

## MARCHÉ DU FILM 14-22 MAY 2024



























## BREATHING UNDERWATER DIRECTED BY ERIC LAMHÈNE

#### Drama — Luxembourg/Belgium 2024 — 100 min. — 1st Feature — French, Luxembourgish

Emma is whisked away in the dead of night, covered in bruises and unexpectedly pregnant. Finding a new home in a women's shelter, she rediscovers lost facets of herself through her unlikely camaraderie and strife with the women and children living there. Individual traumas intertwine and despite their differences, a delicate sisterhood emerges as they push one another to fight for their self worth and independence.

Emotionally raw, empathetic and intensely honest, Breathing Underwater is a deeply moving and ultimately cathartic display of women's strength.

Tags: Strength, Community, Sisterhood, Healing, Hope





## HYSTERIA DIRECTED BY MEHMET AKIF BÜYÜKATALAY

#### Mystery/Thriller — Germany 2024 — 100 min — 2<sup>nd</sup> Feature — German, Arab, Kurdish

While in the process of filming a provocative feature about the xenophobic arson attacks on German migrant residences in the 1990s, a genuine Quran goes up in flames. The incident deeply shakes the Arab extras on set, who immediately point fingers at the director, making accusations of racism.

Caught in this confrontational crossfire is production intern, Elif (24) as everybody involved has layered motivations and agendas at play: the Turkish-German director Yigit (42) and producer Lilith (46) stand on one side of the divide, while extras Said (25), Mustafa (32), and Majid (48) stand on the other.

The tensions are getting worse when original film footage goes missing, an apartment key disappears, and an unidentified caller starts contacting the crew. Amid these unsettling events, Elif finds herself increasingly drawn into a whirlwind of shame and suspicion.

Tags: Truth and Lies, Racism, Conspiracy, Crime





## SIMA'S SONG DIRECTED BY ROYA SADAT

#### Historical Drama — Spain/The Netherlands/France/Taiwan 2024 — 100 min — Farsi, Dari

In the pre-civil war context in Afghanistan, communist & wealthy Suraya and conservative & practising Muslim Sima keep their lifelong friendship alive despite their opposing life choices. While Suraya is appointed head of the Women's Organization of the communist party in power, Sima agrees to marry her friend Wahab and gets involved with the mujahideen to defend Muslim values. Both friends respect each other in their disparity, but with the war about to break out, they are inadvertently forced apart by political leaders. When asked to spy on each other, Sima and Suraya put their friendship first and end up locked in the same prison, where Sima is tortured for information. Battered, Sima dies in Suraya's arms, but her spirit lives on in Suraya's memory.

Tags: Friendship, Empowerment, Political Conflicts, Afghanistan, Feminist History



"Hilarious moments" CINEMA AUSTRIACO

74 Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin Panorama

"Complex layering beyond worn-out clichés"

## ANDREA GETS A DIVORCE DIRECTED BY JOSEF HADER

#### Comedy — Austria 2024 — 97 min. — 2<sup>nd</sup> Feature — German

Andrea, a small-town policewoman, drives home after a birthday party when her drunk not-yetdivorced husband suddenly appears in front of her car. Unable to break, she runs him over and kills him. In a state of shock, Andrea flees the scene.

Being called to duty as the local police officer to the crime scene, she discovers to her horror that someone else has accepted responsibility for the accident: Franz, a religion teacher and recovered alcoholic, is convinced that he ran over the victim, and so is everyone else in the village. While Franz starts drinking again, Andrea applies herself to the task of eliminating all traces of her. But in the end, she has to take responsibility.

Tags: Small Town, Murder, Cover-Up, Offbeat

Festivals: Berlinale (World Premiere), Bolzano Film Festival, and more to come.



**CINEUROPA** 



# "Genuinely sensitive LGBTQ+ film"

FILM IS A FINE AFFAIR

## LOVE AND VIDEOTAPES DIRECTED BY RYAN MACHADO

Generation

#### Youth/Queer — Philippines 2023 — 97 min. — 1<sup>st</sup> Feature — Filipino

Summer of 2001, in a small town in the Philippines: 16-year-old Andoy searches for his longlost father in the most unlikely of places: on VHS tapes. Together with his best friend and fellow movie nerd Pido, they explore life on film. When two movie-like characters appear, his reality begins to falter. In a gay awakening, Andoy connects with the local queer community to find new friends, love and acceptance.

Tags: Gay Awakening, Friendship, Bromance, Queer Community

**Festivals:** Berlinale (International Premiere), Stockholm International Film Festival Junior, Pink Apple Queer Film Festival, and more to come.







## **REPRODUCTION** DIRECTED BY KATHARINA PETHKE

#### Documentary — Germany 2024 — 111 min. — German

Who gets to show what? And who is being looked at? REPRODUCTION looks at three generations of women to examine the ideal images of women in art: The larger-than-life male genius on the wall - and the selflessly loving mother carved in stone. Does one ideal exclude the other? The film describes power, class and gender relations across three generations of women, tells of discarded drawings and unfinished careers: Stories of women artists.

Tags: Generations, Women, Art, Motherhood, Career, Emancipation

Festivals: Berlinale (World Premiere), Crossing Europe Film Festival, and more to come.



#### "Superbly acted" VARIETY

### "Fittingly raw and eruptive"

INDIEWIRE

"A Brazilian cinematic gem" SCREEN NEAR YOU

> "Mesmerizing" COLLIDER

## MALU DIRECTED BY PEDRO FREIRE

undance

#### Drama — Brazil 2024 — 97 min — 1<sup>st</sup> Feature — Brazilian Portuguese

Malu — a mercurial, unemployed actress living with her conservative mother in a precarious house in a Rio de Janeiro slum — tries to deal with her strained relationship with her own adult daughter while surviving on memories of her glorious artistic past.

Tags: Mother & Daughter, Generations, Reconciliation

**Festivals:** Sundance Film Festival (World Premiere), Hong Kong International Film Festival, New Directors/New Films, Sundance CDMX 2024, and more to come





## FOREVER-FOREVER DIRECTED BY ANNA BURYACHKOVA

#### Youth/High School — Ukraine/The Netherlands 2023 — 107 min. — 1st Feature — Ukrainian

After transferring from a downtown high school, Tonia joins a new badass gang of youngsters, trying to find protection and a place she truly belongs. They spend time together, roaming around Kyiv's post-socialist suburbs, having fun and getting in trouble. Soon, Tonia falls in love with Zhurik, whilst also longing for Sania and finds herself tangled up in an alluring secret love triangle. But Tonia's abusive past still haunts her, challenging this newfound friendship and romance.

Tags: Rebellion, 90ies, Emancipation, Love Triangle, Friendship, High School

**Festivals & Awards:** Venice Film Festival (World Premiere), Filmfestival Cottbus - Best Film, Kyiv International Film Festival Molodist, PÖFF Black Nights Film Festival, Tromsø International Film Festival, Manchester Film Festival, Cleveland International Film Festival OFF Camera, and more.



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## EMPTY NETS DIRECTED BY BEHROOZ KARAMIZADE

#### Drama/Crime/Romance — Germany/Iran 2023 — 101 min — 1st Feature — Farsi

Amir loves Narges and Narges loves Amir. But their hopes and dreams for a life together collide head on with the web of tradition, corruption, and social hierarchy that continues to rule over the lives of a new generation in Iran.

Tags: First Love, Romance, Criminal Networks, Traditions, Iran

**Festivals & Awards (Selection):** Karlovy Vary - Special Jury Prize, Filmfest Munich - Best Production Award, Adelaide Film Festival - Best Feature Fiction, Pingyao International Film Festival - Roberto Rossellini Awards Special Mention, Iranian Film Festival New York - Best Film, Zurich Film Festival, El Gouna Film Festival, Bosphorus Film Festival, and more.



LINE-UP





## SISTER & SISTER DIRECTED BY KATTIA G. ZÚÑIGA

#### Teen/Drama — Panama/Chile 2023 — 80 min. — 1<sup>st</sup> Feature — Spanish

Summer vacation. Two sisters, Marina (17) and Luna (14), travel from Costa Rica to Panama to look for their absent father. While dealing with frictions that arise between them, they find space to explore their desires, new friendships, lovers, and skateboarding. An intimate and tender tale of sisterhood in the urban tropics, with a deep portrayal of colorful teenage life.

Tags: Sisterhood, Friendship, Self-awareness, GenZ, Skateboarding, Panama

**Festivals & Awards (Selection):** SXSW, Festival de Málaga - Best Latin American Film, Santiago International Film Festival - Best Film, Best Actress, Cinélatino, Seattle International Film Festival, FICG, Taipei Film Festival, Galway Film Fleadh, AFI Latin American Film Festival, Festival de Cinéma de la Ville de Québec, Chennai International Film Festival, BUFF Film Festival, Reel 2 Real International Film Festival - Adult Jury Award for Best Film, Filmfestival MOOOV, and more.





## ELAHA DIRECTED BY MILENA ABOYAN

#### Drama — Germany 2023 — 110 min — 1<sup>st</sup> Feature — German, Kurdish

Elaha is a young Kurdish-German woman torn between the unconditional love for her family and her own aspirations in life. Although she cares most about having a good time with her girlfriends and taking care of her younger brother, she has to fight patriarchy while being the perfect daughter. Ultimately, she has to make a decision: To tell the truth or live a life in grand delusion.

Tags: Emancipation, Family, Traditions, Patriarchy, Empowerment

**Festivals & Awards (Selection):** Berlinale (World Premiere), Crossing Europe, Austria - Special Mention "YAAAS!" Competition, Prix Europa Awards - Best Feature Film, Sydney Film Festival, Giffoni Film Festival, World Cinema Amsterdam, Calgary International Film Festival, Riga International Film Festival, Angers Premiers Plans Film Festival - Scania Diversity Award, and more.



# PLUTO<sup>®</sup>

Pluto Film is a world sales and festival distribution company committed to engaging global cinema. We are devoted to bringing quality feature films to the international market and audiences. Our focus is on arthouse and cross-over films, especially those by emerging talents. But we also have a passion for family films and elevated genres.

Pluto Film takes an innovative and individual approach to distribution. We work closely with filmmakers and producers to position their films effectively. Through collaborative workshops, we develop fitting festival and distribution strategies that maintain the soul of the film while maximizing its distribution potential. All produced materials and assets are stored in an online archive, ensuring accessibility for all our partners. This creates a distribution network that spans from filmmakers and producers to distributors across all territories and platforms, facilitating collaboration throughout the film value chain.

With a boutique approach, we add around eight titles to our lineup each year, allowing us to give each film the attention and care it deserves. We then navigate the world beyond the window system by finding the right place and time for our films at festivals, in theaters, on TV, and online. Our objective is to circulate our films globally and make them available across all possible distribution channels.

Our dedicated team possesses extensive knowledge of the market. Each team member brings a unique perspective from a different part of the industry, along with a strong international network of contacts cultivated over the years.

# **OUR TEAM AT MARCHÉ DU FILM 2024**



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