

# FANTOCHE

INTERNATIONALES FESTIVAL FÜR ANIMATIONSFILM  
BADEN/SCHWEIZ

Press release

Baden, 09 July 2025

## Fantoche 2026: the selection is final

The 24th International Animation Film Festival FANTOCHE in Baden will showcase current feature-length and short films for all ages as well as film productions with the focus theme 'Calling Planet Earth' and the focus country 'Egypt'. At the festival's core are nine competition programmes within the categories International, Switzerland and Children. Out of a total of 3,173 submissions, the Fantoche selection team chose 101 animated short films, 77 of which are competing for ten different prizes.

In the **International Competition**, 39 films are competing for the prizes 'Best Film,' 'High Risk,' 'Audience Award' and 'Youth Award for Best New Talent'. Switzerland is also represented in the competition with 'Nonna Lucia' by renowned Ticino animator Marcel Barelli.

Once again this year, the winners of the 'Best Film' award can qualify for participation in the Academy Awards® and the BAFTA Awards – Fantoche has been both a BAFTA and an Oscar®-qualifying festival since October 2024. Fantoche is now also part of ASIFA-Hollywood and thus an Annie Awards Qualifying Festival.

**A Pint of Bitter** Conor Kehelly, IE 2025, 8'58" • **A Taste of Beer** Xie Li, CN 2025, 5'30" • **A Trip to the Ear** Jee-young PARK, KR 2026, 11'44" • **Babyface** Sacha Beeley, GB 2026, 5'57" • **Cosmonauts** Leo Cernic, IT/SI 2026, 14'10" • **Daughters of the Late Colonel** Elizabeth Hobbs, DE 2026, 9'23" • **Decay** Juan Camilo González, CO 2025, 7'08" • **Display Nature** Nicolas Gebbe, DE 2026, 8'59" • **Dynamo** Tal Gadon, PT 2026, 10'32" • **Famous Mouse and Joan of Arc** Igor Simić, RS 2026, 5'25" • **Fingerbang** Yeonwoo Kim, KR 2026, 15'27" • **Foreign Bodies** Lysander Wong, HK/GB 2025, 3'30" • **God Is Shy** Jocelyn Charles, FR 2025, 15'00" • **HAG** Anna Ginsburg, GB 2025, 17'00" • **If the Stars Were to Light up** Andrea Odreman, Emiliano Campos, AR 2025, 7'03" • **If the Turtles Could Fly** Hayat Laban, PS 2025, 14'28" • **«It Is Not Dirty»** Ulysse Patrick Thevenot, FR 2025, 4'22" • **Ivar** Markus Tangre, NO 2025, 4'23" • **Like A Fairy Tale** Kirill Khachaturov, FR/LU 2025, 16'00" • **Little Boarlet** Atsushi Wada, JP 2026, 3'37" • **Marble & Lemons** Anna Katalin Lovrity, FR/HU 2026, 9'27" • **Mother of Dawn** Clara Trevisan, BR 2025, 8'09" • **My Brother, My Brother** Abdelrahman Dnewar, Saad Dnewar, EG 2025, 14'57" • **Nonna Lucia** Marcel Barelli, CH 2026, 7'00" • **Pajarito** Pilar Garcia-Fernandezsesma, ES/US 2026, 14'35" • **Papertowel Maxipad** Madeline Babuka Black, US 2026, 4'40" • **Please** Anna Mantzaris, CZ/FI/FR/NO/SE 2026, 9'00" • **School Show** Ana Horvat, HR 2026, 5'31" • **Scratch** Erwann Hette, FR 2025, 8'09" • **Sexability** Anne-Christin Plate, DE 2026, 11'05" • **Sundruð** Fan Sissoko, BE/FR/IS 2026, 12'01" • **Superlover** Kushagra Kishore, Nivea Choudhary, Ryan Hmar, IN 2025, 11'32" • **Tar** Fariba Farzanfar, IR 2026, 5'00" • **Tell Me When You Get Home** Tshay Maede, US 2026, 9'17" • **Tighrist – Threads of Exile** Samia Dzaïr, DZ/SA 2025, 3'00" • **Uka-Uka** Henri Veermäe, EE 2026, 11'52" • **West Wind** Sujin Min, KR 2026, 16'00" • **With Tapes and Toasts in the Car** Kiana Naghshineh, DE 2025, 14'18"

In the **Swiss Competition**, 19 films will compete for the prizes 'Best Swiss,' 'Fantastic Swiss,' 'High Swiss Risk,' 'Youth Award for Best New Talent' and the 'Audience Award'.

**Bedrooms make no sense** Franziska Meyer, CH 2026, 8'07" • **Cartoon Physics** Ru Kuwahata, Max Porter, FR/CH/NL 2026, 10'52" • **Chaos Ex Machina** Zoltan Horvath, CH 2025, 9'00" • **Cold Bathroom** Eleni Aerts, BE/CH 2025, 6'12" • **Growing Sprouts** Béatrice Herzig, CH 2026, 9'05" • **Keko & Kiki** Mauro Carraro, CH 2025, 9'04" • **Lost Touch** Justine Klaiber, CH 2025, 12'24" • **Miserere Mei** Valentine Moser, CH 2025, 4'02" • **My Peckham Experiment** Gerd Gockell, DE/CH 2026, 4'15" • **Pigeons** Amos Sussigan, CH/US 2026, 12'18" • **Sensual** Tanja Nuijten, DE 2025, 4'12" • **Stärneschii** Jérémie Jayraj Itty, Inna Soroka, Julia Estrada Torres, Sammi Khuu, CH 2026, 6'40" • **Symbionts** Quirijn Dees, CH 2025, 9'27" • **The Picture of Dorian Gray** Georges Schwizgebel, CH 2026, 6'40" • **The Rootman** Yannick Barel, Benjamin Maurer, Alizée Gerber, CH 2026, 4'05" • **The Taste of Pineapple Bread** Manfei Li, CH 2026, 10'24" • **To Kill a Velofahrer** Helmi Korhonen, Ines Nungaesser, Livio Frauendorf, Marvin Büeler, CH 2026, 3'20" • **Was glitzert** Anna Lena Spring, Lara Perren, CH 2026, 10'17" • **What's Your Verdict** Persephone Huynh Murphy, Anna Paziewska, Marija Gajic, CH 2026, 4'46"

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The 19 films in the **Children's Film Competition** are in the running for the 'Best Kids' award and the 'Children's Audience Award'.

**A Bird in the Head** Léonard Felder, CH 2026, 8'30" • **Aller & Retour** Lucia Bulgheroni, Michele Greco, IT 2025, 9'18" • **A Sunny Story** Masha Rumyantseva, PT/RU 2026, 6'21" • **Bats & Bugs** Lena von Döhren, CH 2026, 11'00" • **Bookwyrms** Mona Joana Gassner, Jessica Eugster, Cheyenne Klossner, Benjamin Gilli, CH 2025, 5'13" • **Derring-Do** Elena Walf, HR/DE 2025, 5'13" • **Eeny, Meeny, Miny, Moe!** Andrea Szelesová, SK 2025, 11'00" • **Fin People** Veronika Hozjan, HR/SI 2025, 9'42" • **Found** Juliette Baily, BE/FR 2025, 4'51" • **Into the Forest** Antonin Niclass, CH 2026, 9'55" • **Little Dandelion** Adéla Honová, CZ 2026, 5'28" • **Pelle - Friends Don't Sink** Romana Bauer, Sophia Galneder, Leo Semmelmann, DE 2025, 5'48" • **Taut** Ilya Barrett, DE 2025, 5'39" • **The Cloud Herder** Aidan McAteer, IE 2025, 7'05" • **The Dairy Experiment** Fabian Johnston, Luke Johnston, US 2025, 4'44" • **The Glutton** Chris McDonnell, US 2026, 1'43" • **The Lamp Collector** Sonya Bergquist, US 2025, 1'28" • **Time** Robert Löbel, Max Mörtl, DE 2025, 5'42" • **XOXO** Sarah Binz, CH 2025, 1'49"

The three '**Panorama**' programmes will show 24 current artistic animated films that moved the selection team and will be screened outside of the competitions.

**9 Million Colors** Bára Anna, DE/NO 2025, 15'00" • **Abortion Party** Julia Mellen, ES 2025, 13'18" • **Autokar** Sylwia Szkiłdź, BE/FR 2025, 17'27" • **Como si la tierra se las hubiera tragado** Natalia León, FR 2025, 13'31" • **Dawn at Terezinha Building** Cesar Cabral, Renato José Duque, BR 2026, 11'11" • **El Cuerpo del Cristo** Bea Lema, ES 2025, 12'33" • **Eyeliner** Aisha Boudjillouli, GB 2026, 8'30" • **Gently** Jamaica Kindlová, CZ 2026, 8'44" • **Hungry Hollow** Sarah Franny Ruyle, US 2025, 5'41" • **Our Walls** Živa Divjak, SI 2026, 7'35" • **Petra and the Sun** Malu Furche, Stefania Malacchini, CL 2025, 10'00" • **Pinchu Is Like That** Carmen Córdoba González, ES 2025, 9'20" • **Ploo** Jon Frickey, DE 2025, 15'08" • **Service Bus** Elmer Mikael Lødemel, DK 2025, 3'34" • **Sweet Joy** Bianca Caderas, CH 2025, 3'39" • **Tears** Paulina Ziolkowska, PL 2025, 9'00" • **The Amazing Adam!** Areito Echevarria, NZ 2025, 9'00" • **The Left-Handed Snail** Matteo Boulard, Clément Nahmias, Louis Velaine, Valentin Decombes, Gabryël Aury, Mathys Mysius, FR 2025, 7'33" • **The Power's Out** Laurie Cruz Arocho, PR/US 2025, 3'42" • **The Sycamore** Jared D. Weiss, US 2025, 3'36" • **The Wolf Has Come** Brian Christopher Hawkins, NO 2026, 1'49" • **There's Something in the Milk** Cliona Noonan, FR 2025, 4'06" • **Virgin Fandango** Marcy Page, CA 2026, 10'42" • **Yvan's Revelation** Morgan Curt, FR 2025, 4'13"

**Focus theme 'Calling Planet Earth,' focus country 'Egypt,' Industry Day on the theme 'Hope is a word with 24 fps' and world premiere of 'Nussbaumbandi'**

**Calling Planet Earth** – Our planet is bearing the heavy burden of the traces that we humans leave behind. Climate change has far-reaching consequences, and the question of who actually needs to be saved, nature or humanity, is one that even animation cannot ignore. Two short film programmes and two feature-length films, curated by animator Maja Gehrig, shed light on the fragile interplay between humans and nature. In a panel discussion, we will explore the question of how nature can, or should, be represented in art – especially in animated films.

**Focus country Egypt** – The Frenkel brothers created one of the first cartoon heroes in the Arab world, 'Mish Mish Effendi,' and in 1936 brought Africa's first animated film to the cinema in Cairo. Egypt is therefore a pioneer of African animated film. 90 years later, we immerse ourselves in the world of Egyptian animation. In a retrospective, we show works by Ihab Shaker, the first African member of the animation association ASIFA and a trailblazer of auteur cinema. At the same time, we look at the pioneers and the young, up-and-coming generation of Egyptian animation artists. The spotlight on Egypt will be rounded off by a talk about the Egyptian animation scene. The programme is curated by Youhana Nassif, Festival Director Animatex in Cairo, and Seham Shaheen, Archive Supervisor of the Cimatheque in Cairo.

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**Industry Day: 'Hope is a word with 24 fps'** In line with the motto of its 12th Industry Day for professional audiences, Fantoche offers a counterpoint to crises, wars and AI. Despite the many threats, it is the works of artists that provide unconventional insights into other worlds and ways of thinking. Information about the programme for interested professionals was sent out to the media on 23 June 2026.

**Nussbaumbandi: world premiere!** This year, children in Switzerland will be able to enjoy a new animated evening series on Swiss television. 'Nussbaumbandi' was based on an idea by Hynek Bureš and produced by production companies Dschoint Ventschr and Nadasdy Film, in collaboration with SRF. We are delighted that this fun gang and their animal friends will celebrate their world premiere at Fantoche.

The full festival programme will be published on 11 August 2026, when pre-sales will begin.

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