



Press release
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24th GIFF kicks off with Swiss premiere of *Knife + Heart*

The 24th GIFF will open its doors tonight with the Swiss premiere of *Knife + Heart* in the presence of the filmmaker Yann Gonzalez and actors Kate Moran and Nicolas Maury. Together with association 360° this opening night marks the filmmaker's return to GIFF with a Swiss coproduction that features a dizzying plunge into the shady Parisian gay porn scene of the 1970s. The festival heralds a bold program with many screenings already sold out and an increase in advance bookings reaching 100%. From today until 10 November, GIFF will provide its audiences with the opportunity to discover 164 movies, series and digital works, including 8 world premieres, 10 international premieres, 7 European premieres and 75 Swiss premieres.

Faithful to its crossdisciplinarity approach, GIFF will once again provide a major forum for audiovisual arts in all their forms. Over 9 days GIFF will continue to surprise, while remaining true to its origins, with an explosive program that includes new series produced by Benedict Cumberbatch and J.J. Abrams, the latest movies of Carlos Reygadas, Catherine Corsini, Kim Ki-duk and Jacob Berger and groundbreaking digital projects of the likes of the immersive theater play *24/7*. Over the duration of the Festival, no fewer than 200 guests will introduce their work, meet with audiences and discuss issues relating to the audiovisual industry. Among them, Stephen Frears, Kenneth Lonergan, Souleymane Cissé, Eva Husson and Peter Greenaway, who will receive GIFF's honorific prize, the Film & Beyond Award.

Once again GIFF will strengthen its trend-setting role in terms of digital curation by welcoming the 50 trendiest digital creators, producers and curators of the moment. Among the 35 virtual reality works and special projects on show this year, let us mention an immersive flight with the wings of a pterodactyl in *Jurassic Flight*, a visit in an entirely virtual museum with the VR Museum's collection of works, a brain-controlled movie *The MOMENT* and an immersive journalistic experience created by war reporter Karim Ben Khelifa with *The Enemy*. Moreover, a host of industry stakeholders, including representatives of Nike and Chanel, will come to discover the up-and-coming talent on the European digital scene during the Geneva Digital Market.

With a focus on series, the Festival returns with its now cult *Serial Day & Night* program, a TV marathon which takes place over the first week-end of the Festival with no fewer than 25 original TV pilots to be discovered. Let us not forget GIFF's cinema section which will feature many gems such as *Her Smell* by Alex Ross Perry starring Elisabeth Moss, *Your Face* by Tsai Ming-liang, *Ash is Purest White* by Jia Zhang-ke, *Monrovia, Indiana* by Frederick Wiseman, *Dovlatov* by Alexey German Jr., Mamoru Hosoda's manga *Mirai*, *Widows* by Steve McQueen and Naomi Kawase's latest work *Vision*, which will end this year's event.

With 5 world premieres and 8 Swiss premieres, GIFF also shows its support to Switzerland's audiovisual industry by offering an overview of the country's best productions. A Kids' Day on Sunday, 5 Nuits Blanches events, a GIFF Movie Truck, an original stand-up show starring Yann Marguet and Marina Rollman, a food court and an exhibition will further supplement the program of the 24th GIFF.

As every year since its inception in 1995, GIFF will continue to fulfil its role as an observatory of new audiovisual trends and a festive and iconoclastic event in the heart of Geneva.