

Arcadia

by Yorgos Zois | with Vangelis Mourikis, Angeliki Papoulia, Elena Topalidou, Nikolas Papagiannis, Vangelis Evangelinos

Greece / Bulgaria / USA 2024

Encounters | World premiere

Neurologist Katerina accompanies Yannis, a retired doctor, to identify the victim of a car accident. Once there, she sees her worst suspicions confirmed. The two unravel a haunting tale of love, loss, acceptance and letting go.

Cidade; Campo

by Juliana Rojas | with Fernanda Vianna, Mirella Façanha, Bruna Linzmeyer, Kalleb Oliveira, Andrea Marquee

Brazil / Germany / France 2024

Encounters | World premiere

Two tales of migration, memories and ghosts. After a disaster floods her land, Joana moves to São Paulo and tries to restart her life. Following the death of her father, Flavia moves to his farm in the country with her wife Mara.

Demba

by Mamadou Dia | with Ben Mahmoud Mbow, Awa Djiga Kane, Mamadou Sylla, Aicha Talla, Abdoulaye Dicko

Senegal / Germany / Qatar 2024

Encounters | World premiere | With the support of: FOPICA-Senegal, Berlinale World Cinema Fund, Canal+ International, Doha Film Institute, Visions Sud Est

Demba is about to retire. He realises he is unable to simply “shake off” his wife’s death. As he awkwardly tries to deal with his conflicting emotions, he discovers a new connection with his son.

DIRECT ACTION

by Guillaume Cailleau, Ben Russell

Germany / France 2024

Encounters | World premiere

DIRECT ACTION documents the everyday lives of one of the most high-profile militant activist communities in France and asks whether the success of a radical protest movement can offer a path through the climate crisis.

Dormir de olhos abertos (*Sleep with Your Eyes Open*)

by Nele Wohlatz | with Chen Xiao Xin, Wang Shin-Hong, Liao Kai Ro, Nahuel Pérez Biscayart, Lu Yang Zong

Brazil / Taiwan / Argentina / Germany 2024

Encounters | World premiere

A coastal city in Brazil. Fu Ang, Kai and Xiao Xin rarely meet in this quiet comedy of misunderstandings. Yet during a hot, slow summer, delicate bonds grow between them like islands in a sea full of sharks.

The Fable

by Raam Reddy | with Manoj Bajpayee, Priyanka Bose, Deepak Dobriyal, Tillotama Shome, Hiral Sidhu

India / USA 2024

Encounters | World premiere

One day, Dev discovers trees have been burnt down in his orchard in the Indian Himalayas. Despite all his efforts, bigger and bigger fires break out, which ultimately leads to Dev having to face the truth about himself and his family.

Une famille (*A Family*)

by Christine Angot

France 2024

Encounters | World premiere | Debut film

This cinematographic journey of French novelist Christine Angot, who was abused by her father for years, challenges social norms and family perspectives in dealing with incest.

Favoriten

by Ruth Beckermann | with Ilkay Idiskut

Austria 2024

Encounters | World premiere

Ruth Beckermann accompanied a primary school class in Vienna for three years. Despite the difficult conditions at the school, this is an astonishingly cheerful film – about teaching, learning and the often very surprising experiences somewhere in between.

Ivo

by Eva Trobisch | with Minna Wünderich, Pia Hierzegger, Lukas Turtur, Lilli Lacher, Johann Campean
Germany 2024

Encounters | World premiere

Ivo is a palliative care nurse. She has become close friends with her patient Solveigh. Ivo also has a relationship with Solveigh's husband – in fact, they sleep with each other. When Solveigh decides to end her life, she asks Ivo to help her.

Khamyazeye bozorg (*The Great Yawn of History*)

by Aliyar Rasti | with Mohammad Aghebati, Amirhossein Hosseini, Saber Abar, Mahin Sadri, Mehrdad Ziaie
Iran 2024

Encounters | World premiere | Debut film

Beitollah dreams about a box of gold coins at the end of a cave. Since he is a very religious man and fears that the coins might not be halal, he finds a non-religious assistant to accompany him on the search.

Kong fang jian li de nv ren (*Some Rain Must Fall*)

by Qiu Yang | with Yu Aier, Di Shike, Wei Yibo, Xu Tianyi, Gu Tingxiu
People's Republic of China / USA / France / Singapore 2024

Encounters | World premiere | Debut film

Cai, a 45-year-old housewife from the Chinese middle classes, is in a crisis. She no longer knows who she is or who she wants to be. Following a seemingly trivial incident, her life goes off the rails and she heads into an uncertain future.

Mãos no fogo (*Hands in the Fire*)

by Margarida Gil | with Carolina Campanela, Marcello Urgeghe, Adelaida Teixeira, Rita Durão, Sofia Vilariço
Portugal 2024

Encounters | World premiere

While exploring old manor houses along the Douro River, the young film student Maria do Mar finds herself trapped in a house of horrors.

Matt and Mara (*Matt und Mara*)

by Kazik Radwanski | with Deragh Campbell, Matt Johnson, Mounir Al Shami, Emma Healey, Avery Nayman
Canada 2024

Encounters | World premiere

Mara, a young professor, is struggling with marital problems when she suddenly meets Matt, a man from her past, who wanders onto her university campus.

Through the Graves the Wind Is Blowing

by Travis Wilkerson | with Ivan Peric, Travis Wilkerson, Matilda Jane Wilkerson, Dalton Wilkerson
USA 2024

Encounters | World premiere

A frustrated detective tries to solve a series of murders in Split, Croatia, where the breakup of Yugoslavia has left its mark.

Tú me abrasas (*You Burn Me | Du verbrennst mich*)

by Matías Piñeiro | with Gabi Saidón, María Villar, María Inês Gonçalves, Agustina Muñoz, Ana Cris Barragán
Argentina / Spain 2024

Encounters | World premiere

Tú me abrasas is an adaptation of "Sea Foam", a chapter from Cesare Pavese's "Dialoghi con Leucò" in which the Greek poet Sappho and the nymph Britomartis talk of desire and death.