

FANTOCHE

**INTERNATIONALES FESTIVAL FÜR ANIMATIONSFILM
BADEN/SCHWEIZ**

FANTOCHE 2025 PRESS FILE

**23rd International Animation Film Festival
2 – 7 September 2025 in Baden, Switzerland
www.fantoche.ch**

Baden, 18 August 2025

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FANTOCHE 2025: WORK, WORK, WORK

The programme for this year's Fantoche, which takes place from 2 – 7 September 2025 in Baden, features more than 250 short films and feature films. In its 23rd outing, the International Animation Film Festival is dedicated to animation from Estonia and, in the focus programme '9 to 5', questions the meaning of work. The six days of the festival offer numerous opportunities to meet international and national artists, to gain unique insights into their work and to discover current feature films from all over the world and the latest multimedia trends. The heart of Fantoche is its International, Swiss and Kids Film Competitions, with the prize ceremony taking place at TRAFO in Baden from 6 pm onwards on 7 September.

'9 to 5'

Inspired by Dolly Parton's classic, the festival's focus programme '9 to 5' is dedicated to the theme of work. Curated by Olga Bobrowska, the short film and feature film programme critically explores patriarchal and capitalist structures. In the South Korean feature film 'Chun Tae-Il', trade unionist Jeon Tae-il goes to the extreme in the fight for labour rights. 'Piercing I' depicts the lives of two unemployed people in Beijing and is both a story about friendship and a crime film. The short film programme 'We are the World, we are the Assets' is dedicated to working people, who are reduced to mere resources in the global work system. The programme 'Even a Girl could do it: Stories of Labor, Life, and Survival' shows short films from a feminist perspective. These stories are about difficult working conditions, exploitation, creative resistance and the quest for self-determination.

The exhibition 'Urban Sketchers @ Work' at the Gluri Suter Huus depicts the development of Wettingen as a place of work. The four additional short films in the 'Working Class Hero' programme, curated by Fantoche, show the reality of a working day geared towards efficiency. In the 'Resisting Grind Culture' talk, animation is analysed as a tool of resistance against patriarchal and capitalist work structures.

The annual collaboration between Fantoche and the Zurich University of the Arts Department of Design also examines the focus theme: the group exhibition 'REFRESH x Fantoche # 4' presents games, videos and interactive installations on work in the post-digital age. In the '24/7 – Work, Work, Work' talk, participants discuss how algorithms are changing the world of work.

Focus on Estonia

The second focus is on animated filmmaking in Estonia. Like Switzerland, Estonia proves that artistic excellence and well-thought-out funding structures can enhance animation's global appeal. Filmmaker Helen Unt and art professor Lilli-Krõõt Repnau (Estonian Academy of Arts) have curated three short film programmes laden with symbolic power, surreal images, contemporary aesthetics and existential themes.

In the programme 'Male+ Voices from Estonia', Estonian filmmakers and a female director explore serious themes in an artful and playful way. 'Female+ Voices from Estonia' brings together promising film debuts and modern fairy tales – important places of refuge in these times of war. 'EKA Focus' shows award-winning current films by students of the Animation Master's programme at the Estonian Academy of Arts (EKA).

A talk with the curators and filmmakers as well as an Artist Talk on Industry Day with award-winning filmmaker Sander Joon ('Sierra') will also shine the spotlight on the Estonian animated film scene.

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Recent feature films

Fantoche is showing 16 recent feature films for young and old animation fans this year. The festival will open with 'Amélie aet la metaphysique des tubes' (FR 2025) by Liane-Cho Han Jin Kuang and Maillys Vallade. The two directors turn Amélie Nothomb's autobiographical novel into a visually powerful film experience: Amélie grows up in Japan and, as a two-year-old Belgian girl, begins to discover her place in the world. Childhood biographies are a recurring theme throughout this year's programme. In 'Hola Frida' (CA/FR 2024), Karine Vézina and André Kadi portray the future Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, while in the Swiss co-production 'Mary Anning' (CH/BE 2025), Ticino director Marcel Barelli shines the spotlight on the early years of the first recognised female palaeontologist.

French director Léonard Cohen's 'Le Parfum d'Irak' (FR/BE 2024) is a sensitive family story and at the same time a haunting animated documentary about the recent events in Iraq. The feature debut of Emma Hough Hobbs and Leela Varghese, 'Lesbian Space Princess' (AU 2024), is lively and amusing, yet profound – the two directors received a Teddy Award at the Berlinale for their queer sci-fi comedy. The Canadian film 'La mort n'existe pas' (CA/FR 2025) by Félix Dufour-Laperrière about assassin Hélène is aesthetically outstanding. Anime fans won't want to miss 'ChaO' (JP 2025) – a heart-warming love story between a fish princess and the office employee Stephan. With 'Mémor of a Snail' (AU 2024), director Adam Elliott has once again succeeded in creating a heart-rending tragicomedy with quirky characters and biting humour following 'Mary and Max'. 'Night of the Zoopocalypse' (CA/BE/FR 2024), a horror parody set in a zoo, also delivers sharp humour.

Like 'Mary Anning' and 'Hola Frida', 'Tales from the Magic Garden' (CZ/SK/SI/FR 2025) is a film for the whole family. The stop-motion film takes a subtle and witty look at the subject of transience. Another family highlight (from age 10) is 'Arco' (FR 2025). The film tells the story of a boy from the future who travels as a rainbow into the past and turns the life of Iris, a girl of the same age, upside down. The science fiction utopia of comic author Ugo Bienvenu was named best film at the renowned animation film festival Annecy this year. 'Olivia and the Invisible Earthquake' (ES/FR/BE/CL/CH 2025), a Swiss co-production, tells the story of a girl whose life changes dramatically overnight.

For kids & families & the next generation

There's more 'For Kids and Teens' besides the current feature films for the whole family. In 'Kids for Kids', talented young artists up to the age of 12 present their animated works on the big screen, while in 'Toons by Teens' newcomers up to the age of 17 put their skills to the test. On Wednesday afternoon and the weekend, the popular Walk-in Workshop will again take place in the Merker Areal, where children and teenagers can create their own animated film. There are recent short films to discover in the Children's Film Competition and 'Panorama Next Gen.' In 'Next Gen Ani', the next animation generation will be given tips by professionals.

Competition

In 2025, the Fantoche selection team chose 89 animated short films out of a total of 3050 submissions. Of these, 23 will be screened in the 'Panorama' programmes, while 66 will compete in the International Competition, the Swiss Competition and the Children's Film Competition. Fantoche is now one of the Oscar qualifying festivals, which means that films from the International Competition can qualify for participation in the Academy Awards®. Fantoche is also recognised as a BAFTA qualifying festival.

International Competition awards: Best Film • High Risk (Grand Casino Baden) • Youth Award for Best New Talent • Flying Anidoc Award (Flying Film Festival/SWISS) • Audience Award International Competition (Fantoche Members)

Swiss Competition awards: • Best Swiss (SUISIMAGE/SSA) • High Swiss Risk (Fantoche founding team) • Fantastic Swiss (NIFFF & XPPen) • Youth Award for Best New Talent • Flying Anidoc Award (Flying Film Festival/SWISS) • Audience Award Swiss Competition (SRG SSR)

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Kids Film Competition awards: Best Kids • Children's Audience Award (Kaufmann Turmkrane AG)

You can find the press release on the selection [here](#).

11th Fantoche Industry Day

'Think Outside the Frame' – disrupting familiar formats and thinking bigger about animation – is the motto of the 11th Industry Day, which takes place this year on Thursday, 4 September. The focus is on international co-productions, storytelling and pitching, and the question of how personal style can be incorporated into commercial projects. One highlight is the visit by Simon Magnan. He offers insights into his work as Environment 3 D Supervisor at Fortiche – the French animation studio behind the successful series 'Arcane'. Industry Day concludes with the presentation of the Swiss Animation Industry Award. In collaboration with the SWISSFILM Association, Fantoche is presenting the award for the best animated commissioned film in Switzerland for the eighth time.

Plus...

Three 'Making-of' sessions this year offer exclusive insights. In his feature film 'Le Parfum d'Irak', director Léonard Cohen shows how animation and documentary intertwine and demonstrates the perfect transition from information to emotion. Australian directors Emma Hough Hobbs and Leela Varghese talk about their feature debut 'Lesbian Space Princess' – a lively homage to queer life with great cult potential. Game director Onat Hekimoglu presents 'Harold Halibut' – an award-winning stop-motion game about a spaceship caretaker.

Three animators will attend the festival for a 'Meet the Artist' event. Nina Gantz, who is also part of the competition jury, combines stop-motion, puppetry and live action and has won BAFTA awards and an Oscar nomination for her films. Lucija Mrzljak, also a jury member and Oscar-nominated animation filmmaker, is regarded as a subversive and important representative of Estonian animated film. David Szauder explores the creative interplay between art and AI.

The 'Retrospective' is dedicated to Bolivian-Swiss animator Jesús Pérez. He taught himself animation autodidactically and developed a lively, visually poetic style of animation. As a long-standing lecturer at Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Pérez helped to shape countless animation students.

Austrian cartoonist Nicolas Mahler and his Lucerne co-director Stefan Halaus will be celebrating a world premiere at Fantoche, as they will be showing all 26 episodes of their 'One Minute Movies' in one go for the first time. Renowned puppet animator Kihachirō Kawamoto, who would have turned 100 this year, will receive a special tribute when Fantoche presents his magnum opus 'The Book of the Dead'.

The new programme highlight, the 'Midnight Snack', serves up quirky short films at the end the day: cat fans get their money's worth ('If You Love Cats, This is For You') and puppets teach us all about the art of fear ('As if They Were Breathing – Uncanny Puppets in Motion'). Sketches, figures and other objects from the competition films can also be viewed in the 'Animation Artefacts' exhibition at Kunstraum Baden.

The annual festival fixtures include the Artists' Brunch, the Bagno Popolare, church on Sunday, the Fantoche restaurant & bar and the varied programme at the Royal, which ranges from an immersive concert to a VJ battle to parties.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

Screeners

Fantoche provides media professionals with advance screeners of some feature films.

Online film library

You can request access to our online film library via promotion@fantoche.ch. If you miss any of the films from the competitions, you can view them via the online film library, which is available until the end of September 2025.

Images to download

High-resolution image files are available to download at fantoche.ch/de/industry-und-media.

Fantoche app

The Fantoche app for iPhone, iPad and Android can be downloaded for free from the iTunes Apple Store and GooglePlay Store.

Media accreditation

To receive media accreditation, please register on the Fantoche website. You will then receive a confirmation and a personal access key for your tickets as well as further information for accreditation. You can pick up your accreditation at the information stand in the festival centre. With the access key you can reserve your desired tickets in advance and print them out or show them on your mobile phone. Alternatively, you can collect your tickets from the festival centre from Tuesday noon (2 September 2025) or at the counter of the respective cinema from Wednesday afternoon (3 September 2025). Please present your accreditation.

Social media

[instagram.com/fantoche_festival](https://www.instagram.com/fantoche_festival)
[facebook.com/fantoche.ch](https://www.facebook.com/fantoche.ch)
[youtube.com/FantocheAnimation](https://www.youtube.com/FantocheAnimation)
[vimeo.com/fantoche](https://www.vimeo.com/fantoche)
#fantoche #fantoche2025

Contact for media professionals

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FILMMAKERS AND ANIMATION EXPERTS IN ATTENDANCE

The festival will be opened on Tuesday, 2 September 2025, by Federal Councillor Elisabeth Baume-Schneider and Baden City Councillor Steffi Kessler. Fantoche is looking forward to welcoming numerous international and national filmmakers to Baden for six days. With their talks, their participation in Industry Day and their presence at the Artists' Brunch, they are an essential part of the festival.

You can find the current list of participating filmmakers below.

Are you interested in an interview? Then contact us at media@fantoche.ch.

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Latest Feature Films

Marcel Barelli	CH	Mary Anning	Director
Leonard Cohen	FR	Le Parfum d'Irak	Director
Emma Hough Hobbs	AU	Lesbian Space Princess	Director
Nyx Schütz	CH	Olivia and the Invisible Earthquake	Distribution
Mailys Vallade	FR	Amélie et la métaphysique des tubes	Director
Leela Varghese	AU	Lesbian Space Princess	Director

Jury

Katie Bignell	UK	Internationaler Wettbewerb	Founder Festival Formula
Nina Gantz	NL	Internationaler Wettbewerb	Animator
Christoph Terhechte	DE	Internationaler Wettbewerb	Artistic Director DOK Leipzig
Aubry Mintz	US	Schweizer Wettbewerb/SAIA	Executive Director ASIFA Hollywood
Lucija Mrzljak	HR	Schweizer Wettbewerb/SAIA	Animator
Julie Rousson	FR	Schweizer Wettbewerb/SAIA	Programme Coordinator Clérmont ISFF

International Competition I

Sameh Alaa	FR	S The Wolf	Director
Lea Favre	CH	Qui part à la chasse	Director
Anne Verbeure	BE	The Golden Donkey	Director
Wanlin Xia	US	Noon Lover	Director

International Competition II

Bill Acheson	CA	Paradaïz	Creative Director
Marvin Hauck	NL	States of Matter	Director
Oscar Jacobson	DE	Detlev	Animator
Matea Radic	CA	Paradaïz	Director
Seun Yee	KR	Boundaries	Director

International Competition III

Bonheur Suprême	FR	Homunculus	Director
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International Competition IV

Alina Alybekova	KG	Because, I am a girl	Director
Aiana Baimuratova	KG	Because, I am a girl	Animator
Fatima Chorobekova	KG	Because, I am a girl	Animator
Natalia Mirzoyan	EE/AM/FR/BE	Winter In March	Director
Maida Srabovic	HR/SI	Fačuk	Director
Štefan Vedran	HR/SI	Fačuk	Producer
Asel Zhuraeva	KG	Because, I am a girl	Producer

International Competition V

Zach Dorn	US	Long Live Livia	Director
Stéphane Laporte	US	Long Live Livia	Composer
Pierre Oberkampf	FR	Une fugue	Composer
Rachel Shiloach	UK	Me and You and Smoke	Director

Swiss Competition I

Noah Erni	CH	Der Vegetarierkongress	Director
Touka Fatemi	CH	Wacky Horses	Director
Iara de Jong Gonçalves	CH	Wacky Horses	Director
Aline Höchli	CH	Karies	Director
Marie Kenov	CH	Ostrich	Director
Anna Müller	CH	Wacky Horses	Director
Thaïs Odermatt	CH	Bandwurm Alexis & Operndiva	Director
Theresa Sellmann	CH	Frames	Director
Annika Sirkiä	CH	Frames	Composer
Ysabel Steiner	CH	Wacky Horses	Director
Luisa Zürcher	CH	Ich bin nicht sicher	Director

Swiss Competition II

Marwan Abdalla Eissa	CH	TV oder Die Ruhestörung an der Waldbergstrasse	Producer
Geena Gasser	CH	Labouyi Bannann	Director
Nils Hedinger	CH	Storytelling	Director
Alice Kunz	CH	Cottage Cheese	Director
Liina Luomajoki	CH	Cottage Cheese	Director
Lena Metzger	CH	Cottage Cheese	Director
Della Miranda	CH	Ouais	Director
Janina Müller	CH	Cottage Cheese	Director
Frederic Siegel	CH	TV oder Die Ruhestörung an der Waldbergstrasse	Director
Tokay Sirin	CH	Double or Nothing	Director

Kids Competition I

Fêt-Nat Bailly	UK	When the Tide Comes	Director
Tejas Ewing	UK	When the Tide Comes	Screenwriter
Judith Ordonneau	CH	Astral	Director
Amanda Orzechowska	UK	When the Tide Comes	Producer

Kids Competition II

Pedro Anias	BR	Tsuru	Director
Julia Skala	DE	Kaulquappe	Director
Marion Täschler	CH	Thanks, You Too	Director

Focus 9 to 5

Kate Jessop	UK	Coal Woman: Nadirah	Director
Anne Lucas	DE	Fill3	Director

Focus Estland

Liisi Grünberg	EE	Miisufy	Director
Sander Joon	EE	Sounds Good	Director
Ave Taavet	EE	To Pet a Hedgehog	Director

Panorama

Luma Flôres	BR	How a River Is Born	Director
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Industry Day

Dani Bordelon	US	Speaker "Focus: The Art and Business of Commercial Animation "	Junior Producer (Golden Wolf)
Nino Christen	CH	Speaker "Focus: The Art and Business of Commercial Animation "	Director
Sander Joon	EE	Artist Talk	Director
Simon Magnan	FR	Presentation: Fortiche – Backgrounds in "Arcane"	Supervisor Environment 3D (Fortiche)
Corinna Marschall	CH	Speaker "Focus: Co-Production"	Managing Director (Media Desk)
Katie Menzies	UK	Speaker "Focus: The Art and Business of Commercial Animation "	Founder and Director (Cabeza Patata)
David Odermatt	CH	Whats'up Switzerland	Director and 3 D Motion Designer (Projektil)
Marjolaine Perreten	CH	Speaker "Focus: Co-Production"	Director (Nadasdy)
Clémence Pun	CH	Speaker "Focus: Co-Production"	Producer (Helium Films)
Bea Rodrigues	UK	Portfolio Review Session	Associate Talent Director (Golden Wolf)
Paul Tyler	UK/DK	Leader Workshop: "Pitching"	Story Consultant (Handling Ideas)
Samuel Wanja	CH	Portfolio Review Session	Head of Production (Nadasdy)

More Artists present...

Nina Gantz	NL	Meet the Artist: Nina Gantz	Director
Lucija Mrzljak	HR	Meet the Artist: Lucija Mrzljak	Director
David Szauder	HU	Meet the Artist: David Szauder on AI	Media Artist
Onat Hekimuglu	DE	Making Of: Hrold Halibut <i>More Making ofs by Léonard Cohen/Emma Hough Hobbs/Leela Varghese</i>	Director
Jesús Perez	CH	Retrospective: Jesús Perez	Director
Nicolas Mahler	AT	One Minute Movies	Director
Stefan Holaus	CH	One Minute Movies	Director

Curators

Jo Bahdo	CH	Next Gen Ani
Olga Bobrowska	PL	Focus 9 to 5
Amélie Cochet	CH	Industry Day
Fabian Degen	CH	Fantoche Playlist
Gerd Gockel	CH	Retrospective: Jesús Perez
Mischa Haberthür	CH	Kihachirō Kawamoto
Ivana Kvesić	CH	Competitions (member of the selection team), Panorama
Lena Metzger	CH	Camping on the Ocean Floor
Veronica L. Montaña	CH	Industry Day
Xenia Ngyuen	CH	Midnight Snack: As if They Were Breathing
Lilli-Kröt Repnau	EE	Focus Estland
Valentina Romero	CH	Next Gen Ani
Sara Sabatelli	CH	We. Love. GIFs
Maike Thies	CH	REFRESH x Fantoche #4
Erik van Drunen	CH	Feature Films, Making-Ofs, Let's Talk
Helen Unt	EE	Focus Estland
Olivier Zobrist	CH	Artists' Brunch
Fantoche-Team	CH	Music Video Darlings, Midnight Snack