

Geneva, November 11, 2023

29th GIFF and 11th GDM: Review and prize list of the 29th edition

The Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF, November 3 – 12) is coming to an end after ten days packed with audiovisual exploration focusing on innovation. The program of this 29th edition is one of consolidation of the major changes to the arts program, a coming of age after three editions under its new Executive and Artistic Director, and one year ahead of its jubilee edition in 2024. The closing ceremony gave recognition to four works examining the societal challenges of the contemporary world (prize list here below). The popularity of the Festival's digital program attests to the public's fascination with this creation (50% of festival-goers were experiencing VR for the first time). The GIFF's market and professional program, the Geneva Digital Market, closed yesterday with a rise in attendance (up by 17%) and the signature of the SWAN charter for equality and diversity in movie, audiovisual and animé festivals.

The GIFF is running on until tomorrow, Sunday November 12, as well as online for subscribers to series (until December 12), GDM footage and the edition's masterclasses (coming online in early 2024). The GIFF is also continuing in December with its itinerant program GIFF Unlimited, supporting unprecedented collaboration with the Lausanne arts unit "Plateforme 10" (December 16-23, details below). The consolidated attendance figures for this edition will be issued at a later date.

Convergent themes reflecting the issues of the world today

This year, the Festival's four competitions (movies, series, immersive experiences and Future is Sensible) are honoring four artists whose works, including two series, portray some of the key issues of today. The winner of the International Features competition, chaired by the Swiss director Stéphanie Chuat alongside four students from film universities and higher study institutes, was *Humanist vampire seeking consenting suicidal person* by Ariane Louis-Seize, a genuine tribute to genre cinema, and an ode to neurodiversity. The winner of the International Series Competition, judged by three members of the public, was the Belgian series *The Club* by Leander Verdievel and Zita Theunynck, subtly and humorously expressing the joy and pain of couples facing the challenges of MAP. The winner of the Immersive Experiences Competition, judged by three creative industry professionals, was *Eternal Walkers* by Hayoun Kwon, a meander through Korean mythological tradition to better understand the current population exodus. The Future is Sensible convergent competition program, focused on social prospects and visions of the future, was won by the Norwegian satire *The Architect* by Kerren Lumer-Klabbers and Nora Landsrød, with their critique of modern urban planning's drift away from humanity.

The Geneva Digital Market asserts its position

The GIFF's professional program, the Geneva Digital Market, closed yesterday with its attendance up by 17%. This unique event for Switzerland, which focuses on audiovisual innovation, brought together hundreds of international experts working in the fields of the new technologies, arts and creation, to swap ideas on the challenges facing the sector: use of AI, feminism in VR, sustainability... The GDM also brought together directors from across the French-speaking world at the "Francophone Co-Production Encounters", organized by the Federal Office for Culture, and produced by Focal (the Swiss Foundation for professional training in cinema and audiovisual media). A highlight of the program, the Digital Night was held in the iconic "Bâtiment des Forces Motrices", bringing together 600 guests as well as the GIFF's guest of honor Jean-Michel Jarre, in attendance to receive the Film & Beyond Award.

GIFF at fever pitch in the run-up to its jubilee edition

The Festival is passionate about pursuing its development on the eve of its 30th edition in 2024, with a new chair taking over in January 2024 (see below), driven by the enthusiasm of the public and professionals, as well as its ongoing annual itinerant program, GIFF Unlimited, starting in December.

Rebecca Irvin, new Chair of the GIFF Foundation from 2024

The GIFF is delighted to announce the appointment of Rebecca Irvin to head up the GIFF Foundation from January 2024. Rebecca Irvin is an expert in business communication and philanthropy, with decades of experience as the Director of the Rolex Institute. She has played a crucial role in the company, managing the Rolex Awards in line with the company's philosophy, as well as the Rolex Arts Mentoring Program, pairing up young talents and renowned artists, such as Margaret Atwood, Joan Jonas, Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, Stephen Frears, Walter Murch and Alfonso Cuarón. Rebecca Irvin supervised these programs, and has also organized international events and festivals in the fields of the arts and science. Before her career at Rolex, she worked in Communication at CICR, and was a journalist for international agencies such as Reuters and United Press International.

Rebecca Irvin will retire from Rolex at the end of 2023 after 30 years at the company, and then take over as Chair of the GIFF Foundation Board from January 1st 2024, in the run-up to the Festival's 30th edition. The GIFF Foundation is honored to be able to count on Rebecca Irvin's expertise and skills to support the Festival in working to achieve its missions.

"I'm delighted to join the GIFF team for its jubilee edition in 2024. I hope to be able to put my skills to good use for this Festival, so unique and full of promise, and contribute to expanding its reach both in Switzerland and internationally," Rebecca Irvin observed.

WINNERS

REFLET D'OR FOR THE BEST FEATURE 2023

Supported by the City and Canton of Geneva (10,000 CHF)

Humanist vampire seeking consenting suicidal person by Ariane Louis-Seize (CA)

Awarded by a Jury comprising of the director and screenwriter Stéphanie Chuat as the president (CH), and 4 students from Swiss film schools: Gabriel Grosclaude (ZHDK, CH), Anna Joos (ECAL/HEAD CH), Timon Musy (UNIL, CH), Sofia Pasotti (USI, CH)

REFLET D'OR FOR THE BEST SERIES 2023

Supported by the City and Canton of Geneva (10,000 CHF)

The Club by Leander Verdievel and Zita Theunynck (BE)

Awarded by an inclusive jury comprising of three festival-goers (contest winners): Justine Langlois (CH), Damien Molineaux (CH), Mathieu Roux (CH)

REFLET D'OR FOR THE BEST IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE 2023

Supported by the City and Canton of Geneva (10,000 CHF)

Eternal walkers by Hayoun Kwon (FR, KR)

Awarded by a jury of international experts: Gaëlle Mourre (FR/UK), Jay Kim (KR), Alexandra Gérard (BE)

FUTURE IS SENSIBLE AWARD 2023

Funded by the "Pour-cent culturel Migros" cultural support program (10,000 CHF)

The Architect, a series created by Kerren Lumer-Klabbers, Kristian Kilde and Nora Landsrød (NO)

GIFF 29th GENEVA
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
3-12.11.2023

GDM 11th GENEVA
DIGITAL
MARKET
6-10.11.2023

Given by a Jury of three international personalities active in the audiovisual field and creative industries: Nora Nahid Khan (US), Giovanna Fossati (NL), Keith Stuart (GB)

GENEVA AWARD 2023

In association with Edmond de Rothschild and the Geneva University of Art and Design – HEAD

Kourtrajmé collective

Kim Chapiron, Toumani Sangaré, Romain Gavras, Ladj Ly, Nabil Zerfa & Yassine Lassar Ramdani (FR)

FILM & BEYOND AWARD 2023

In association with O. Zbinden

Jean-Michel Jarre (FR)

TALES OF SWISS INNOVATION 2023

Marguerite Kudelski (CH)

Save the date

December 16 – 23, 2023 : GIFF Unlimited @ Plateforme 10
November 01 – 10, 2024: 30th edition of the GIFF

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