

2024 (2023)

by Stefan Hayn

Germany 2025

Forum | World premiere | Documentary form

Twofold mise-en-scène. Views of a city and a family. Political Berlin, private Franconia. Painting within the film image. Realities observed within a necessarily shifting frame. A mobile phone film with the potential for deceleration. A social medium.

After Dreaming

by Christine Haroutounian | with Veronika Poghosyan, Davit Beybutyan

Armenia / USA / Mexico 2025

Forum | World premiere | Debut film

Tasked with shielding her from the news of her father's death, young soldier Atom escorts Claudette on a road trip into the conflict-ridden Armenian countryside. A hallucinatory odyssey through the mythologies of a nation in a state of permanent war.

Batim (Houses)

by Veronica Nicole Tetelbaum | with Yael Eisenberg, Tali Sharon, Evgenia Dodina

Israel / Germany 2025

Forum | World premiere | Debut film

Sasha is non-binary and came to Israel from the Soviet Union as a child in the 1990s. Haunted by memories, they visit the houses they used to live in. A quiet meditation in black and white on what it means to feel at home in a house, a body, and in time.

Bombam (Spring Night)

by Kang Mi-ja | with Han Ye-ri, Kim Seol-jin

South Korea 2024

Forum | International premiere

An alcoholic woman and an ailing man forge a life-affirming bond, but old habits die hard. Kang Mi-ja's austere drama with the great Han Ye-ri in the lead casts an unsparing eye on the ill-fated romance between two lonely souls, crippled by their past.

Cadet

by Adilkhan Yerzhanov | with Anna Starchenko, Serik Sharipov, Ratmir Yusupzhanov, Alexey Shemes

Kazakhstan 2024

Forum | European premiere

A military-set post-horror. Educating monsters. History teacher Alina is received coldly upon bringing her son Serik to the cadet school that will make him a man. A pupil dies, as the smell of past corpses emanates from the cellar of the present.

Canone effimero

by Gianluca De Serio, Massimiliano De Serio

Italy 2025

Forum | World premiere | Documentary form

Moving through Italy's regions, the De Serio brothers come across an alternative popular culture and shoot a square-shaped film about polyvocal songs, music ethnology and oral tradition. Radically contemporary, energetic, close to nature, local. Lyrical.

Chas pidlotu (Time to the Target)

by Vitaly Mansky

Latvia / Czechia / Ukraine 2025

Forum | World premiere | Documentary form

Spring, summer, autumn, winter... still war in Lviv, western Ukraine. Torn between normality and a state of emergency. For one year, Mansky follows the life cycle of a society's grieving rites and everyday rituals, where death is the order of the day.

Colosal (Colossal)

by Nayibe Tavares-Abel | with Nayibe Tavares-Abel, Poi Tavares-Abel, Faisal Abel, Nayibe Abel (Mami), Froilán Tavares Cross

Dominican Republic 2025

Forum | World premiere | Debut film | Documentary form

Genealogy, uncomfortable questions and reams of archival material are Tavares-Abel's tools in discovering the political truths of her family and the Dominican Republic. Election fraud and dictatorship are frighteningly topical. Activism suggests itself.

Evidence

by Lee Anne Schmitt

USA 2025

Forum | World premiere | Documentary form

Taking her dad's job at the Olin Corporation as a starting point, Lee Anne Schmitt interweaves meditative reflections on her biography and her own body with a history of the rise and widespread influence of conservative think tanks in the United States.

Das falsche Wort (*The Lie*)

by Katrin Seybold, Melanie Spitta

Federal Republic of Germany 1987

Forum Special | Documentary form | World premiere of the digitally restored version

As the child of survivors of the Sinti persecution by the Nazis, Melanie Spitta holds the "thread of the truth" in this film. "Reparations" - a lie! "The courts believed the perpetrators, not us." Shock, evidence, warning, accusation.

Fwends

by Sophie Somerville | with Emmanuelle Mattana, Melissa Gan

Australia 2025

Forum | World premiere | Debut film

Two young women in the world - a reunion weekend in Melbourne. Em's on a break, Jessie's always been chill. Dialogue like a babbling brook, sweet, smart, banal to heavy and back again, honest and unafraid of pathos. A generation of happy wounded souls.

Guochang (*Fruit Farm*)

by Nana Xu | with Mu Luoyuan, Gao Zijun, Wang Wentong, Nana Xu

Germany / People's Republic of China 2025

Forum Special | World premiere | Documentary form

Nana Xu travels to the place built by her father as a prisoner during the Cultural Revolution: first a work camp, later a prison, fruit farm and treatment centre. Conversations with last remaining witnesses, where home is still shaped by a repressed past.

Holding Liat

by Brandon Kramer | with Yehuda Beinín, Liat Beinín Atzili, Chaya Beinín, Tal Beinín

USA 2025

Forum | World premiere | Documentary form

Liat is one of the hostages taken on October 7. The film follows her relatives from right up close, with a focus on her father, as he tries to stay on the path of pacifism and humanity amidst war, trauma and diplomacy.

Iracema, uma transa amazônica (*Iracema*)

by Jorge Bodanzky, Orlando Senna | with Edna de Cássia, Paulo César Pereio, Lúcio dos Santos, Conceição Senna, Elma Martins

Brazil / Federal Republic of Germany 1975

Forum Special | World premiere of the digitally restored version

A young Indigenous woman leaves the village for the city. Cinema Novo, hybrid fiction, road trip and an ecological avant-garde perspective, *Iracema* shows that trees, animals and people were already being destroyed by extractivist capitalism 50 years ago.

Janine zieht aufs Land (*Janine Moves to the Country*)

by Jan Eilhardt | with Janine Lear, Maximilian Brauer, Adrian Wenzel, Kathrin Angerer, Pierre Emö

Germany 2025

Forum | World premiere

Far away from the big city, Janine is unwelcome, yet an eye-catcher: a sensual, queer subject of projection with wine-red hair. Jan Eilhardt travels with her to engage with his own rural past, opening old wounds and infiltrating a hostile milieu.

Der Kuss des Grashüpfers (*The Kiss of the Grasshopper*)

by Elmar Imanov | with Lenn Kudrjawizki, Michael Hanemann, Sophie Mousel, Rasim Jafarov

Germany / Luxembourg / Italy 2025

Forum | World premiere

The idiosyncratic Bernard covers his books in paper and lives with his sheep Fiete. When his father falls ill, his reality grows even more shaky and he sets out to find his lost balance. A magic realist tale of grief, loneliness, intimacy and new starts.

little boy

by James Benning | with Johnan Jahromi, Alessandro Streccioni, Yusef Ferguson, Yuan Gao, Nelson De Los Santos

USA 2025

Forum | World premiere | Documentary form

A film looking at the past to warn about the future, from a little boy's point of view. A companion piece to *American Dreams (lost and found)* (1984).

The Long Road to the Director's Chair

by Vibeke Løkkeberg | with Claudia von Alemann, Vibeke Løkkeberg, Helke Sander, Alice Schwarzer, Karin Howard
Norway 2025

Forum Special | World premiere | Documentary form

In 1973, Vibeke Løkkeberg filmed the beginnings of the feminist film movement at the First International Women's Film Seminar, held at the Arsenal cinema. Her footage was lost for 50 years. Today, it confronts us with past battles still yet to be won.

***La memoria de las mariposas* (The Memory of Butterflies)**

by Tatiana Fuentes Sadowski

Peru / Portugal 2025

Forum | World premiere | Debut film | Documentary form

Emerging from the shadows of the rubber trade, the lost stories of Omarino and Aredomi are revealed. A journey through Amazonian archives connects research, speculation and the filmmaker's own family history, invoking a dialogue between the living and the dead.

***Mes fantômes arméniens* (My Armenian Phantoms)**

by Tamara Stepanyan | with Vigen Stepanyan

France / Armenia / Qatar 2025

Forum Special | World premiere | Documentary form

A tender posthumous letter to Tamara's father, who was a film actor in Soviet Armenia. She already watched him on TV as a child before later establishing herself as a filmmaker. A captivating sleepwalk through the landscapes of Armenian film history.

Minimals in a Titanic World

by Philbert Aimé Mbabazi Sharangabo | with Aline Amike, Niyigena "Rwasibo Joe" Jean Pierre, Ganza Moise, Nasser Makala, Alice Amike
Rwanda / Germany / Cameroon 2025

Forum | World premiere | Debut film

Fresh out of jail, Anita is supposed to control her aggression. Physical warmth, grief and intimacy. Almost without plot, the film draws on light, colour, style, dance and great music to enter a group of friends with someone missing at its heart.

***Nagota* (Nudity)**

by Sabina Bakaeva | with Zamira Bakaeva

Uzbekistan / France 2025

Forum Special | World premiere | Documentary form

A piercingly open talk between a mother and a daughter about growing up as a woman in Uzbekistan, now and back then. Confessions about sex no one really wanted, about the experience of misogyny and gender asymmetry. Naked truths as a form of therapy.

***Palliativstation* (Palliative Care Unit)**

by Philipp Döring | with Sebastian Pfrang, Winfried Hardinghaus, Annette Ortmann, Tabea Sammer

Germany 2025

Forum | World premiere | Debut film | Documentary form

Life only ends with the final heartbeat. The palliative care unit at Berlin's Franziskus hospital. For one summer, Philipp Döring documents conversations driven by humanity, institutional bottlenecks and the light that streams in despite everything.

Punku

by J.D. Fernández Molero | with Marcelo Quino, Maritza Kategari, Ricardo Delgado, Hugo Sueldo

Peru / Spain 2025

Forum | World premiere

Iván is found unconscious with an injured eye in the jungle. As Meshia reunites him with his family, she is drawn into a foreboding journey. A disturbing look at Peru's cultural contradictions shot on a coarse mix of analogue and digital formats.

Queer as Punk

by Yihwen Chen

Malaysia / Indonesia 2025

Forum | World premiere | Documentary form

Being LGBT is criminalised in Muslim-majority Malaysia. Trans man Faris and his punk band still travel the country playing gigs and protesting on the streets. A documentary portrait of courageous people, humorous friendship and the spirit of punk.

***Restitucija, ili, San i java stare garde* (Eighty Plus)**

by Žilimir Žilnik | with Milan Kovačević, Milivoj Kiždobranski, Vera Hrčan Ostojić, Mirjana Gardinovački, Lidija Stevanović

Serbia / Slovenia 2025

Forum | World premiere

In Žilnik's hilarious and sneakily charming docu-fiction, post-socialist restitution returns his childhood home to Serbian jazz musician Stevan. After six decades in Germany, he returns to his homeland where a series of reunions sheds light on his life.

Scars of a Putsch

by Nathalie Borgers | with Abidin Ertuğrul, Nathalie Borgers, Cahit Akçam, Perihan Akçam, Yeter Güneş
Austria / Belgium 2025

Forum Special | World premiere | Documentary form

His scars form the starting point of her research trip to track down the young people crushed by the military putsch of September 12, 1980. The dream of Turkish democracy in pieces, the way to an authoritarian regime and political Islam already paved.

The Sense of Violence

by Kim Mooyoung | with Kim Sung-Chil, Jun Mi-kyung, Yun Yong, Choi Ji-won
South Korea 2024

Forum | International premiere | Documentary form

This stringent found footage film considers how state-supporting ideologies – in this case anti-Communism in politically turbulent South Korea – are built from the ground up: via images, narratives, architecture, propaganda and real-life violence.

Shinagani gazapkhulebis q'vaviloba (Inner Blooming Springs)

by Tiku Kobiashvili | with Tina Matchavariani, Luka Chibukhaia, Tamar Tavartkiladze, Lazare Eliozashvili, Tamara Kalabegashvili
Georgia 2025

Forum Special | World premiere | Documentary form

In 2024, protests are held on the streets of Tbilisi against the so-called “Foreign Agents” law. Tina, Luka, director Tiku and their friends also take part. They resist by being there for one another – gathering courage for what lies ahead.

SIRENS CALL

by Miri Ian Gossing & Lina Sieckmann | with Gina Rønning, Moth Rønning-Bötöl, Rei Spider Barnes, Jason Bötöl, Mark Ginsberg
Germany / Netherlands 2025

Forum | World premiere | Debut film | Documentary form

In this feature-length debut, nomadic siren Una journeys through postmodern reality, navigating survival, identity and belonging. A dive into the merfolk subculture between self-care and political activism, a hybrid of science fiction and documentary.

Stolz & Eigensinn (Pride & Attitude)

by Gerd Kroske | with Silke Butzlaff, Steffi Gänkler, Ingrid Kreßner, Bärbel Grätz, Ulla Nietzsche
Germany 2025

Forum | World premiere | Documentary form

The viewpoints of working women from a country that no longer exists preserved on low-band U-matic tape. GDR-FRG. Courageous, self-confident and emancipated: female industry workers talk about gaining autonomy.

The Swan Song of Fedor Ozerov

by Yuri Semashko | with Viachaslau Kmit, Violetta Rahachova, Pavel Haradnitski, Anastasiya Rysik, Alexey Lyubchenko
Lithuania / Germany 2025

Forum | World premiere | Debut film

Fedor, 25, is uninterested in rumours of the approaching Third World War: he wants to start a band and write songs, but needs his lucky jumper to do so. Tragicomedy meets mythology and wit rubs up against horror in this grippingly rhythmic debut.

The Trio Hall

by Su Hui-yu | with Hsiao Kurt, Chen Ching, Lai Hao-zhe, Liao Yuan-ching, Yang Chia-en
Taiwan 2025

Forum | World premiere

This spectacularly eccentric satire by Su Hui-yu draws on 1970s Taiwanese TV culture and has a roller-skating Hitler dance with Stalin and Mao do the same with Chiang Kai-shek. A revue show of dictators in cahoots with the entertainment industry.

Underground

by Kaori Oda | with Nao Yoshigai, Mitsuo Matsunaga, Mikie Nishihara, Eiga Matsuo, Hayato Nagasaki
Japan 2024

Forum | International premiere | Documentary form

In 1945, the Okinawa caves offered the population shelter from the bombs and the US troops' arrival. Kaori Oda's film works in different visual layers, superimposing oral memory culture over historical wounds. The past casts shadows over the present.

Unsere Zeit wird kommen (Our Time Will Come)

by Ivette Löcker
Austria 2025

Forum | World premiere | Documentary form

Victoria and Siaka, an Austrian-Gambian couple in their mid-30s in Vienna, are in love, but being together has not been without turmoil. As they work on a relationship between two continents, the foundations are laid for their shared future as a family.

Vaghachipani (*Tiger's Pond*)

by Natesh Hegde | with Dileesh Pothan, Achyut Kumar, Natesh, Gopal Hegde, Sumitra

India / Singapore 2025

Forum | World premiere

A cutthroat businessman of feudal heritage, Prabhu sets out to manipulate a local election, but his designs run up against the defiance of Basu, a street-smart, outcast villager. A dark, lyrical crime drama with rapturous textures and treacherous depths.

Wenn du Angst hast nimmst du dein Herz in den Mund und lächelst (*If You Are Afraid You Put Your Heart into Your Mouth and Smile*)

by Marie Luise Lehner | with Siena Popović, Mariya Menner, Jessica Paar

Austria 2025

Forum | World premiere | Debut film

Anna, 12, lives with her deaf mother in a loving bond, yet under humble conditions that are a source of social shame, when she begins high school. Staying close to its heroines, this refreshing debut blends solidarity, feminism and tons of melodies.

What's next?

by Cao Yiwen

Hong Kong, China 2025

Forum | World premiere | Debut film

Made by one woman with the help of an AI image generator, this animation dreams up a world before and after the arrival of evil. With no dialogue and a meditative soundtrack, it embraces the kitsch and utter strangeness of images hallucinated by machines.

When Lightning Flashes Over the Sea

by Eva Neymann | with Fadey Fadeev, Madona Hupenia, Igor Vlasenko, Nina Ulchik, Valeriy Bassel

Germany / Ukraine 2025

Forum | World premiere | Documentary form

A widow who cares for stray cats, a boy who loves the sea, a philosopher marked by life ... Eva Neymann shows the inhabitants of Odesa with gentleness and care, trying to find out what they dream of when the war has destroyed all certainty.