

Press release

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For immediate distribution

A new label, a new competitive category, a selection from Cannes' Acid programme... the Luxembourg City Film Festival will not just be the return of an in-person festival with its 12th edition (March 3rd to 13th, 2022), it will also offer a series of innovations and is preparing to welcome a multitude of renowned guests. For now, discover its Young Audiences programme.*

**The general program will be presented on February 7th, 2022.*

New Award, new Label, new Collaboration... the 2022 innovations.

The Luxembourg City Film Festival is proud to announce a partnership with Cannes' ACID programme. The Association for the Distribution of Independent Cinema (ACID) is a group of filmmakers defending independent cinema. In order to offer visibility to young talents, ACID has existed since 1993 at the Cannes Film Festival with its own selection of 9 films. The Luxfilmfest has chosen three films from its catalog, including AYA (Simon Coulibaly Gillard, BE/FR), which will be screened at neimënster (see artistic collaborations).

For the 2022 edition, the Festival's endowment will be increased thanks to the **2030 Award by Luxembourg Aid & Development**, a new award proposed by the Luxembourg Cooperation. It will reward a film from a transversal selection, across multiple categories: Young Audiences, artistic collaborations, competitions, official selection non-competition and Made in/with Luxembourg. The jury will award a prize of 7,500 euros. The April LuxFilmLab will showcase the winning film.

The 12th edition of the Luxfilmfest will also see a reform in its categories in order to improve the readability of a selection which, over the years, has never ceased to grow. As part of a fundamental movement led by many festivals, a **new label, "OUT OF THE BOX"** will be introduced starting in 2022. This label will designate films that are innovative in content or form.

"Hitchcock. The Brand," Ratskeller, Cercle Cité and artistic collaborations.

In 2022, the Cercle Cité will present "Hitchcock. The Brand", an exhibition which will unveil the private collection of Paul Lesch, Director of the Centre National d'Audiovisuel (CAN), film historian, and great enthusiast of Alfred Hitchcock's universe.

Although Hitchcock still remains an essential reference today, not only among filmgoers but also with the general public, this is due not only to his films but also to a powerful and coherent public image, a sort of "Hitchcock brand", that he himself created and cultivated throughout his career. Hitchcock always had a keen sense of self-promotion. As early as the 1920s and 1930s, he succeeded in making a name for himself, first among film professionals and then among viewers who were, at the time, more interested in film stars than in directors. He

fashioned his own image and quickly became an easily recognizable icon, even a veritable label, with a profound effect on the minds of several generations of filmgoers and television audiences. For a long time, Hitchcock was one of the very rare filmmakers of his time whose name alone could attract the public into cinemas. Discover the exhibition from February 11th to April 10th, 2022 organized by the Cercle Cité, in partnership with the Luxembourg City Film Festival.

Artistic Collaborations

Although the complete general programme will be revealed on February 7th, the first highlights of the 2022 "Artistic Collaborations" category have already been decided. The Festival is partnering with several cultural institutions and associations at the national level to promote films and events related to current social issues.

The first event of this category is a double artistic collaboration with neimënster and ACID (Association for the Distribution of Independent Cinema): the film AYA by Simon Coulibaly Gillard. Aya leads a happy and carefree life on the island of Lahou in Ivory Coast where she grew up with her mother. But her paradise is threatened by the waters that surround it. Aya has only two choices: stay and help her island, or flee and see it disappear.

In this same category, the Festival has selected a feature film made up of seven shorts directed by seven different female directors from Finland. FORCE OF HABIT highlights everyday discriminations that women are confronted with. This feature is an artistic collaboration between CID Fraen an Gender and will be followed by a debate on the themes of discrimination, patriarchy and the female experience, in the presence of two of the film's directors.

Follow the LuxFilmFest's social media channels and website for further announcements throughout the month of January.

A unique festival experience for young audiences

A pioneer in the field of audiovisual education in Luxembourg thanks to *MON PREMIER CINÉMA* (My First Cinema) sessions, the Festival will once again offer children ages 3 and up short animation programmes for toddlers: CLOUDY and PINGU, crazy adventures taking place in snowy and icy landscapes...!

Children from 4 years and up will be able to uncover the hidden wonders in nature with JARDINS ENCHANTÉS (short film programme). Insects and birds will embark children on a journey into an unsuspected world.

For ages 5 and up, children will once again meet the *Chouette du Cinéma*, this time with the programme *GRANDIR, C'EST CHOUETTE !* which encourages little ones to confront their fears and assert themselves. They will then encounter a magical doll in the animation film RAGGIE by Meelis Arulepp et Karsten Kiilerich.

The iconic CRAZY CINÉMATOGAPHE FOR KIDS installation (for 5 to 8-year-olds) will pitch its tent once again in the courtyard of the Capucins Theatre, embarking little festival-goers on a journey through time with a programme dedicated to color's first appearance in film.

Starting at age 6, children will meet moving and atypical characters in the short-film programme LA PRINCESSE AUX GRANDES JAMBES, that puts forth our differences. The animation shorts THE APE STAR (of the original title, *MA MÈRE EST UN GORILLE (ET ALORS ?)*) by Linda Hambäck, *MAMAN PLEUT DES CORDES* by Hugo De Faucompret followed by VANILLE in the presence of the director Guillaume Lorin will teach children about self-acceptance and family histories and values, from the experience of two young girls with strong personalities!

Insects are put in the spotlight like never before in the highly original BUTTERFLYMANIA, a docu-drama by Irina Fontaine loosely based on Hans Christian Andersen's Ugly Duckling where a little caterpillar dreams of becoming a butterfly (for ages 7 and up).

It runs in the family, or so they say! - We'll meet Nelly's completely nutty family whose occupation is to hunt monsters in NELLY RAPP: MONSTER AGENT directed by Amanda Adolfsen, a Swedish fantasy comedy that will delight thrill-seeking children aged 10 and up. Another superbly instructive documentary will complete the picture: A BEE'S DIARY by the German filmmaker Dennis Wells will plunge us into the astonishing complexity of the life of bees. We will also travel to the stars, with the beautiful fiction films MOONBOUND by Ali Samadi Ahadi and LAURAS STERN by Joya Thome, both adapted from the famous books of the same name in children's literature.

For ages 12 and up

Young teenagers will discover stories that explore our world's contemporary issues designed for and adapted to a young public. Director Florence Mialhe, who will be present at the screenings, will address the theme of migration in the superb animated film THE CROSSING, which follows characters on the run through an imaginary Europe. In the documentary SHADOW GAME by Eeje Blankevoort and Els Van Driel, who will also be present at the Festival, we will follow the journey of young unaccompanied minors facing the difficulties and disillusionment of their arrival in a continent they had imagined welcoming. Exile and its problems will again be addressed in the film ANY DAY NOW directed by Hamy Ramezan, which received critical acclaim at the last edition of the Berlinale festival and illustrates the daily life of a young Iranian immigrant boy living in Finland with his family.

After exile, war is another theme many young people around the world must still face. It is the focus of director Molly Stuart's documentary OBJECTOR, in which a young Israeli girl, Atalya, takes a stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and opts for justice. This idea of justice is also at the heart of the film FORCE OF HABIT written by seven Finnish directors, who expose the discrimination that women face on a daily basis in order to better condemn it. Two of the directors will be present to frame the film.

The Festival is also proud to welcome the highly acclaimed filmmaker Ari Folman this year, with his latest animated film co-produced in Luxembourg by Samsa Film: WHERE IS ANNE

FRANK, in Luxembourgish with English subtitles, which revisits the story of the young girl who forever marked history by adding a supernatural touch. The extraordinary, or rather magic, will also be explored in the film RASPBERRIES WITH MUSTARD, directed by Ruth Olsan (Luxembourg co-production Amour Fou Luxembourg) in which Meerei, 13 years old, discovers that she has a new way of getting around: she can fly! In NIGHT FOREST (NACHTWALD), by Andre Hörmann & Katrin Milhahn, the main character, Paul, will also experience the magic of nature with his best friend in this beautiful first film with Luxembourgish actor, Marc Limpach.

The quest for identity, the malaise in today's society and the aberrations it can generate will be brought forward in NOTHING MORE PERFECT (in the presence of German director Teresa Hoerl and producer Markus Mayr) and in the very surprising YOU RESEMBLE ME by Dina Amer. Suicide alert on social networks for one, a fundamentalist transformation for the other make for two sadly contemporary feminine itineraries.

An introduction to film professions through workshops and activities for young audiences

The initiation to film analysis and careers in the audiovisual sector is done not only through the Festival's selection of films, but also through the organization of workshops and interactive activities. Like every year, the Luxembourg audiovisual and animation scene as well as various cultural institutions are involved in these educational projects and activities by accompanying a variety of workshops.

Jurys

The Festival encourages children and teenagers' participation of all ages through juries: first, a CHILDREN'S JURY which will award the CHILDREN'S JURY PRIZE (films in the 5-8-year-olds range); a SCHOOL JURY (class of 12-15-year-olds) which will award the SCHOOL JURY PRIZE; A YOUTH JURY, reserved for those 16 and up, who will deliberate on a selection of films from the Festival, divided into different categories for the YOUTH JURY PRIZE BY KINEPOLIS.

Other opportunities for our young audiences to fully experience the Festival is to take part in the YOUNG FILM CRITICS or join the VIDEO REPORTERS, who will professionally accompany the Luxembourg City Film Festival.

Activities

The Casino Luxembourg - Forum d'art contemporain will once again host the Festival's Headquarters and will organize the *Court-Toit* workshop, a small travelling cinema developed by Les Courtisans, where children will discover a selection of short films from around the world on the themes of science fiction, artificial intelligence and the history of (from 3 years old). Still at the HQ, the *Switch the Screen* workshop will introduce children to the green screen tool with a session for children ages 3 and up, and another for ages 6 and up. The *Fake News!* workshop will take kids on a hunt for fake news in a playful way (starting at 6 years old). The Courtisans will also organize the workshop *MONTE L'AVENIR* where

participants will learn about the practice of found footage, which consists in creating their own story from pre-existing videos.

The animation studio *Fabrique d'Images* will host the PERCY'S TIGER TALES workshop at the Casino, where participants will discover Percy and his friends' new adventures through an interactive game (for ages 5 and up).

The workshop *DRESSCODE: GREEN SCREEN* organized by the MUDAM in the context of the exhibition *Mirror, Mirror: Cultural Reflections in Fashion* will introduce participants to the fascinating world of fashion and the secrets of cinematographic illusion using a green screen. Two workshops will be offered: one for children ages 6 years and up and another for older children, ages 13 and up.

The animation studio Doghouse Films will offer a creative workshop around the film *LES CONTES DU HÉRISSEON* by Alain Gagnol and Jean-Loup Felicioli, which will reveal the secrets behind the conception of an animated film, for ages 7 and up. In addition, Doghouse Films, in partnership with the French Institute of Luxembourg, will offer a masterclass in the form of a Q&A session for children ages 14 and up. The director, Pierre Földes, will present the different stages of his work on Haruki Murakami's collection of short stories, *SAULES AVEUGLES, FEMMES ENDORMIE*.

The Luxembourg animation studio Zeilt Productions will take participants behind-the-scenes of the production of an animated film during a masterclass based on the film *The Ogre* by director Aurélien Pira, currently in production. Another masterclass organized by the production company Samsa Film, will focus on the transmedia project *A COLONIA LUXEMBURGUESA* (by Dominique Santana) which mixes historical research, cinema and new media.

In this 12th edition, film critic Boyd Van Hoeij ("The Film Verdict") will once again lead a workshop dedicated to film analysis and critique with a study of a classic mainstream comedy. He will also lead two other workshops for school audiences that will focus on image deciphering. The first will provide students with the tools to critically analyze images, and the second will introduce them to film criticism.

The *Centre national de l'audiovisuel* (CNA) and the Festival, with the support of Orange Luxembourg, will once again join forces with the Service National de la Jeunesse (National Youth Service) for the traditional CRÈME FRAÎCHE screenplay and clip competition.

Finally, two important professional events to not miss: MEET THE PROS, an opportunity to meet and exchange with professionals of the audiovisual and film industries, organized by the BTS Cinéma et Audiovisuel in collaboration with the CNA and the Film Fund Luxembourg (Saturday, March 5, 11am, HQ) as well as an entire afternoon dedicated to *LES RENCONTRES DE L'ANIMATION* which will focus on the different careers in animation in Luxembourg (Sunday, March 13, 3:30pm, HQ).

Sponsors

The Ministry of Culture and the City of Luxembourg are the major institutional sponsors of the event, alongside the main private supporter of the festival, the KINEPOLIS group.

The institutional partners of the Young Audience 2022 programme are the Œuvre Nationale de Secours Grande-Duchesse Charlotte and the film industry, primarily the Film Fund Luxembourg. The Ministry of Education, Children and Youth through the Service de Coordination de la Recherche et de l'Innovation pédagogiques et technologiques (SCRIPT) also supports the Festival's school screenings.

The Cinémathèque of the City of Luxembourg and the Centre national de l'audiovisuel (CNA) as well as the Casino Luxembourg - Forum d'art contemporain (HQ of the Festival) also take part in the elaboration of this twelfth edition.

The Festival is also proud to renew its partnerships with its official sponsors, ORANGE Luxembourg and BGL BNP PARIBAS. It also welcomes for the first time LUXEMBOURG AID & DEVELOPMENT with the organization of the 2030 Award by Luxembourg Aid & Development.

Finally, the Festival is delighted to continue to be able to count on the support of its historical partners: ARNOLD KONTZ GROUP, the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, the CERCLE CITÉ and ESPERA PRODUCTIONS.

*Individual tickets for public screenings of the Young Audiences programme as well as the Festival PASS will be on sale starting **February 8, 2022** on www.luxfilmfest.lu.*

*We invite you to meet us on **Monday, February 7, 2022 at 11am** at the Cinémathèque of the city of Luxembourg to discover our full programme (International and documentary competitions, official and Luxembourg selections, guests...). Until then, stay connected via our official website (www.luxfilmfest.lu) and our social networks.*

The Young Audiences programme, subject to change, is available on our official website: www.luxfilmfest.lu.

Photos of the films are available in the press section of the official website: www.luxfilmfest.lu/fr/presse. For any information or interview request: press@luxfilmfest.lu, T +352 28 22 93.