

**Press release**

Luxembourg, January 12, 2023

**For immediate distribution**

*The Luxembourg City Film Festival continues to engage with audiences and filmmakers as part of its growth in 2023. From 2 to 12 March, the 13th edition of the festival will present a committed and attractive programme.*

*Selected from several thousand festivals worldwide as one of the "25 coolest film festivals in the world" by the prestigious American magazine *Moviemakers*, LuxFilmFest is preparing to welcome distinguished guests in 2023.*

*The launch of new, coherent labels (*Late Night Bizarre* by Kinopolis, *Festival Pops*, etc.) and the introduction of a new *FIPRESCI Prize*, was at the heart of the design of the festival's new website.*

*With all that to look forward to, we can now unveil the *Young Audiences programme*. The general programme will be presented on February 9<sup>th</sup> 2023.*

**International attractiveness, new labels, new awards... the innovations of 2023.**

In line with a dynamic adopted by many festivals, LuxFilmFest continues to modify the labelling of categories in order to clarify its programme selection that, over the years, has continued to grow. The selection committee has regularly picked genre films for the programme, so it is high time they were given a dedicated label. 5 films featuring elements of horror, fiction and fantasy will be screened in a series entitled **LATE NIGHT BIZARRE by KINEPOLIS**. At the same time, the Festival will present its **FESTIVAL POPS** series, which will feature films often referred to as "Hollywood Art House", comedies and premieres with exceptional casts. Initiated last year, the **OUT OF THE BOX** label will again include films that are innovative in terms of content or style.

The 2023 edition of LuxFilmFest will be marked by a new prize, the **FIPRESCI PRIZE of the International Federation of the Film Press**. It will succeed our Critics' Prize. Benefiting from international recognition, the new prize allows the festival to enter the small circle of events welcoming these professionals from all over the world, in partnership with the Luxembourg branch of the Federation: the Association luxembourgeoise de la Presse Cinématographique (ALPC).

The 2023 edition is pleased to welcome back its **2030 Award by Luxembourg Aid & Development, a new prize proposed by the Luxembourg Cooperation in 2022**. It will reward a film from a cross-sectional selection, made up of the categories Young Audiences, Artistic Collaborations, Competitions, Official Selection Out of Competition and Made in/with Luxembourg.

**"Small Stories by David Lynch" Ratskeller, Cercle Cité**

In 2023, the Cercle Cité will present "**Small Stories by David Lynch**", an exhibition which will unveil a part of David Lynch's lesser-known work, consisting of fifty-five black and white photographs. These little stories are exhibited at Cercle Cité's Ratskeller in a scenery of flickering light, sound and red curtains that immerses the visitor in Lynch's fantastic world. Accompanying the photographs are weekly screenings of early short films by David Lynch. While being an acclaimed filmmaker, David Lynch always considered himself a painter. Working with a variety of media over the course of his career, such as drawing, painting, sculpture, lithography or even music and design, his rich and unique art work is less known to audiences than his filmic.

Discover the exhibition from February 10th to April 16th 2023, 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 9<sup>th</sup>, the first highlights of the 2023 **Official Selection – Out of Competition** 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 artistic collaboration is with *neimënster*: the film **WE, STUDENTS!** (Nous, Étudiants !) by Rafiki Fariala. Rafiki shows us what students' lives are like in the Central African Republic, a shattered society where young people keep dreaming of a brighter future for their country.

In the same category, in collaboration with *Fashion Revolution Luxembourg*, the Festival has selected the documentary **FASHION REIMAGINED** by Becky Hutner. A portrait of fashion designer Amy Powney and her fight to transform the global garment industry, to make it more sustainable while also educating the public to show greater appreciation for clothes. The documentary **THE FORESTMAKER (DER WALDMACHER)** by Volker Schlöndorff will be screened in collaboration with *L'Institut Pierre Werner*. A portrait of Tony Rinaudo, whose Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) method allows trees to grow in the most barren areas.

Lastly, **LADYBITCH** by Marina Prados and Paula Knüpling will be screened in collaboration with *CID-Fraen & Gender*. This mockumentary/drama tells the story of an inexperienced actress who lands her first leading role in an important director's theatre production. The pressure to perform is huge, and the situation comes to a head when she is sexually harassed by the director. The film is based on the personal experiences of the directors.

### **A unique festival experience for young audiences**

Children from 3 years and up will be able to watch six melodious short films about sharing and overcoming obstacles with **DEM FRANZY SENG ZOPP**. In addition, **KIWI & STRIT** by Esben Toft Jacobsen is a charming and colourful animation with a touch of Scandinavian fantasy for kids.

Children from 4 years and up will have the opportunity to see a gem of tenderness and poetry in the form of **POMPON OURS, PETITES BALADES ET GRANDES AVENTURES** by Matthieu Gaillard, as the little bear recounts the joys and questions of childhood.

10 years after the first part, children aged 5 and over will get to meet Ernest and Célestine on screen. This time, as a Luxemburgish version **ERNEST AN D'CELESTINE – D'REES A BABELONIEN** by Jean-Christophe Roger and Julien Chheng (a coproduction with Mélusine productions). They will also encounter a land of imagination and poetry with the programme **GROSSE COLÈRE ET FANTAISIES**.

The iconic **CRAZY CINÉMATOGAPHE FOR KIDS** installation (for 5 to 8-year-olds) will once again pitch its tent in the courtyard of the Capucins Theatre, taking little festival-goers on a journey through time. With its special screening "**Crazy Bicyclette**", this year's programme is dedicated to the bicycle, riding through incredible animated films, special effects and chases. A unique opportunity to get to know the concept of a silent movie, accompanied by a narrator and a pianist.

Starting at age 6, children will discover Joan Miró's paintings with **MIRONINS** by Mikel Mas Bilbao and Txesco Montalt.

For ages 7 and up, a film full of hope and bravery will be presented, illustrating the heartbreaking journey of a little Syrian girl, driven out of her country by war: **DOUNIA AND THE PRINCESS OF ALEP** by Marya Zarif and André Kadi. Animated film **AVENTURË VUN ENGEM JONKE MOOMIN** by Ira Carpelan, will allow children not only see a charming and colourful animation with a touch of Scandinavian fantasy, but they will also have the opportunity to watch the film in a Luxembourgish dubbed version.

For children aged 8 and over, **GESCHICHTEN VOM FRANZ** by Johannes Schmid shows a beautiful story about friendship and also gives a critique on gender stereotypes . Mascha Halberstad's first animated film **OINK** offers a funny and touching story about vegetarianism. A programme including two short films, **MOULES-FRITES** by Nicolas Hu and **LA VIE DE CHÂTEAU** by Clémence Madeleine-Perdrillat and Nathaniel H'Limi will be offered to those aged 8 and over. Two directors will be present to present the films in which young girls try to find their place in their completely new environment after a move for family reasons.

For ages 10 and up, a hypnotic and sensitive tale of parenthood and letting go awaits with Nuno Beato's animated film **LES DÉMONS D'ARGILE**. Director Sander Burger, who will also be present at the screenings, will address the theme of migration and the big dreams of childhood in his film **TOTEM**. This Luxembourg co-production (Tarantula Luxembourg) follows Ama, the daughter of Senegalese asylum seekers, through the streets of Rotterdam in search of her father, where her totem animal, a huge porcupine, is revealed.

### **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.

They will discover the story of the Ughettos, an Italian family who cross the Alps to start a new life in France, with the award-winning Best European Animated Feature Film 2022 **NO DOGS OR ITALIANS ALLOWED (INTERDIT AUX CHIENS ET AUX ITALIENS)** by Alain Ughetto. In the Thriller **THE SLEEPING BEAST** by Jaak Kilmi, we will follow Kristjan and his best friends in an abandoned old factory.

The documentary **GIRL GANG** by Susanne Regina Meures depicts a young influencer that shows the dark side of this business in her personal way (ages 14 and up). For a young audience aged 14 and up, the German drama **NICO** by Eline Gehring tells the story of a German-Persian woman traumatised by a xenophobic attack who tries to regain her self-confidence with the help of a karate world champion. The director aimed to present a less stereotypical diversity in terms of origin, body and sexuality.

Ages 16 and up can discover a hard-hitting film about body acceptance with the drama **PAULA** by Florencia Wehbe. By immersing herself in the everyday life of a young girl with a weight complex in an almost documentary way, the director shows the harsh reality of social relevance. The Festival is also proud to welcome directors Olivia Rochette and Gerard-Jan Claes, who will present their film **KIND HEARTS**, a candid portrait of the formative but also uncertain facets of every (first) love.

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

Education in the visual arts takes place not only through the films in the selection, but also through the organisation of workshops, information sessions, training and participatory projects. As every year, the Luxembourg audiovisual and animation community as well as various cultural institutions are involved in these educational and interactive activities by accompanying numerous workshops. Note: some innovations in 2023 (Virtual Reality, LuxFilmFest Campus).

#### **Innovations for young audiences in 2023**

For the first time since its creation, the Virtual Reality Pavilion organised by the Film Fund Luxembourg in neimënster is offering a school programme dedicated to young people aged 13 and over. **ETERNAL NOTRE DAME**, allows children to immerse themselves in the history of the Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral, from its construction in the Middle Ages to the current restoration work. An Orange production. With **A COLÔNIA LUXEMBURGUESA**, the Virtual Reality Pavilion shows a transmedia documentary which unveils a century of steel industry-based migration between Luxembourg and Brazil. A Samsa Film production in coproduction with C<sup>2</sup>DH-Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History and CNA – Centre national de l'audiovisuel.

LuxFilmFest is pleased to present its first **LUXFILMFEST CAMPUS**. This is the professionalisation weekend for all students interested in real-life filmmaking or 2D/3D animation. On the 4th and 5th of March 2023, they will enjoy a full programme of networking and previews of films, completed by meetings with the film crews.

#### **Green screen, stop motion, 3D, sound effects, image decoding, film analysis: a whole programme in 2023!**

The Casino Luxembourg - Forum d'art contemporain, partner of the Festival in 2023, will organise the **GREEN SCREEN** workshop, during which children will discover the greenscreen tool. The Casino will also offer the **STOP MOTION** workshop, which will allow children from 6 years old to learn about all stages of animation cinema. For the **HOLOGRAMME** workshop, children will build a device that will allow them to broadcast their films or images previously created in 3D holograms. The **MUDAMINI WORKSHOP: THE COSMOS, FRAME BY**

**FRAME** organised by MUDAM, will teach participants aged 6 and above to bring their own images to life. A creative workshop based on the animated film Fox and Hare Save the Forest, **FOX & HARE - ENTDECKUNG VUN DER 3D ANIMATIOUN** will also be held at the Casino and is organised by Doghouse Films. Here, children from the age of 7 will be able to understand the logic of 3D volume creation on the computer thanks to modelling clay sculptures. The same age group will be offered a **SOUND EFFECT WORKSHOP** with Labio Tsaganas. Children will discover the fascinating techniques of sound effects and will participate in the recording of a soundtrack.

In 2023, children and teenagers will again be able to attend the workshop on film analysis and criticism by famous film critic **Boyd Van Hoeij** (The Film Verdict). He will also lead two other workshops for school children on image decoding.

### Competitions, information and training events

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

Two informative events not to be missed: **MEET THE PROS** on the audiovisual and film professions, organised by the BTS Cinéma et Audiovisuel in collaboration with the Film Fund Luxembourg (Saturday 4 March, 11:00 am, Kinopolis Kirchberg) as well as the afternoon dedicated to the **RENCONTRES DE L'ANIMATION** which will allow to meet professionals in various animation fields in Luxembourg (Sunday 5 March, 2:00 pm, Casino). In the context of the event, animation studio Doghouse Films will organise a masterclass on the film **NINA ET LES CONTES DU HÉRISSEON** by Alain Gagnol and Jean-Loup Felicioli. As for Melusine Productions, the studio will organise a masterclass on the film **LE VOYAGE DE SLOCUM** by Jean-François Laguionie with the first assistant director and the production manager of the film.

For teachers, the Institut de Formation de l'Education Nationale (IFEN) will organise the masterclass **"L'OGRE" L'IMAGINAIRE DE L'ENFANT FACE AUX VIOLENCES FAMILIALES**, a short film about family violence through the imagination of childhood with director Aurélien Pira, scriptwriter Cyril Bossmann and project coordinator Dr Mary Faltz from SCRIPT - Initiatives et programmes pédagogiques du Ministère de l'Education, de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse.

### And as always, the Juries dedicated to children and young people

The Festival will favour the participation of children and teenagers by inviting them to join a **KIDS' JURY** to decide the KIDS JURY AWARD (film in the 5-8 year old category); a **SCHOOL JURY** (class of 12-15 year olds) to award the SCHOOL JURY AWARD; a **YOUTH JURY**, reserved for those over 16 years of age, which will deliberate on a selection of films from the Festival, divided into different categories, for the YOUTH JURY PRIZE - BY KINEPOLIS. Another opportunity to experience the adventure of the Festival, the **JONK FILMKRITIKER (YOUNG CINEMA CRITICS)** and **VIDEOREPORTER (VIDEO REPORTERS)** will professionally accompany the Luxembourg City Film Festival.

## 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 2023 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) are working together on this 12th 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 second time LUXEMBOURG AID & DEVELOPMENT with the organization of the 2030 Award by Luxembourg Aid & Development.

For the first time, the Festival is proud to collaborate with POLESTAR Luxembourg and its fleet of electric vehicles, thus becoming part of a multi-level reflection on the environmental impact of the event. LuxFilmFest is delighted to continue the adventure with its historical partners: CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CERCLE CITÉ, CASINO Luxembourg.

*Individual tickets for the public screenings of the Young Audiences programme as well as the Festival PASS will be on sale from the 10th of February 2023 on [www.luxfilmfest.lu](http://www.luxfilmfest.lu).*

*We invite you to meet us on Thursday 9th of February 2023 at 11am at KINEPOLIS KIRCHBERG in order to discover our entire programme (International and documentary competitions, Official and Luxembourg selections, guests...). Until then, stay tuned via our official website [www.luxfilmfest.lu](http://www.luxfilmfest.lu) and our social networks.*

*The Young Audiences programme, subject to change, is available on the official website: [www.luxfilmfest.lu](http://www.luxfilmfest.lu).*

*For any information or interview request: [press@luxfilmfest.lu](mailto:press@luxfilmfest.lu), T +352 28 22 93.*