

Press release
For immediate release

Geneva, October 12, 2023

29th GIFF & 11th GDM: Release of the 2023 program

The full program for the forthcoming edition of the Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF, November 3 – 12) has been released. Reflecting the creative vibrancy of the contemporary audiovisual industry, and changes in technology, GIFF is presenting a convergent program (films, series and immersive experiences) that is unique within Switzerland, formed of 110 works (53 films, 27 series, 28 immersive experiences and 2 installations) including 17 world, 7 international, 2 European and 64 Swiss premieres. The honorific awards, this year bestowed on Jean-Michel Jarre (Film & Beyond Award), the Kourtrajmé collective (Geneva Award by Edmond de Rothschild) and Marguerite Kudelski (Tales of Swiss Innovation), clearly demonstrate the Festival's desire to break down barriers and democratize the audiovisual industry. Its professional arm, the Geneva Digital Market (GDM, November 6 – 10), offers a high-caliber immersion into the issues and challenges facing the audiovisual sector, focusing mainly on the use of artificial intelligences, an analysis of new applications, and the issues surrounding feminism in digital creation.

INTERVIEW WITH ANAÏS EMERY, EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF GIFF

The 2023 edition is the third under your directorship. Is this a defining stage for the Festival?

Anaïs Emery: *This third edition has given me the opportunity to refine the role of GIFF and the GDM as places to reflect on and experiment with the potential of audiovisual media. This approach requires constant research and an ability to adapt easily to change. This latest edition of the GIFF offers content and encounters which illustrate the scope of contemporary audiovisual whilst showcasing important movements in Swiss cultural history. This program is very close to my heart. It took a great deal of work, research and viewings. For me, the 2023 edition also clearly sets out the key focus of GIFF and the direction of its future developments.*

[>> Read the rest of the interview in the presskit](#)

International feature film competition

A selection of twelve feature films that turn stylistic conventions upside down and pave the way for the cinema of tomorrow. The titles, all Swiss premieres, compete for the Reflet d'Or with a cash prize (donated by the City and State of Geneva) awarded by a Jury composed of the filmmaker **Stéphanie Chuat** and film students.

<i>Avant que les flammes ne s'éteignent</i> Mehdi Fikri 2023 FR 98' Swiss premiere	<i>Banel & Adama</i> Ramata-Toulaye Sy 2023 FR, SN, ML, QA 87' Swiss premiere	<i>Blaga's Lessons</i> Stephan Komandarev 2023 BG, DE 114' Swiss premiere
<i>Die Theorie von Allem</i> Timm Kröger 2023 AT, DE, CH 118' Swiss premiere	<i>Holly</i> Fien Troch 2023 BE, NL, LU, FR 102' Swiss premiere	<i>La Vénus d'Argent</i> Hélène Klotz 2023 FR 95' Swiss premiere
<i>Polite Society</i> Nida Manzoor 2022 GB 103' Swiss premiere	<i>Sidonie au Japon</i> Élise Girard 2023 FR, DE, CH, JP 94' Swiss premiere	<i>Snow Leopard</i> Pema Tsenden 2023 CN 109' Swiss premiere
<i>The Sweet East</i> Sean Price Williams 2023 US 104' Swiss premiere	<i>Upon Entry</i> Alejandro Rojas, Juan Sebas- tián Vásquez 2023 ES 74' Swiss premiere	<i>Vampire humaniste cherche suicidaire consentant</i> Ariane Louis-Seize 2023 CA 88' Swiss premiere

International series competition

The competition showcases, through ten series, the innovative potential of the most popular and dynamic format in contemporary audiovisual culture. The GIFF innovates by offering a new and exclusive presentation format. All Swiss premieres, the series are made accessible in their entirety, thanks to an exclusive hybrid presentation format. The first episodes are presented in theaters, while the rest of the series is provided through personalized viewing links. An inclusive Jury composed exclusively of three festival-goers will award the best series with the Reflet d'Or, accompanied by a cash prize (offered by the City and State of Geneva).

<i>Agent</i> Nikolaj Lie Kaas 2023 DK 8 x 40' Swiss premiere	<i>À propos d'Antoine</i> Cathleen Rouleau 2023 CA 10 x 23' Swiss premiere	<i>Boat Story</i> Harry Williams, Jack Williams 2023 GB 6 x 60' Swiss premiere
<i>Chanshi</i> Aleeza Chanowitz 2022 IL 10 x 30' Swiss premiere	<i>In Our Blood</i> Adriano Cappelletta 2023 AU 4 x 46' International premiere	<i>Poemas Malditos</i> Juan Ignacio Sabatini 2023 CL 4 x 30' Swiss premiere
<i>Prisoner</i> Kim Fupz Aakeson, Frederik Louis Hviid, Michael Noer 2023 DK 6 x 58' Swiss premiere	<i>Teenage Kiss: The Future is dead</i> Peppe Siffredi, Mariana Youssef 2023 BR 8 x 30' International premiere	<i>The Actor</i> Nima Javidi 2023 IR 8 x 52' Swiss premiere
	<i>The Club</i> Zita Theunynck, Leander Verdiesel 2023 BE 8 x 35' Swiss premiere	

International Immersive Experiences Competition

Pioneer in the field of digital arts, the GIFF offers since 2016 an International Immersive Experience Competition. An exceptional selection of immersive experiences in Virtual Reality (VR) that explores the rich connections between narrative and technology. Presented as national or international premieres, ten experiences compete for the Reflet d'Or, accompanied by a cash prize (donated by the City and State of Geneva) awarded by a Jury of international experts: **Gaëlle Mourre** (writer, director, FR), **Jay Kim** (XR curator, Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival, KR), **Alexandra Gérard** (Managing Director, Stereopsia, BE).

<i>Bloom</i> Fabienne Giezendanner, Igor Carteret 2023 CH, FR 15' VR International premiere	<i>Draw for Change: existimos, resistimos</i> Mariana Cadenas 2023 BE 15' VR Swiss premiere	<i>Eternal Walkers</i> Hayoun Kwon 2023 FR, KR 15' VR International premiere
<i>Finally Me</i> Marcio Sal 2023 BR 17' VR Swiss premiere	<i>Flow</i> Adriaan Lokman 2023 NL, FR 16' VR Swiss premiere	<i>In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats</i> Darren Emerson 2022 GB 60' VR Swiss premiere
<i>Murals</i> Artem Ivanenko, Dan Shapiro, Alex Topaller 2023 UA, PL, US 9' VR World premiere	<i>Remember This Place: 31°20'46"N 34°46'46"E</i> Patricia Echeverria Liras 2023 PS, QA, ES 25' VR Swiss premiere	<i>Sen</i> Keisuke Itoh 2023 JP 15' VR Swiss premiere
	<i>Shadowtime</i> Sister Sylvester, Deniz Tortum 2023 NL, US, TR 18' VR Swiss premiere	

Convergent competition: Future is Sensible

A convergent competitive section dedicated to social, ecological, and technological foresight, featuring series, films and immersive experiences that question ethical choices and their impact on the future. The Future Is Sensible Award, endowed with a cash prize in association with the Migros Culture Percentage, is given by a Jury of three international personalities active in the audiovisual field and creative industries – **Nora Khan** (author, curator, US), **Giovanna Fossati** (professor, Amsterdam University, NL), **Keith Stuart** (journalist, Guardian, GB) – to a production that stands out for its humanism and ethical dimension, among a dozen international projects.

<i>Apagón</i> Rodrigo Sorogoyen 2022 ES 5 x 50' Swiss premiere	<i>Gentium Consensus</i> Karen Palmer 2023 GB 22' AR Swiss premiere	<i>Deep Fake Neighbour Wars</i> Spencer Jones 2022 GB 133' 6 x 22' Swiss premiere
<i>Embryo Larva Butterfly</i> Kyros Papavassiliou 2023 CY, GR 91' Swiss premiere	<i>Kabaret</i> Gina Thorstensen 2023 NO 17' VR Swiss premiere	<i>La Bête</i> Bertrand Bonello 2023 FR, CA 145' Swiss premiere
<i>Te l'avevo detto / I Told You So</i> Ginevra Elkann 2023 IT 100' Swiss premiere	<i>The Architect</i> Kristian Kilde, Nora Landsrød, Kerren Lumerklabbers 2023 NO 4 x 20' Swiss premiere	<i>Them. Us. Me.</i> Laurent Rime, Léo Thiémarc 2023 CH 20' AR World premiere
	<i>Tulpamancer</i> Marc Da Costa, Matthew Niederhauser 2023 US 30' Installation Swiss premiere	

Three inclusive and vibrant honorific awards

GIFF will honor visions and talents which are striving for an innovative, diverse and inclusive future for audiovisual production. For the first time in its history, the **Geneva Award by Edmond de Rothschild** will celebrate a collective, **Kourtrajmé**, in recognition of this group of artists' exceptional contribution both to the arts and to education through their school ([more info](#)). The **Film & Beyond Award** will go to the icon of electronic music **Jean-Michel Jarre** on the occasion of the international premiere of his latest immersive experience, co-created with the Taiwanese artist Hsin-Chien Huang ([more info](#)). Lastly, **Tales of Swiss Innovation** will pay tribute to the iconic Swiss invention, the Nagra, in the presence of **Marguerite Kudelski** who will take us back to the golden age of this recorder which revolutionized the capture of sound for radio and cinema (see below).

A first series of unmissable guests

Around hundred prestigious guests will be joining us, such as **Matteo Garrone** (*lo Capitano*) accompanied by his two leads **Seydou Sarr** (Best Newcomer at Venice 2023) and **Moustapha Fall, Sofie Gråbøl** (*Prisoner*), **Ladj Ly** alongside his colleagues from the Kourtrajmé collective **Kim Chapiron, Romain Gavras, Toumani Sangaré, Nabil Zerfa** and **Yassine Lassar Ramdani** (Geneva Award by Edmond de Rothschild), **Arnaud des Pallières** (*Captives*), **Ramata-Toulaye Sy** (*Banel & Adama*), **Mehdi Fikri** (*Avant que les flammes ne s'éteignent*), **Delphine Lehericoy** joined by **Pitch Comment** and **Camille Rebetez** (*Les indociles*), **Elise Girard** (*Sidonie au Japon*), **Fabienne Giezendanner** (*Bloom*), **David Constantin** (*Tschugger*), **Iris Brey** (*Split*), **Darren Emerson** (*In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats*) and the livestreamers **FibreTigre** and **SerialThinker**. An exhaustive list will be announced closer to the time.

Tales of Swiss Innovation: Switzerland, Sound and the Nagra by Marguerite Kudelski

After the OIL Productions collective and the EPFL researcher, Sabine Süssstrunk, this year, GIFF celebrates the Swiss company Kudelski and its enduring presence within the global audiovisual industry, in particular its iconic invention the **Nagra**, a family of magnetic tape sound recorders. Introduced to the market in 1951 by Stéphane Kudelski, these devices revolutionized sound recording for film, television, radio and elsewhere, thanks to their portability and efficiency – not only technically and

GIFF 29th GENEVA
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
3-12.11.2023

GDM 11th GENEVA
DIGITAL
MARKET
6-10.11.2023

practically, but also artistically. **Marguerite Kudelski**, Stefan's daughter and currently a member of Kudelski-Nagra's Board of Directors, will be present at GIFF to explore the history of Nagra in a Masterclass discussion with researchers from the University of Lausanne.

Series to binge at home

Since 2022, GIFF has been giving the public the opportunity to watch selected series in the competitive sections, and for some exclusive previews, directly from their homes! After the first episodes are shown on the big screen, viewers will receive a link which will enable them to access the entire season via the Festival's streaming platform. This innovative offer provides access to complete series from across the globe.

Geneva Digital Market

A unique event dedicated to Swiss audiovisual innovation, the Geneva Digital Market (GDM) returns on November 6 – 10. This 11th edition features a cycle of conferences shining a much-needed spotlight on the current issues facing audiovisual creation and a market of digital works from across Europe, bringing together more than 350 professionals from the creative industries in this hybrid platform. The meetings and discussions will be broadcast on Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS). [The full program for the GDM is now online!](#)

Downloads

[Presskit](#)

[Press area](#)

[Accreditations](#)

[Images](#)

SAVE THE DATE

From September 1 | [Apply for accreditation](#)

November 3 – 12 | 29th Geneva International Film Festival

November 6 – 10 | 11th Geneva Digital Market

November 8 | Digital Night

Contact

Bastien Bento | Head of press | bastien.bento@giff.ch | +41 22 809 69 26 | +41 79 934 34 63

Léa Eigenmann | Press officer | presse@giff.ch | +41 22 809 69 26 | +41 79 787 53 40
