

Press Release 17 November 2024

The 38th Filmwinter Stuttgart – Festival for Expanded Media will take place from **15 – 22 January 2025**.

In collaboration with different Stuttgart-based players, we will animate the winter months at various locations from **December to February** with our **Filmwinter Extended** programme.

The hub of the festival is once again situated at the Tagblatt-Turm area in the Fitz! and tri-bühne theatres from January 15 – 22. Filmwinter also means urban design: the Expanded Media Exhibition presents current positions of international media art and extends across **Kunstbezirk, White Noise** and the **St. Maria church**. The Filmwinter soul will additionally animate numerous satellites in Stuttgart during the festival period.

The best applications we received from the **internationally placed Open Call** in the competition categories of short film, 2 Minutes Shorts, and Expanded Media as well as the best music video entries competing for the Landesmusikvideopreis (Baden-Württemberg Award for the best music video) Buggles Award in cooperation with Pop-Büro Region Stuttgart and Kinothek Obertürkheim. This year's educational programme for children, youth, and adults has exciting surprises in store. Additional film screenings, lectures, performances, and workshops set up the frame for the competition programme.

The Festival Motto “Filmwinter N°38 – Feel Air From Another Planet!” (1)

With this motto sounding like an ad for fragrances, the Filmwinter opens up to all senses. The festival captures the essence of the ephemeral and is dedicated to the issues of conservation in artistic practices: how can we capture something ephemeral like values, emotions, and bodies?

Because as much as the conservers are trying to depict things with accuracy in every detail: every act of documenting, archiving, or digitalizing inevitably entails transformation. At the end of the day, we cannot carve things in stone - everything passes. The climate catastrophe heralds the end of the Holocene: it is already five minutes past twelve. Who will clean up the earth afterwards? What will happen to all the man-made objects and artefacts?

What do we need archives full of data with already enormous proportions for?

Conservation also means transformation. In this way, fermentation is surrounded by a scent of possibilities. The hype of sourdough, kombucha, and kimchi is an expression of a transhumanist way of thinking. The transitions between life and death, human and non-human are defined anew. The festival invites everyone to experience the essence of this transformation with all senses.

(1) From "I feel air from another planet" (string quartette No. 2 F sharp minor, Op. 10) by Arnold Schönberg. A musical version of the poem "Transcendence" by Stefan George.

Media Space – Lectures, Networking & Performances

Since 2001, **Media Space** has been the platform for discourse and presentation of artistic tendencies at the interface of space and media and their links with social and scientific perspectives in the framework of Filmwinter.

XR Art Lectures and Practices

In which way are XR applications used in artistic projects and which horizons can thus open up? The projects are introduced and discussed via panels and VR experiences: guests, among others, are the Staatstheater Augsburg with the VR single opera experience "**Erwartung**" ("Expectation") by **Schönberg** and Oliver Lankwitz in the project "**Im Labyrinth der Demokratie: Finde deinen Weg!**" ("In the Labyrinth of Democracy: Find Your Way!").

Performances

From analogue Expanded Cinema works, dancing robots to AI-generated beings: this year the Filmwinter dedicates its performance programme once more to the interdependence of space, sound, and moving image.

Experiencing cinema with all of our senses - Marc Richter and Black to Comm vouch to do this with their live performance. New forms of being and melting options break out with an overburdened AI. Surreal sounds ensheath the birth of an infinite jest.

In "Cluster" by Nao, eight Robo Dancers find their master: the interplay of human and mechanical motion creates a feverish Disco vibe that spreads amid the audience like a virus.

"Way Too Much - Never Forget Tender Wrestle" by Florian Siegert is a mixture of performance, live music, and theatre. Be here to witness a group of performers wrestle in a boxing ring of steel! "Way Too Much" explores the fine line between tenderness and aggression and in doing it presents itself as immediate, intense, and overstraining as reality might sometimes appear.

In the Expanded Cinema performance "Le Jardin", students of the video class VIEM of the Villa Aurora (Nice, France) will develop a furious Expanded Cinema spectacle exploring the topic of transience under the guidance of Pia Maria Martin and Erwan Tracol.

To round up the festival, Expanded Cinema experts OBJOCOCA will orchestrate a clash of volcanic lava and industry films.

Impressions from the Film Programme (Selection)

The focus programme "Conservation" is dedicated to the festival motto "Filmwinter N°38 – Feel Air From Another Planet!". In the spotlight are the aspects of transience and the essence of cinema as "mobile embalming" of people and emotions. "**God is in cinema**" inferred the filmmaker and theoretician Jean Epstein already in the era of silent movies; as eventually no one else brings together the forces of nature and human emotions in such comprehensive liveliness. In this way, the curator Florian Fischer explores the relationships of cinema, animism, and volcano as well as their potential for

transformation in the short film programme "Field Notes of the Planetary: Volcanoes". The programme will screen at the **Cinema** movie theatre in cooperation with Innenstadt kino.

In the framework of the cooperation with the **study course media restoration at ABK Stuttgart** we will discuss how historic Expanded Media works can be revived and experienced in a new way through new stagings by way of case studies with the artist collective OJOBACA. Here, OJOBACA will introduce the methodology of "Teaching & Learning Cinema".

Promoting up-and-coming talent and young positions: at the premiere of the 7th edition of „**Emerging Artists – Contemporary Experimental Film and Video Art from Germany**“, AG Kurzfilm and German Films present surprising and poetic positions. The programme will screen at the Delphi cinema in cooperation with Arthaus Kino.

With the programme **Talent's Encounters** in cooperation with the **Haus für Film und Medien** e.V., our festival will offer another chance of networking and presentation possibilities for students. Here, the speed dating format, where experts of the field get in contact with students, and the network on an international level with the VIEM class of Villa Aurora in Nice, France, are a new additions to the programme.

Children and Youth Programme

The short film programme "I See Music - A 100-year-old Relationship Between Film and Sound" offers a special focus on the popular music video. What does the colour of blue sound like? How can sound and image be combined? There is a treasure of artistic forms and means of style in popular music videos. A foray through the history of film from the 20s to today allows us to discover the gems of visual music. Here, we can also discover how the first filmic experiments in combining images and music are still resonant today. The programme is an educational service in the framework of the Buggles Award - Landesmusikvideopreis.

In "**16mm Filme - offene Werkstatt**" ("**16mm Films - Open Workshop**") we paint, glue, and alter 16mm film strips together. Be a part of the - by far - coolest analogue film in the world!

Breaking Down Barriers

For the first time, the Filmwinter offers two programmes for children and adults with **audio description and a sign language interpreter** in German.

The short film programme „**Ich sehe Musik - eine 100-jährige Beziehung zwischen Film und Klang**“ for school classes features few dialogues and is also suitable for preparatory and vocational qualification classes. We also offer a guided tactile tour in our elaborately and intimately designed Wunderkinoraum ("Magical Cinema Room"). All programmes are age-appropriately presented and selected. As we dare to follow the path of inclusion, we have invited specialists from the **Klappe Auf!-Festival**. The festival's special characteristic lies in the fact that it is organised, run, and presented by people with and without handicap and aims at gaining a barrier-free environment of the highest level.

The Klappe Auf!-Festival's installation "KLAPPOMAT" is accessible at the festival hub. Here, visitors can experience how people with limited sight and hearing perceive films.

Festival Extended (Excerpt)

As a cooperation with **Cinema Futuro**, we will present the pre-premiere of the film "MOND" by Kurdwin Ayub featuring Florentina Holzinger in the leading role on 13 January.

The main character of this disturbing thriller is a former martial arts pro from Vienna who seeks rescue in a new job in Jordan. There, she clashes with her employer - a patriarchally organized family.

For the first time, the Filmwinter cooperates with Merz Akademie for a series of lectures titled „**Realismus – Das große Versprechen des Kinos**“ ("Realism - The Great Promise of Cinema").

Six filmmakers, who stood out due to their especially innovative concepts of realism, were invited to introduce their works.

For the Kurzfilmtag on 18 December, the Filmwinter and ITFS invite everyone to join them for the winter edition Best Of Programme at EM cinema.

The programme explores friendship, crazy things, and beastly adventures. The films are all without dialogues and are age-appropriate for fans of animation aged 5 years and older - a cooperation with the Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film.

As part of the **Imaginale** (International Theatre Festival of Animated Forms) from 30 January to 9 February, the Filmwinter will present a short film programme about figures, objects and materials and their transfigurations.