelling by image technologies. We provide an inclusive understanding of the Seventh Art which encompasses recent evolutions in the medium. We are giving the public an opportunity to enjoy a program whose diversity suggests ways to evolve within the current abundant offering. Discovering the bold diversity of the GIFF programs can take them places that traditional recommendations and algorithms cannot find. It is a unique proposal that I hope all our audiences will find fun and inspiring. The GIFF provides a rare opportunity to feel the pulse of contemporary creation for yourself, rather than having it described back to you. In this constellation, the GIFF's professional program – the Geneva Digital Market – is an accompanying event which plays a central role as an incubator"*

In total, 120 works will be unveiled, including 10 World Premieres, 3 International Premieres, 5 European Premieres and 67 Swiss Premieres. The 28th edition will open on Friday November 4th with the Swiss Premiere of the new season of *The Kingdom Exodus* (Lars Von Trier, 2022, DK, ep. 1-2/5), for which fans have been waiting almost three decades. The competitions will come to an end on Saturday November 12th with the closing ceremony and the Swiss Premiere of *The Whale* (Darren Aronofsky, 2022, US), the claustrophobic tale of redemption which sparked the historic "Brenaissance" of actor Brendan Fraser. The GIFF will continue into the next day, Sunday July 13th, with a day dedicated to digital experiences, to young audiences as well as to the next generation.

As is the case each year, the GIFF will pay a number of tributes and give honorific awards to visionary artists. The **Geneva Award** will be dedicated during an online masterclass to Danish director **Nicolas Winding Refn** (*Pusher, Drive, Neon Demon, Copenhagen Cowboy*) as well as the Swiss premiere of his new series *Copenhagen Cowboy* due on Netflix soon. The **Film & Beyond Award** will honor the director, producer and actor **Alexandre Astier** (*Kaamelott: The First Chapter, L'Exoconférence, Quantum Love*). Inaugurated last year, the **Tales of Swiss Innovation** section, which shines a light on Swiss audiovisual innovation, will be dedicated to the ethical pornography production collective **OIL Productions**.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 28TH EDITION

More than a hundred works will be screened, including Swiss, European, International and World Premieres. **Virtual Territories**, the largest space in Europe dedicated to digital creation (600 m²), will survey contemporary digital production through around forty works. Two major immersive installations will be available: the virtual reality event **Evolver**, narrated by Cate Blanchett and produced by Edward R. Pressman and Terrence Malick (Marshmallow Laser Feast, 2022, US/GB/FR, European Premiere), and the immersive play **Les aveugles**, based on the iconic text by Maurice Maeterlinck (INVIVO, Julien Dubuc, 2022, FR, International Premiere).

The cinema program will include a parade of prestigious premieres and distinguished guests: audiences will be able to discover the only Polish production to be shown at Cannes **The Silent Twins** (Agnieszka Smoczyńska, 2021, GB/PL, Swiss Premiere) and the feminist **Call Jane** (Phyllis Nagy, 2022, US, Swiss Premiere) by US director Phyllis Nagy with Sigourney Weaver. The indy Swiss-Belgian co-production **Ailleurs si j'y suis** (François Pirot, 2022, FR/LX/BE, Swiss Premiere) will be shown, attended by its director **François Pirot** and the actor **Jean-Luc Bideau**.

The series program – a highlight of this year's edition – will feature a host of premieres, including the bittersweet **Marriage** (Stefan Golaszewski, 2022, GB, Swiss Premiere), the new season of **Tschugger** (David Constantin, 2022, Mats Frey, CH, Swiss Premiere) and the cult that is Inspector Barnaby in **Midsomer Murders** (based on the books of Caroline Graham, 2022, GB, World Premiere of episode 1 of season 23) that the GIFF will celebrate in the company of its iconic cast: **Neil Dudgeon**, **Nick Hendrix**, **Fiona Dolman** and **Annette Badland**.

More than 200 international guests will be meeting the public at the GIFF, including: **Mani Haghighi** (*Subtraction*), **Lone Scherfig** (*The Shift*), **Ovidie** (*Des gens bien ordinaires*), **Neil Dudgeon** (*Midsomer Murders*), **Clément Deneux** (*Missing Pictures*), **Kayije Kagame** (*Saint Omer*), **Marshmallow Laser Feast** (*Evolver*), **Antonin Niclass** (*Midnight Story*), **Cyril Schaüblin** (*Unrest*), **Albert Serra** (*Pacifiction*), **Frédéric Recrosio** (*The Life ahead*), **Emma Benestan**, **Oulaya Amamra** and **Yasin Houicha** (*Fragile*), **Laurent Nègre** (*A Forgotten Man*), **Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster** (*Alienarium*) and many more... The **Geneva Digital Market** will feature experts who shape today's audiovisual universe and the world of tomorrow, with **Spotify** (US), the **Barbican Centre** (GB), **France Télévisions** (FR), **Orange** (ES), the **Tribeca Festival** (US)... A preliminary list can be found in the press kit.

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES COMPETITION

The **International Features Competition** hosts ten feature length films which overturn stylistic conventions and carve out a path for the cinema of tomorrow. The films, which are all Swiss premieres, are competing for the **Reflet d'Or for the best feature** (with a prize of CHF 10,000 from the City of Geneva), awarded by an international jury of leading lights from the world of cinema joined by film students. Iranian filmmaker **Mani Haghighi** is this year's president: a leading figure in Iranian cinema, he made his name in 2006 with **Men at Work**, which he followed up with **A Dragon Arrives** and **Pig**. He will be showing his eighth feature film – **Subtraction** – at this year's GIFF, following on from its recent World Premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

INTERNATIONAL SERIES COMPETITION

An exclusive Swiss showcase of the best international series, as Swiss, International or World Premieres, which the GIFF has been providing for more than twenty-five years. The International Series Competition demonstrates the potential for innovation of this most popular and dynamic contemporary audiovisual format, culminating in the **Reflet d'Or for the best series** (with a prize of 10,000 CHF donated by the City and State of Geneva). In a new addition this year, the GIFF will give the public the unique opportunity to discover the first two episodes of the competing series in theaters, and then watch the rest of the season at home. Made possible in

partnership with the Festivalscope platform, this initiative is designed to preserve the integrity of the works and lend new dynamism to the relationship between the productions shown by the Festival and their audience. An inclusive jury formed of five festival guests will be invited to enjoy the complete jury experience by deciding the winner.

INTERNATIONAL IMMERSIVE WORKS COMPETITION

A pioneering program in Switzerland, the **International Immersive Works Competition** explores the intersection between narration and technology through XR installations and works. These exceptional creations, screened as Swiss Premieres, are competing for the **Reflet d'Or for the best immersive work** (with a prize of CHF 10,000 donated by the City and State of Geneva). The Jury, formed of global personalities from the world of the arts and creative industries, includes **Boris Labbé** (FR, Director), **Laura Olin** (FI, COO, Zoan) and **Luke Kemp** (GB, Co-Head and Curator, Barbican Immersive).

FUTURE IS SENSIBLE

Future is Sensible is dedicated to social, ecological and technological foresight. Both competitive and inclusive (films, series, immersive), it uses dystopian series, science fiction and anticipation films, and exploratory XR works to question the ethical choices around technology and its impact on the future. Awarded by a jury made up of three international figures working in the audiovisual and creative industries, the Future Is Sensible prize awards CHF 10,000, in association with the **Pour-cent culturel Migros** cultural support program, to a production which has an outstanding humanist and ethical dimension. The Jury for this year includes **Kathrin Kohlstedde** (DE, Director of Programming), **Mélanie Courtinat** (FR, Artist) and **Sabrina Calvo** (FR, Author).

GENEVA DIGITAL MARKET

The **Geneva Digital Market** (GDM), the unique Swiss marketplace focusing on audiovisual innovation nestled at the heart of the Festival, will celebrate its 10th edition. A place to reflect on the future of the audiovisual sector, it will bring together experts from the leading virtual and audiovisual production industries along with experts in the latest technologies: **Spotify** (US), **Banijay** (GB/FR), **Cascade 8** (FR), **France Télévisions** (FR), **Orange** (ES), **Tribeca Festival** (US), **SRG SSR** (CH), **Zoan** (FI), **Willco** (ES). The GDM will be a hybrid event for the second time, both onsite at **Radio Télévision Suisse's Studio 4** and online. The **Swiss Interactive Sessions** and **XR Coproductions Sessions** bring together digital creators and decision makers for pitching sessions and networking events. The **Digital Night**, a huge networking event attended by creators and guests from the world of digital programming, will take place on Wednesday November 9th (invitation only).

FORMAT FOR THE 2022 EDITION

This year's GIFF will be a packed event at the very heart of Geneva. The **Maison Communale de Plainpalais** and **Théâtre Pitoëff**, the nerve center of the event, will vibrate to the exciting rhythms of projections, ceremonies and masterclasses, a popup restaurant and lounge bar, and the unmissable **Territoires virtuels** (Virtual territories) space, the largest in Europe dedicated to digital creation (600 m²). Geneva's iconic cinemas will provide an exceptional showcase over the ten days: **Auditorium Arditi**, **Cinémas du Grütli**, **Cinélux**, **Cinérama Empire**, **Fonction Cinéma**. After bringing the legendary Plaza to life during the last edition, the **Geneva Digital Market** will be investing in the high-tech surroundings of studio 4 at **Radio Télévision Suisse** for its tenth edition. Last but not least, the **Salle du Faubourg**, the prestigious location for Festival guests and night owls alike, will play host to the **Nuits Blanches** music nights. This edition can be enjoyed in the theaters, of course, but also in the comfort of the home thanks to the **International Series Competition**. This gives attendees the unique opportunity to continue their experience after watching the screening (episodes 1 and 2), with the rest of the season available to stream at home.

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