

***Adentro mío estoy bailando*** (*The Klezmer Project*)

by Leandro Koch, Paloma Schachmann | with Leandro Koch, Paloma Schachmann, Perla Sneh, Rebeca Yanover, César Lerner  
Austria / Argentina 2023

Encounters | World premiere | Debut film

A frustrated Jewish wedding cameraman falls in love with a klezmer clarinetist. To spend time with her, he fabricates a documentary project that takes him on a journey in search of the lost klezmer melodies safeguarded by the Romani of Eastern Europe.

***The Adults***

by Dustin Guy Defa | with Michael Cera, Hannah Gross, Sophia Lillis, Wavvy Jonez, Anoop Desai  
USA 2023

Encounters | World premiere

The plan to make a trip back home as short as possible begins to unravel when Eric has to balance his addiction to poker with the challenging relationships with his two sisters Rachel and Maggie. All three are not the kids they used to be. Or are they?

***El eco*** (*The Echo* | *Das Echo*)

by Tatiana Huezo | with Montserrat Hernández Hernández, María de los Ángeles Pacheco Tapia, Luz María Vázquez González, Sarahí Rojas Hernández, William Antonio Vázquez González  
Mexico / Germany 2023

Encounters | World premiere | Documentary Form

In the remote Mexican village of El Eco, life is rich in privation, work and children. Here, granddaughters movingly take care of grandmothers until they die. A delicately woven film that celebrates the grace of animals and children alike.

***Here***

by Bas Devos | with Stefan Gota, Liyo Gong  
Belgium 2023

Encounters | World premiere

Stefan, a Romanian construction worker living in Brussels, is about to move back home. He cooks up a big pot of soup as a goodbye gift for friends and family. Just then, he meets a Belgian-Chinese doctoral student who specialises in mosses.

***Im toten Winkel*** (*In the Blind Spot*)

by Ayşe Polat | with Katja Bürkle, Ahmet Varlı, Çağla Yurga, Aybi Era, Maximilian Hemmersdorfer  
Germany 2023

Encounters | World premiere

Mystery and human rights violations, surveillance and paranoia: Ayşe Polat depicts the Kurdish transgenerational trauma of violence from different perspectives. A political thriller set between sinister organisations and existential insecurity.

***Kletka ishet ptitsu*** (*The Cage Is Looking for a Bird*)

by Malika Musaeva | with Khadzizha Bataeva, Madina Akkiewa, Fatima Elzhurkaeva, Rita Merzhoeva, Magomed Alhastov  
France / Russian Federation 2023

Encounters | World premiere | Debut film

Yakha, 17, lives in a village in Chechnya and loves roaming the fields with her friend Madina. She is open to life and knows what she wants, but there are limits to her ability to make her own choices. An impressionistic film about being a young woman.

***Mon pire ennemi*** (*My Worst Enemy*)

by Mehran Tamadon | with Zar Amir Ebrahimi  
France / Switzerland 2023

Encounters | World premiere | Documentary Form

Mehran Tamadon has lived in France for many years. As an experiment, he asks exiled Iranians to interrogate him as if they were an agent of the Islamic Republic. A renowned actor with first-hand knowledge of such mistreatment takes up the challenge.

***Műanyag égbolt*** (*White Plastic Sky*)

by Tibor Bánóczki, Sarolta Szabó | with Tamás Keresztes, Zsófia Szamosi, Géza Hegedűs D., Judit Schell, István Znamenák  
Hungary / Slovakia 2023

Encounters | World premiere | Animation

We are in the near future: there are no more animals or plants, and the last humans are living under a plastic dome. To save his wife, a young man is willing to break all of society's rules drawn up to ensure humankind's survival.

***mul-an-e-seo*** (in water)

by Hong Sangsoo | with Shin Seokho, Ha Seongguk, Kim Seungyun

South Korea 2023

Encounters | World premiere

A young actor decides to make a short film on Jeju Island. Searching for an idea, one day he notices a figure amid the rocks at the foot of a cliff. Finally, he has a story to tell. Hong Sangsoo returns to the Berlinale with his most intimate and poetic film yet.

***Mummola*** (Family Time)

by Tia Kouvo | with Ria Kataja, Elina Knihtilä, Leena Uotila, Tom Wentzel, Jarkko Pajunen

Finland / Sweden 2023

Encounters | World premiere | Debut film

Three generations come together for the holidays, re-enacting a seasonal ritual of traditions, conversations and chores. A small world portrayed with fierce tenderness and surprising rigour, and an elegy on the ordinary in the form of a "comédie humaine".

***Le mura di Bergamo*** (The Walls of Bergamo)

by Stefano Savona

Italy 2023

Encounters | World premiere | Documentary Form

In early 2020, Bergamo in northern Italy became the epicentre of the pandemic. After the darkest days, the challenge of how to grieve begins. Stefano Savona questions his role as a documentarian and asks how to film this interrupted cycle of life and death.

***Orlando, ma biographie politique*** (Orlando, My Political Biography)

by Paul B. Preciado | with Oscar-Roza Miller, Janis Sahraoui, Liz Christin, Elios Levy, Victor Marzouk

France 2023

Encounters | World premiere | Debut film | Documentary Form

Almost a century after "Orlando" was published, Paul B. Preciado tells Virginia Woolf that her fictional character is now the root of all non-binary bodies. A revolutionary film in which life, writing, theory and image merge freely in the search for truth.

***Samsara***

by Lois Patiño | with Amid Keomany, Toumor Xiong, Simone Milavanh, Mariam Vuua Mtego, Juwairiya Idrisa Uwesu

Spain 2023

Encounters | World premiere

Laos. Near Buddhist temples, the spirit of an elderly lady begins a sensory journey towards reincarnation in the next body. To complete the transition, you must allow yourself to be carried away by the sound and light.

***Shidniy front*** (Eastern Front)

by Vitaly Mansky, Yevhen Titarenko

Latvia / Czechia / Ukraine / USA 2023

Encounters | World premiere | Documentary Form

The "Hospitallers" volunteer medical battalion was formed in 2014. Director Yevhen Titarenko is part of it. Since 2022, it has been in full operation, encountering cows sinking in mud and saving lives. A close-up view of a nation's struggle for survival.

***Viver Mal*** (Living Bad)

by João Canijo | with Nuno Lopes, Filipa Areosa, Leonor Silveira, Rafael Morais, Lia Carvalho

Portugal / France 2023

Encounters | World premiere

Five women are running an old hotel. Guests arrive over the course of a weekend and are drawn into a web of ongoing conflict. *Viver Mal* is the reverse shot of Berlinale *Competition* film *Mal Viver*, revealing everything floating in that film's depth of field.

***Xue yun*** (Absence)

by Wu Lang | with Lee Kang-Sheng, Li Meng, Ren Ke, Liang Wanling

People's Republic of China 2023

Encounters | World premiere | Debut film

After ten years in prison, Han Jianguyu returns to Hainan Island. Housing construction is booming, his childhood friend is now rich. Searching for traces of the familiar, Jianguyu meets his old love who now has a daughter. Visually powerful, precise and soulful.