

Press release
Geneva, October 31, 2024

GIFF: Kickoff of the 30th Edition

The 30th edition of the Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF) opens its doors on Friday, November 1st, with the Swiss premiere of *Piece by Piece*, a musical animation biopic retracing Pharrell Williams's life and career. This eagerly awaited ceremony will feature speeches by Christina Kitsos, Mayor of Geneva; Pascal Crittin, Director of Swiss Radio Television; Rebecca Irvin, President of the GIFF Foundation; and Anaïs Emery, General and Artistic Director of the Festival. The ceremony will be hosted by journalist Muriel Siki. The Festival's opening will also be marked by the presence of distinguished guests, including filmmaker Ava DuVernay, who will receive the Film & Beyond award on November 3rd, and visionary French director Leos Carax, who will give a rare talk on November 7th. Other notable figures attending the Festival include Louis Garrel, Kirill Serebrennikov, Niels Schneider, Noémie Merlant, Valeria Golino, Valeria Bruni-Tedeschi, and Swiss director Pierre Koralnik.

Virtual Territories (Starting November 1st)

The Virtual Territories return to the Maison communale de Plainpalais and the courtyard of the Maison des arts du Grütli, presenting a unique immersive selection of more than twenty Swiss and international works. Attendees can explore the richness of digital creation through various routes, featuring virtual and augmented reality experiences, as well as digital and interactive installations. A flagship program of the GIFF, the Virtual Territories are home to a diverse set of superlative experiences for the festival's milestone edition. Highlights include the world premiere of the digital experience *Rave* by Swiss director Patrick Muroi, the immersive digital restoration of the *Panorama of the Battle of Murten*, the mystical *bear my soul (moi fauve)*, and the interactive film *The Golden Key*. The Festival also shines a light on *NeoDoc, new documentary expressions*, showcasing the six winning works from the first call for projects by the Digital Creation Hub.

Strong Swiss Presence in Various Sections

The GIFF's diverse sections bring together many Swiss personalities and creations. Among Swiss (co-)productions, the anticipated series *Winter Palace* will be shown, with quite a few members of the creative team, including director Pierre Monnard, in attendance. Other highlights include the poignant feature film *The Shameless*, as well as *Those Who Blush*, a moving series that blurs the line between fiction and documentary. The German series *The Zweiflers* also offers the pleasure of rediscovering Swiss actress Sunny Melles, seen in the Cannes-winning *Triangle of Sadness*. Swiss literature is also honored with *Winter in Sokcho*, adapted from the novel by Elisa Shua Dusapin and premiering in Switzerland. Lastly, *Claude Torracinta, géant du petit écran* by Jacob Berger pays tribute to the renowned journalist who passed away last May.

Tales of Swiss Innovation: Sarah Kenderdine (November 6th)

Director and curator of EPFL Pavilions and head of the Laboratory for Experimental Museology (eM+) at EPFL, Professor Sarah Kenderdine is a leader in immersive experiences for galleries, libraries, archives, and museums. Her worldwide installations combine cultural heritage with digital art practices. At the Festival, Sarah Kenderdine will give a talk entitled *Future Cinema Systems*, with the

GIFF 30th GENEVA
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
1-10.11.2024

GDM 12th GENEVA
DIGITAL
MARKET
4-7.11.2024

audience invited to experience the eM+ work through the digital restoration of the *Panorama of the Battle of Murten*.

Ava DuVernay (November 2-5)

For its anniversary edition, GIFF is honored to celebrate the career of Ava DuVernay, one of her generation's most important filmmakers. From the start, she has distinguished herself as a brilliant and talented filmmaker, notably winning the Best Director award at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. Founder of ARRAY, her own production company, she is committed to challenging racist and sexist prejudices. Among her works are *Middle of Nowhere* (2012), *Selma* (2014), Netflix's *When They See Us* (2019), and *Origin* (2023). The Film & Beyond Award, in collaboration with HEAD – Genève and O. Zbinden Horlogerie, will be awarded to her in recognition of her outstanding contribution to diversifying perspectives and representations in cinema. On November 3rd, DuVernay will give a moderated talk on her inspiring journey and ongoing social and political engagement.

Pierre Koralnik (November 3-4)

As part of its POP TV section, the GIFF pays tribute to Franco-Swiss director Pierre Koralnik with a retrospective featuring his feature films and shorts, in collaboration with the Cinemathèque suisse, RTS, and INA. This is a unique opportunity for the public to rediscover his iconic works on the big screen, including *Françoise and Udo...* (1968), *Le Rapt* (1984), and the variety show *Ni figue ni raisin* (1965).

New Guests Announced

The GIFF is set to welcome more prestigious guests, enriching an already promising lineup. Ariane Labed will present *September Says*, a gothic tale featured in the International Feature Competition. In the International Series Competition, *Big Mood*, a heartfelt comedy series, will be screened with its creator Camilla Whitehill in attendance, while Doria Tillier will present *Iris*, a series that reinvents quirky comedy. Björn Stein will be attending the screening of *Whiskey on the Rocks*, a political satire set during a singular episode of the Cold War, and Daniel Lawrence Taylor will accompany *Boarders*, a series exploring the inner workings of a prestigious private school. Finally, Stefan Crepon and Benjamin Voisin will attend the Festival for *Playing with Fire*, a powerful work on familial love strained by radicalization.

The Geneva Digital Market Program is Available!

Located at the heart of GIFF, the Geneva Digital Market (GDM) is the only event of its kind in Switzerland to focus on audiovisual innovation. Taking up residence in Maison communale de Plainpalais from November 4 to 7, GDM offers roundtables, pitching sessions and networking events for audiovisual professionals, which can be accessed by presenting your Festival accreditation. The full GDM program is now available!

SAVE THE DATE

November 1-10 | GIFF 30th edition

November 4-7 | GDM 12th edition

November 6 | Digital Night (upon invitation)

More into about [GIFF](#)

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