



GIFF 21: A 27th FESTIVAL THAT CELEBRATES NARRATIVE INNOVATION

The Geneva International Film Festival [GIFF] is delighted to present the program of its 27th event [November 5 to 14] and of the 9th Geneva Digital Market [November 8 to 12]. True to the Festival's DNA, the selection of more than 150 works showcases the diversity of formats and the multi-disciplinarity of the audiovisual industry. The three main competitions [feature films, series and immersive works, each with a prize worth CHF 10,000, offered by the City and State of Geneva] will celebrate narrative innovation, formal courage and radicalism in a program never before seen in Switzerland. The Future Is Sensible prize [CHF 10,000, offered by the State of Geneva] will reward a digital production with a humanistic and ethical dimension.

Broader and more far-reaching than in the past, the **Virtual Territories** will feature 40 immersive works and interactive installations. A new retrospective program dedicated to a history of television, **POP TV – The Untold Story of the Small Screen**, will highlight, for better or for worse, the influence of television on our contemporary culture. The **Geneva Award** will be presented on November 12 to director **Luca Guadagnino** [*Call Me by Your Name*, *We Are Who We Are*]. The **Film & Beyond Award** goes to graphic novelist, screenwriter and director **Riad Sattouf** [*Les Cahiers d'Esther*, *Les Beaux Gosses*, *L'Arabe du Futur*] who will chat with the public during a masterclass and signing session [November 13]. The **Geneva Digital Market**, the Festival's now hybrid professional forum, will take place at Le Plaza from November 8 to 12, bringing together some 40 international speakers. The 27th Festival will open on November 5 with the world premiere of the performance *It's Alive: A Journey into Invisible Cinema* by **Stephan Eicher**. The winners will be announced on November 13 during the closing ceremony, followed by the Swiss premiere of *Full Time* [**Eric Gravel**, 2021].

INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

Narrative and formal diversity will compete for the **Reflet d'Or for Best Feature Film** [worth CHF 10,000, offered by the City and State of Geneva]. The section features a selection of ten works presenting the most radical visions of up-and-coming directors with a unique cinematographic language.

<i>Costa Brava, Lebanon</i> Mounia Akl, LB, FR, ES, SE, DK, NO, QA, 2021 Swiss premiere	<i>El Planeta</i> Amalia Ulman, US, 2021 Swiss premiere	<i>Ghost Song</i> Nicolas Peduzzi, FR, 2021 Swiss premiere
<i>I'm Fine [Thanks for asking]</i> Kelley Kali, Angelique Molina, US, 2021 International premiere	<i>Petrov's Flu</i> Kirill Serebrennikov, RU, FR, DE, CA, 2021 Swiss premiere	<i>Medusa</i> Anita Rocha da Silveira, BR, 2021 Swiss premiere
<i>Mighty Flash</i> Ainhoa Rodríguez, ES, 2021 Swiss premiere	<i>Poulet Frites</i> Jean Libon, Yves Hinant, FR, BE, 2021 Swiss premiere	<i>The Great Movement</i> Kiro Russo, BO, FR, QA, CH, GB, 2021 Swiss premiere
	<i>Théo and the Metamorphosis</i> Damien Odoul, FR, CH, 2021 Swiss premiere	

INTERNATIONAL SERIES COMPETITION

The only event in Switzerland to feature an international (**Reflet d'Or for Best Series**, worth CHF 10,000, offered by the City and State of Geneva) and European series competition (**European Script Award**, worth EUR 10,000 offered by the European Alliance for Television and Culture – EATC), this section gauges the pulse of the most dynamic audiovisual creation of the moment. This year, Europe is particularly well represented with its long-awaited productions.

<i>Blackport</i> G. O. Gardarsson, B. H. Haraldsson, N. D. Filippusdóttir, IS, 2021 Swiss premiere	<i>Blindspotting</i> Rafael Casal, Daveed Diggs, US, 2021 Swiss premiere	<i>Dreams of Alice</i> Evgeniy Nikishov, Valeriy Fedorovich, RU, 2021 Swiss premiere
<i>Hamlet</i> Kaan Müjdeci, TR, 2021 Swiss premiere	<i>Ink Against Bullets</i> Ezio Abbate, IT, 2021 Swiss premiere	<i>Me and the Others</i> David Schalko, AT, DE, 2021 Swiss premiere
<i>Psycho</i> Fedor Bondarchuk, RU, 2020 Swiss premiere	<i>Snow Angels</i> Mette Heeno, SE, 2021 Swiss premiere	<i>The Informant</i> Bálint Szentgyörgyi, HU, 2021 International premiere
	<i>The Last Socialist Artefact</i> Ankica Jurić Tilić, Dalibor Matanić, HR, SI, RS, FI, 2021 Swiss premiere	

INTERNATIONAL IMMERSIVE WORKS COMPETITION

This exceptional and multi-format selection explores the intersection between narrative and technology through installations and XR works. A pioneering program in Switzerland, the works compete for the **Reflet d'Or for Best Immersive Work** (worth CHF 10,000, offered by the City and State of Geneva).

<i>End of Night</i> David Adler, Mikkel Skov, DK, FR, 2021 Swiss premiere	<i>Glimpse</i> Benjamin Cleary, Michael O'Connor, GB, FR, IE, 2021 Swiss premiere	<i>Goliath - Playing With Reality</i> Barry Gene Murphy, May Abdalla, GB, FR, 2021 Swiss premiere
<i>The Passengers</i> Nicolas Peuffaillit, Ziad Touma, CA, FR, 2021 Swiss premiere	<i>Liminal Lands</i> Jakob Kudsk Steensen, FR, DK, US, 2021 Swiss premiere	<i>Marco & Polo Go Round</i> Benjamin Steiger Levine, CA, 2021 Swiss premiere
<i>Reeducated</i> Sam Wolson, US, KZ, 2021 Swiss premiere	<i>Sacred Hill</i> Ali Eslami, Klasien van de Zandschulp, Mamali Shafahi, NL, IR, 2020 International premiere	<i>Tearless</i> Gina Kim, KR, US, 2021 Swiss premiere

This year also features a rich non-competitive and convergent program: preview events in the **Highlights** section, experimental works in the **Pulsation** section, and the **Future Is Sensible** section, dedicated to social prospecting.

VIRTUAL TERRITORIES

GIFF continues its exploration of the digital avant-garde in the **Virtual Territories** section. The largest immersive installation park in Europe, this unique space in Switzerland highlights new technologies (virtual, augmented, and mixed reality) and offers a unique experience to the public through 40 new works. The Maison Communale de Plainpalais, the beating heart of the Festival's XR program, will be transformed during the Festival into a Digital House for all audiences through thematic axes and tours (Kids' corner, VR Museum, Red Corner for 18+ year-olds). The Virtual Territories will shine in the four corners of the City of Geneva thanks to a constellation of partners, including the **Comédie de Genève**, the **St-Gervais Theater**, the **Maison des Arts du Grütli**, **Les Salons** and the **Municipal Libraries**.

MAJOR EVENTS OF THE 27th FESTIVAL

As a privileged place that brings together the public and audiovisual creation, GIFF offers a series of key events and previews. The XR program will present numerous new releases, including the world premieres of the new iteration of the *Hors-Cadre* project dedicated to Paul Klee (**Martin Charrière**, 2021) and the Geneva-based collaborative adventure *The Legend of Kami* (**apelab**, 2021). This fall's flagship releases will have the Festival's movie theaters buzzing with three major HBO series: *Scenes from a Marriage* (**Hagai Levi**, 2021) and its explosive Isaac-Chastain duo, the stunning Danish production *Kamikaze* (**Johanne Algren**, 2021) and the ambitious Hungarian spy story *The Informant* (**Bálint Szentgyörgyi**, 2021). The cinema program will not be outdone with the international premiere of the long-awaited finale of the trilogy *The Mole Song: Undercover Agent Reiji - Final* (**Miike Takashi**, 2021), and a cascade of national previews including the challenging Israeli movie *Ahed's Knee* (**Nadav Lapid**, 2021), the overwhelming *Nobody Has to Know* (**Bouli Lanners & Tim Mielants**, 2021) and the virtual animation *Madrid Noir* (**James A. Castillo**, 2021).

HONORARY AWARDS AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Two honorary awards will be presented at the 27th Festival. The **Geneva Award**, which rewards an artist with an inspiring career, will go to Italian director **Luca Guadagnino** (*Call Me by Your Name*, *We Are Who We Are*) for his inclusive and stylish work. The **Film & Beyond Award**, which recognizes the work of a multidisciplinary artist, will be presented to graphic novelist artist, screenwriter and director **Riad Sattouf** (*Esther's Notebooks*, *The French Kissers*) during a masterclass and signing session. **Tales of Swiss Innovation**, a new section highlighting the career of a Swiss personality who has contributed to the advancement of the audiovisual industry, will focus on **Sabine Süsstrunk**, teacher at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), who will present a lecture on the abilities and limits of artificial intelligence. Many guests will come to present their projects and chat with the public, including director **Jean-Gabriel Périot** alongside the narrator of his film **Adèle Haenel** (*Return to Reims (Fragments)*), **Radu Jude** (*Bad Luck Banging or Loony Porn*), **Udo Kier** (*Swan Song*), **Jakob Kudsk Steensen** (*Liminal Lands*), **Vladimar Jóhannsson** (*Lamb*), **Shirin Neshat** (*Land of Dreams*), **Yves Hinant & Jean Libon** (*Poulet Frites*), **Eric Gravel** (*Full Time*) and many others... The complete guest list and schedule will be revealed soon!

GENEVA DIGITAL MARKET (NOVEMBER 8 - 12)

On the lookout for new technologies and innovation, the Geneva Digital Market (GDM) will take place in the heart of GIFF in the legendary Le Plaza. GDM will invite professionals to reflect on the future of the creative industries in the presence of agents of change: **Dr. Wolf Osthaus**, Director of Public Policy DACH at **Netflix** [DE], **Sarah Ellis** from the **Royal Shakespeare Company** [UK] or **Sander Saar**, Strategy and Growth Consultant at **Red Bull Media House** and **Moonbug**. A real talent booster, GDM will bring together Swiss and European creators through pitching and co-production platforms (**Swiss Interactive Sessions** and the **XR Coproduction Sessions**). In 2021 a selection of 25 digital projects will be launched.

SAVE THE DATE

November 5 | **Opening ceremony** followed by *It's Alive: A Journey into Invisible Cinema* by Stephan Eicher

November 8 | Launch of the **Geneva Digital Market** (until November 12)

November 10 | **Digital Night** and presentation of the **Future Is Sensible Award**

November 12 | Masterclass and presentation of the **Geneva Award** to Luca Guadagnino

November 13 | **Closing ceremony** and awards ceremony

Contact :

Bastien Bento / Press officer / presse@giff.ch / +41 22 809 69 26 / +41 79 934 34 63