

Medienmitteilung
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Between the end of the world and wonderland: Recent feature films and classics at this year's festival

From 1 to 6 September, the International Animation Film Festival will screen recent feature-length films and classics from various continents, created using a variety of techniques and featuring a mix of themes ranging from lighthearted to thought-provoking – always inspiring and surprising.

What remains when the world we know begins to crumble? A friendship perhaps, an animal companion or just a rather surreal strategy? This year's feature films take us into dystopian futures, into fabulous rainforests and virtual realities, they tell of war and loneliness, of growing up and of the desire for belonging. Sometimes quiet and poetic, sometimes brashly funny or quite dark. The intimate and the human meet something extremely threatening, and this tension runs through an astonishing number of the films shown.

Friends forever, right?

Friendships, chosen family or partnerships of convenience – they can all be life-saving and at the same time terribly exhausting. In ***We Are Aliens***, the shy Tsubasa is both fascinated and annoyed by his eccentric school friend Gytaro; a coming-of-age story told from changing perspectives. A completely different test awaits Jo and Raissa's close friendship in ***Forgotten Island***. In the latest DreamWorks production, the two girls dream of a mythical island in the Philippines in the 1990s and actually land there years later. The pampered pet cat ***Miss Moxy*** suddenly finds herself on her own and is forced to join forces with a trained dog and an ageing swallow.

Apocalypse now, or later

In ***All You Need Is Kill***, Rita is stuck in the middle of an alien invasion and trapped in a time loop that forces her to start her fight over and over again. The anime version of the live-action film with Tom Cruise (***Edge of Tomorrow***). In the only stop motion feature film ***Junk World***, humans and robots investigate an anomaly in the space-time continuum and stumble through a dystopian future filled with grotesque ideas. Like its predecessor, ***Junk Head***, which was featured at the 2017 festival, ***Junk World*** was filmed with a minimal crew. Less spectacular, but no less disturbing, reality is turned upside down in ***Decorado***: The unemployed Arnold can't get rid of the suspicion that his whole life might only be a backdrop. Reality and illusion are once again blurred in this year's opening film ***Light Pillar***: Lonely Lao Zha lives in a run-down Chinese film city and escapes into a virtual world with a VR headset. A story

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about loneliness, longing and the question of which reality is better in the end. Momoko Seto's 2025 festival favourite, ***Dandelion's Odyssey***, shows that even an apocalypse can have a peculiar beauty. Without dialogue, a science fiction fairy tale about destruction, transformation and the possibility of a new beginning unfolds through plants, otherworldly landscapes and cosmic dimensions. The anime classic ***Angel's Egg*** by Mamoru Oshii leads us into a deserted, dreamlike world in which a young girl is guarding a mysterious egg. Almost without dialogue and full of religious and apocalyptic imagery, the film tells of loneliness, faith and loss – and of what we hold on to when certainties disappear. From the other end of life, ***Last Blossom*** looks at a world on the brink – and finds space for closeness and hope in the midst of age, loss and ecological crisis.

Funny, with a twist

16-year-old ***Blaise*** wishes the earth would swallow him when his parents suddenly start sharing their own problems with the school psychologist. From moments of utter embarrassment, a dry satire unfolds about insecurity, miscommunication, and failed rebellion. In ***Jim Queen***, gay influencer Jim Parfait fears he is slowly becoming straight after contracting a mysterious viral infection. A light-footed comedy about the cult of the body, gay identity and social fears unfolds. ***Nobody*** revolves around a demon in the shape of a pig and three other animal outsiders who set off together to pretend to be the legendary heroes of the Journey to the West. A humorous road movie about impostors, bad luck and people in crisis. In ***Son of a Bitch***, family becomes a well-known explosive mixture of love, overload and absurdity – pretty funny, as long as it's not your own.

Fantasy, fun and fluff for families

An adventure often begins where the familiar world ends: In ***Born in the Jungle***, nine-year-old Elisabeth would have preferred to stay in the city. But when her little brother disappears into the Venezuelan rainforest, the search for him leads her deeper and deeper into a mysterious world. From age six. In ***Le mystère de Lucy Lost***, eleven-year-old Lucy is also looking for answers and a place where she belongs. From age 10. Historical drama and fantasy combine to create a poetic coming-of-age story. In ***Carmen, l'oiseau rebelle***, a street boy and a pickpocket in 19th-century Seville try to save the heroine Carmen – from the opera of the same name – from her foretold fate. The lovingly told story of the aforementioned cat, ***Miss Moxy***, is suitable for children aged four and

The programme is now online at: fantoche.ch

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