

Press Release (28.10.25)

Filmwinter NO. 39 – Festival for Expanded Media

SAVE THE DATE!

Festival Dates: 14. – 21. January 2026

- **Opening Expanded Media Exhibition:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 17:30
- **Opening Festival Hub:** 19:30 at FITZ!
- **Preisverleihung mit Filmscreening:** Sonntag, 18. Januar 2026, 17:30 Uhr im FITZ!
- **Buggles Music Video Award BW:** Thursday, January 18, 2026, 19:30, at the Kinothek Obertürkheim
- **Programme release:** mid-December
- **Children and Youth Programme release:** mid-November
- **Reservations and tickets:** starting January 2026
- **Release Event Invites:** December 2025

The 39th Filmwinter Stuttgart - Festival for Expanded Media will take place **January 14 - 21, 2026**.

In cooperation with various players of the City of Stuttgart, we will enliven the winter months with our **Filmwinter Extended Programme** at different places from December to February.

From January 14 - 19, 2026, our **festival hub** will once again be located in the Tagblatt Turm area at the FITZ! and tribühne theatres. The Expanded Media Exhibition will feature current positions of international media art from January 14 - 21, 2026, expanding from **Kunstbezirk** across **Wagnerstraße 26**, a new festival location (for further information, please see below) to the **FITZ! theatre**. Additionally, our Filmwinter soul will invigorate various satellites in Stuttgart during the festival.

The best submissions of an **international Open Call** in the competition categories of short film, 2 Minute Shorts, and Expanded Media, as well as the best music videos competing for the Land's Music Video Award Buggles - in cooperation with Pop Büro Region Stuttgart and Kinothek Obertürkheim - make up **the festival's core**. This year's media education programme for children, youths, and adults has also quite a few surprises in store.

The competition programmes are framed by film screenings, focus programmes, lectures, performances, and workshops.

The Filmwinter Motto 2026: SHIT / GOLD

Each year, the Filmwinter Stuttgart adopts a specific motto which is mirrored in design, special programme and the festival's overall aura.

Inspired by the fairytale "The Wishing-Table, the Gold-Ass, and the Cudgel in the Sack" by the Brothers Grimm, in which the ass produces gold out of its behind, our festival employs art as a motor of transformation. Moments of pure magic are to be experienced!

We counter the urge to polarize in cultural and political debates with artistic and visionary power for prototypes of new societal forms.

We will also get to the bottom of our planet's scarcity of resources in an artistic manner: how can art oppose the surplus in our capitalist society?

Become a part of our alchemy laboratory where artists, curators, cooperation partners, Filmwinter team, and audience discuss the question of all questions: what, in essence, is gold and what is shit and which metabolic processes are pressing matters?

In this sense: Bricklebrit! Or, according to the Neapolitan original version of the golden ass: "arre cacaurre" (shit gold!)

Our Process of Transformation: We're moving house!

As of January 1st, 2026, our new office will be located at Wagnerstraße 26 in the Bohnenviertel quarter (formerly Café KOENIGX).

There will be a pre-opening during the Filmwinter with contributions from the Expanded Media exhibition.

As of spring 2026, artistic publications and products will be presented in the office space. At specific occasions, we will offer smaller formats flanked by coffee and cakes. All of it small, cozy, and Filmwinter-style.

The future SMIC - Stuttgart Moving Image Center /Haus für bewegte Bilder Stuttgart is located only 100 metres away, and will serve as a venue and research location for the Filmwinter.

We are honoured to take over the spaces of the legendary Café KOENIGX from Mrs. Glaser. Even back then, during our Filmhaus days (office and screening spaces had been located at the former Filmhaus Municipal Cinema) the cakes from Café KOENIGX served as a special treat during our voluntary submission preselection periods. We appreciated the craft, the professional expertise, and the culturally oriented atmosphere and would like to say thank you for all these years.

See you soon RIO and Stuttgart East!

We want to thank all the cooperation partners and friends over there for the important time and hope to continue with our collective projects. Mobile Jugendarbeit Ost, especially, has been a vital presence in our daily office life.

We say "Hi!" to our new neighbours and are looking very much forward to network and cooperate with players and residents of the quarter and beyond!