

International Feature Film Competition for Women Directors

8 films compete for the prize of €15,000

Press release
18 May 2021

Many things are different in 2021. And Internationales Frauen* Film Fest Dortmund+Köln is no exception. Originally scheduled for April, it has also been forced to change plans and will now take place as an online event from **15 to 20 June 2021**. Following the live opening on 15 June, all films can be seen via the festival's video-on-demand platform up to and including 20 June.

Internationales Frauen*
Film Fest Dortmund+Köln,
15 - 20 June 2021

70 current international films, online discussions with guests from all corners of the globe, a video studio in the Dortmund festival office and audiences who can watch the films whenever it suits them for six days, without having to travel from all over Germany. For film fans, this will hopefully make up for the disappointment of not being able to meet and keep in touch with friends personally. We see our online programme as an opportunity to raise awareness of the film festival without being tied to a specific location, and in doing so expand our audience reach. Despite the adverse circumstances, we want to make the most of this opportunity – albeit in the full knowledge that online programmes cannot replace an in-person, live film festival, or at least can only do so to a degree.

The online programme will be posted on our brand-new festival website on 18 May under the new URL www.frauenfilmfest.com.

Feature Film Competition 2021

Quo vadis? Where is it all going? The question that lends Jasmila Žbanić's anti-war film its title reflects a theme running through our strong 2021 competition selection. Most of the films were produced prior to the coronavirus pandemic before being completed in 2020, and will hopefully appear on cinema listings very soon. The films selected come from Egypt, Argentina, Costa Rica and Cameroon right through to Bosnia, Iran, Tunisia and France, and also include two German premieres.

The film-makers' stories are told in highly assured style, many of them from marginalised perspectives. They chronicle a history of failures and abuses, without bringing their heroes and heroines to breaking point. Despite facing circumstances verging on the intolerable, they keep their proactive spirit alive and use what leeway they do have to put up a fight.

»Although we've naturally received fewer entries than in previous years, we are highly impressed by the overall quality and diversity of the films submitted this year. The competition line-up reflects the broad scope of forms, themes and cinematic language presented by women film-makers around the world. These range from a biting satire on the art business, a film about the gripping and empowering process of handling trauma in our first ever competition entry from Cameroon, to the magical realism of Céline Sciamma«, says festival director Maxa Zoller.

The makers of road movie **Bandar Band** were caught cold by the real flood disaster in Iran in 2019 during filming. Massive deforestation is said to be behind the floods and forms the backdrop of Manijeh Hekmat's depiction of the dreams and perspectives of the young generation in Iran. **One in a Thousand** presents a socially realistic and at the same time utopian image of a young queer community that creates its own milieu tucked away from the main streets. The social dynamic between the main characters in **Aurora**, a teacher and a pregnant teenager, also seems ahead of its time and gives a sense of how, beyond the story, things could be – moving past the patriarchal order. That is the direction things are going in. And indeed, with her wonderfully magical journey through time in the form of **Petite Maman**, Céline Sciamma appears to have got there already.

The *international jury*, programmer of the Barcelona International Women's Film Festival **Marga Almirall Rotés**, director **Monika Treut** and screenwriter and producer **Elma Tataragić**, will announce the award-winners in an online stream.

The **€15,000** prize money is split between the director (€5,000) and the German distributor (€10,000). This is intended to promote the distribution of films directed by women in Germany. The award will be presented online on 20 June 2021.

The nominated films

Aurora

Dir./Script Paz Fábrega, Costa Rica/Mexico 2021, 90', German premiere

Bandar Band

Dir. Manijeh Hekmat, Iran/Germany 2020, 77'

Enterrés | Buried

Dir./Script Françoise Ellon, Cameroon 2020, 88', German premiere

Las mil y una | One in a Thousand

Dir./Script Clarisa Navas, Argentina/Germany 2020, 120'

Petite Maman

Dir./Script Céline Sciamma, FR 2021, 72'

The Man Who Sold His Skin

Dir./Script Kaouther Ben Hania, Tunisia, France, Germany, Belgium, Sweden 2020, 104'

Quo vadis, Aida?

Dir./Script: Jasmila Žbanić, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Austria, Romania, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, France, Norway 2020, 104'

Souad

Dir.: Ayten Amin, Egypt, Tunisia, Germany 2021, 96'

International Jury

Marga Almirall Rotés

Marga Almirall Rotés holds a Bachelor in audiovisual communication and a postgraduate diploma in audiovisual editing, and has further training in film theory and criticism. Since 2015, she has been the co-director of content for Drac Màgic, where she develops film literacy projects (Construir Mirades), is co-responsible for the content of children's film distributor Pack Màgic and programmer for the Barcelona International Women's Film Festival (Mostra Internacional de Films de Dones de Barcelona).

Monika Treut

Born in 1954. Literary scholar, director and producer Monika Treut is an avant-garde figure of the New Queer Cinema scene. She has been working with video since 1976 and was a founding member of the women's media project, bildwechsel. In 1984 she set up the film production company Hyena I/II with Elfi Mikesch, producing the love drama **Seduction: The Cruel Woman**. The feature films **Virgin Machine** and **My Father Is Coming** were followed by documentaries exploring sexual transgressions and portraying charismatic figures such as Annie Sprinkle or Sandy Stone. The same personalities also featured in the award-winning trans*futuristic **Gendernauts** (1999). The follow-up, **Genderation**, premiered at the Berlinale in 2021. Treut's work has been the subject of over 30 international retrospectives to date. She teaches in California, New York and Hildesheim.

Elma Tataragić

Born 1976 in Sarajevo. Tataragić is a screenwriter, director, producer and film curator. She has a PhD in film and literature. Her extensive filmography includes the multi-award

winning feature films **Snow** (screenplay, production) and **God Exists, Her Name Is Petrunya** (screenplay), which won the IFFF Dortmund+Köln main award in 2019. Tataragić has worked for the Sarajevo Film Festival since 1995, and is now curator for its Competition programme. She is President of the Association of Filmmakers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and also its European Film Promotion (EFP) representative. She has been teaching screenwriting at Sarajevo Academy of Performing Arts since 2002, now as a professor and vice dean coordinator for international cooperation. She is currently working on three feature films as well as a short film.

Online Fest info

As well as the online film programme, we have daily morning commentaries, live talks in the evenings (7.30 pm), our digital Wonder-Bar, as well as clips, film excerpts and interviews on our website and social media channels – all designed to give audiences the chance to interact with us and the film-makers.

Many of the films are shown in their original language with German subtitles. Audiences can choose between buying tickets for single films (EUR 5,50) as well as various multi-ticket options.

From May 19, all information will be available on our brand-new festival website at the new URL www.frauenfilmfest.com.

Festival sponsors

Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North-Rhine Westphalia; City of Cologne; City of Dortmund

Film- und Medienstiftung NRW; Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth; Sparkasse Dortmund; Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media

Press contact

Stefanie Görtz, 0170-2037198, presse@frauenfilmfestival.eu
www.frauenfilmfest.com
www.facebook.com/IFFF.Dortmund.Koeln
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