

# FANTOCHE

INTERNATIONALES FESTIVAL FÜR ANIMATIONSFILM  
BADEN/SCHWEIZ

Press release  
Baden, 2 September

## All work and all play: Fantoche 2025 is open!

***Welcoming speeches by Federal Councillor Elisabeth Baume-Schneider, Baden City Councillor Steffi Kessler, curator Olga Bobrowska and festival director Ivana Kvesić opened the 23rd Fantoche International Animation Film Festival. Around 100 film programmes and supporting events await the animation-hungry audience over the next five days. This year's main theme '9 to 5' explores work in all its facets, with Estonia as the guest country.***

Our day-to-day work is the focus of this year's festival, and the stage design for the opening ceremony was based on this. Retro work furniture and psychedelic office visuals welcomed the more than 300 invited guests from the worlds of politics, business and culture. But anyone who expected the atmosphere of a dreary working day was very much mistaken. Presenter Julia Steiner, who took the Fantoche stage for the first time this year, guided the audience through the opening event with plenty of wit and enthusiasm. The comedian and last year's winner of the SRF 3 Best Talent Comedy award appeared dressed as Dolly Parton and didn't miss out on her chance to sing her catchy song '9 to 5' in person. She was accompanied throughout the evening by Swiss rock musician Stoph Bjornson. To enable people with hearing impairments to participate in the opening event, a sign language interpreter was present.

Baden City Councillor Steffi Kessler took up the theme of '9 to 5' as the first speaker of the evening. She expressed pride in the cultural scene's enthusiasm for work but also urged the right balance: 'Only those who take care of themselves can have a long-term impact. It's not just about giving your all, it's also about preserving your own strength – so that culture can have a lasting impact.' She also stressed the importance of culture in times of great upheaval and uncertainty: 'Festivals like Fantoche impressively demonstrate what is possible when creativity, commitment and support go hand in hand. They provide a stage for artists, open up new worlds for the audience and demonstrate how valuable cultural diversity is for our society.'

As the second speaker, Julia Steiner welcomed Olga Bobrowska, curator and director of the StopTriK International Film Festival, who compiled the focus programme '9 to 5'. In a short interview, she gave an insight into her approach: 'As I understood it, my task was to seek animated films that would invite diverse thinking about work as socially, politically and gender-conditioned behaviour, a key factor in how we organise our social structures.'

Federal Councillor Elisabeth Baume-Schneider, who attended the festival for the first time in her official capacity as head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs, also found suitable words: 'There's an atmosphere here that I haven't seen anywhere else. [...] Fantoche is the place to be if you want to talk about animated films.' She was particularly pleased that Fantoche is considered an Oscar-qualifying festival since this year: 'That is truly important. Now it's even more of a launching pad for animation.'

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Last but not least, festival director Ivana Kvesić took the stage. She delivered some hard facts: 'We work for an average of 41 years, which is over 57,000 hours – around 6.5 years of uninterrupted life.' The high pressure at work is particularly noticeable in the cultural sector, in which roughly 300,000 people work in Switzerland: 'often underpaid, under-insured and dependent on project funding'. This makes it all the more important, according to Ivana Kvesić, to ensure fair, healthy and sustainable structures at Fantoche and to continuously reassess the existing conditions. 'Good working conditions and secure jobs in the cultural sector don't just need good ideas – they also need stability, long-term budgets and political support,' the festival director said.

At the same time, she provided an insight into some of her personal festival highlights that offer the perfect balance to the stress of everyday life: from the varied competitions to latest feature films, the newly designed 'Animation Artefacts' exhibition, the new late-night format 'Midnight Snack' and a fun-filled karaoke evening.

After the ceremony, guests flocked to the short film programme curated especially for the opening, which provided a glimpse into the overall festival, or the feature film 'Amélie et la métaphysique des tubes', to which director Maïlys Vallade gave a short introduction.

You can find the full festival programme at: [fantoche.ch/programme](http://fantoche.ch/programme)

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