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**26^e GENEVA INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL**

G I F F . C H

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Play Suisse X GIFF : A time and language trip through Switzerland

SRG's new "Play Suisse" platform will go online tomorrow, offering a range of films, series, documentaries and concert compilations as well as a special GIFF selection of films that have helped forge the history of Swiss cinema. Free of charge and accessible throughout Switzerland, [co]productions from the four regions will be spotlighted, with subtitles. This is a real change in our relationship with our national audiovisual heritage and a new showcase for local creators.

Thanks to its partner SRG, GIFF will see autumn in a different light and participate in a real Copernican revolution in the way audiovisual creation is viewed. For the first time, content from all parts of the country will be available: nearly 1,000 original-language creations with subtitles in French, German, Italian and Romansh. "We are bringing Switzerland and its language regions ever closer together, while highlighting the diversity of our country and offering an individual streaming experience to the Swiss public", explains SRG Director General Gilles Marchand.

Cult series such as *Wilder*, *Helvetica* and *Quartier des banques*, all three of which were shown at GIFF last year, award-winning documentaries such as *La Forteresse* and *43, Il ponte spezzato*, and films such as *Blue My Mind*, *Der letzte Weynfeldt* and *Amur senza fin*. Two long-awaited titles, which were on the programme of the 26th edition of the GIFF, will also be on show: the German-language series *Labyrinth of Peace (Frieden)*, and the French-language series *Cellule de crise*, a thriller in international organisations concocted by Geneva-based filmmaker Jacob Berger and directed by the tandem André Dussollier/Isabelle Caillat.

Driven by the idea that in order to write the present and the future of Switzerland's audiovisual industry one must know its past, GIFF is pleased to offer a small selection that spotlights films that have helped forge the history of Swiss cinema. Viewers will be able to discover the fantastic adaptations of Friedrich Glauser's detective novels in *Wachtmeister Studer* by one of the greatest Swiss filmmakers of the 40s and 50s, Leopold Lindtberg. The filmmaker, who also won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival in 1946 with his famous *Die letzte Chance*, tells the story of a priest who brings refugees seeking to escape the Nazis, to Switzerland. Finally, there is another work by Leopold Lindtberg, *Matto regiert* which sold some 450,000 tickets in cinemas when it was released in 1947. Audiences will also be able to shudder with Charles Dé, the bourgeois hero of Alain Tanner's *Charles, Dead or Alive*, who drops everything to live a life on the margins of society; the first major non-conformist film in Western Switzerland. The selection also features the wonderful *Grauzone*, *Gilberte de Courgenay*, *Das Boot ist voll*, *San Gottardo*, *Reise der Hoffnung* and *Al canto del cucù*.

Thanks to the Swiss Film Archive, SRF and Filmo, the public will be able to discover these restored works as previous generations discovered them for the first time at their local movie theater.

"These movies are basically the cathedrals, castles and historical monuments of Swiss cinema. They are our audiovisual heritage. They tell our story through space and time", says Emmanuel Cuénod, GIFF's General and Artistic Director. "Many thanks to our friends at SRG SSR for creating this fantastic public service tool!"

The 26th edition of the Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF) should have started today. Numerous guests were expected in Geneva to accompany the 130 or so works on the programme. The event's management and Board of Trustees took the difficult decision to cancel the event eight days ago in view of the extent of the health crisis in Switzerland.

Key dates and informations :

- SRG SSR's new streaming platform "Play Schweiz" goes live on Saturday, 7 November 2020
- The GIFF selection is to be discovered on "Play Suisse":
 - ***Al canto del cucù*** August Kern, 1941
 - ***Charles mort ou vif*** Alain Tanner, 1969
 - ***Das Boot ist voll*** Markus Imhoof, 1981
 - ***Die letzte Chance*** Leopold Lindtberg, 1945
 - ***Gilberte de Courgenay*** Franz Schnyder, 1941
 - ***Grauzone*** Fredi M. Murer, 1979
 - ***Matto regiert*** Leopold Lindtberg, 1947
 - ***Reise der Hoffnung*** Xavier Koller, 1990
 - ***Wachtmeister Studer*** Leopold Lindtberg, 1939
 - ***San Gottardo*** Villi Hermann, 1977