

# **FANTOCHE**

INTERNATIONALES FESTIVAL FÜR ANIMATIONSFILM  
BADEN/SCHWEIZ

## **FANTOCHE MEDIA DOSSIER 2024**

**22nd International Animation Film Festival  
3–8 September 2024 in Baden, Switzerland  
[www.fantoche.ch](http://www.fantoche.ch)**

Baden, 21 August 2024

Contents:

**PROGRAMME INFORMATION**

**OVERVIEW AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS**

**FILMMAKERS AND ANIMATION EXPERTS IN ATTENDANCE**

## FANTOCHE 2024: A plea for more empathy and experimentation

*From 3 to 8 September 2024, the International Animation Film Festival will screen a total of 224 animated short and feature-length films. Now in its 22nd year, the Baden festival is putting the spotlight on the Austrian animation scene this year. With its theme “All We Need Is Love”, the festival aims to offer an alternative to the polemicisation that dominates the present day. As always, the six days of the festival will also offer numerous opportunities to meet international artists and gain unique insights into their creative practice, as well as to learn about the latest multimedia developments and discover new feature films from around the world. The heart of Fantoche is and remains its International, Swiss and Kids Film Competitions, with the prize ceremony taking place at TRAFÖ in Baden on 8 September from 6 pm.*

### “All We Need Is Love”

With this year’s theme of “All We Need Is Love”, the Slovenian filmmaker and producer Špela Čadež is shining a light on empathy and interpersonal relationships – something that is particularly poignant against the backdrop of recent political, social and environmental upheavals. Alongside two short film programmes on love and eroticism, two special feature-length films are also part of this focus. The first is Paul and Sandra Fierlinger’s adaptation of J.R. Ackerley’s memoir “My Dog Tulip” (US 2009), which explores the relationship between the British author and his dog – as well as the highs and lows of everyday life for this disparate pair – with heart-warming moments and British humour. The second is the lyrical Ghibli romance “Whisper of the Heart” (JP 1995), which is set in real-world Tokyo. Fans will detect a number of homages to earlier Ghibli films in the richly detailed backgrounds. The film programme is complemented by a panel entitled “Let’s Talk About Sex” with Manuela Leuenberger, Kilian Feusi and Maja Gehrig and a zine workshop organised in partnership with Fumetto.

### Country focus: Austria

As its second theme, the festival is looking over the border to Austria and, in cooperation with the European Film Awards Lucerne 2024 and with support from the Austrian Cultural Forum Bern, is focussing on the Austrian animation scene, which for decades has been closely associated with art-house cinema and experimental music. The curator Djamilia Grandits, who was part of last year’s competition jury, together with the Austrian Tricky Women festival, present three short films from between 1970 and 2023. These are conceived as an attempt to become better acquainted with the ambiguity of surfaces and references by way of unexpected entanglements. “(GL)ITCHY SKINS” destabilises the boundaries between the body and image, the self and the world, the internal and the external. “ON A PLANETARY SCALE” sees the concept of time stretched far beyond earthly space-time to multidimensional worlds. And in “VERTIGO”, centrifugal forces trick the senses out of their curve, unleashing them to circulate in new orbits.

### Recent feature films

A total of 17 recent feature films for animation fans of all ages are being screened at the festival: this year’s Fantoche will open with “Sauvages” (CH/FR/BE 2024) by Claude Barras. Eight years after “Ma vie de Courgette”, the Swiss director has created a richly detailed and urgent plea for a considerate and sustainable approach to the environment and a poignant fable about finding your own roots. Other films with Swiss input include the debut feature film “Nowhere – Invelle” (IT/CH 2023) by Simone Massi, which is made up of 40,000 individually hand-drawn images and was screened at the Biennale Cinema in Venice, and “Reise der Schatten” (CH 2024) by Yves Netzhammer, an exquisite reflection on what makes humans human in the digital age.

Other highlights include the visually stunning animated film “The Storm” (CN 2024), which explores themes of family and resilience as well as Chinese culture, and the richly layered masterpiece “Sultana’s Dream” (ES/DE

2023), for which the Spanish filmmaker Isabel Herguera was awarded the Grand Prix in Zagreb. This is not Herguera's first appearance in Baden: in 2011, she won not one but two Fantoche awards with her short film "Amar": "Best Visual" and "Best Sound". Elsewhere, Hayao Miyazaki looks back on his career in what will perhaps be his last film, "The Boy and the Heron" (JP 2023). The legendary director and co-founder of Studio Ghibli came out of retirement to make this film, inspired by Genzaburo Yoshino's literary classic "How Do You Live?". It took the studio seven years to make this tour de force, which won the 2024 Oscar for best animated feature film.

As well as "Sauvages", other films suitable for the whole family include "Sirocco et le royaume des courants d'air", in which two sisters unexpectedly find themselves in the magical world of their favourite book; the four coming-of-age stories "The Colors Within" (JP 2024), "Living Large" (CZ/SK/FR 2024), "Look Back" (JP 2024) and "Tender Metalheads" (ES 2023); "Slocum et moi" by the French doyen of animation Jean-François Laguionie; and the next adventure of "Ernest & Célestine – Le voyage en Charabie" (FR/LU 2023).

## For Kids & Teens

As well as recent feature films, there is also a programme of events "For Kids and Teens", during which the Swiss Youth Film Festival will be inviting the next generation of Swiss animation artists to the "Talent Industry" showcase. As well as a short film programme, attendees will have the chance to learn from the professionals, including a workshop on "Adventures in Pixilation" with the multi-award-winning animator Osbert Parker, in which participants are invited to bring their ideas to life and create 30-second films using pixilation.

In "Kids for Kids" and "Toons by Teens", the newest talent aged between 12 to 17 years of age will present their fantastic animated films on the big screen. On Wednesday afternoon and at the weekend, the popular Walk-in Workshop will also once again be taking place in the Merker-Areal. And to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the "Heidi" series (Hayao Miyazaki and Isao Takahata), Fantoche will be showing the first three episodes of this anime series, which was created by the duo that later went on to found Studio Ghibli. As every year, recent short films will be screened as part of the "Panorama Teens" strand and the Kids Film Competition.

## Competition

In 2024, the Fantoche selection team chose 64 animated short films out of a total of 2,800 submissions. Another 21 entries will be shown in three "Panorama" programmes. They will be presented to the jury and the audience during the International, Swiss and Kids Film Competitions from 3–8 September. For the first time, Fantoche is now included in the list of BAFTA Qualifying Festivals.

**International Competition awards:** Best Film • High Risk (Grand Casino Baden) • New Talent • Best Visual • International Competition Audience Award (Fantoche Members)

**Swiss Competition awards:** Best Swiss (SUISSIMAGE/SSA) • High Swiss Risk (Fantoche founding members' team) • New Swiss Talent • Fantastic Swiss (NIFFF & XPPen) • Swiss Youth Award (Castellinaria & XPPen) • Swiss Competition Audience Award (SRG SSR)

**Kids Film Competition awards:** Best Kids • Kids Audience Award (Kaufmann Turmkrane AG)

The press release on the shortlist is available [here](#).

## 10th Fantoche Industry Day

The motto of the 10th Fantoche Industry Day on Friday 6 September is "Root to Rise". The focus is on key topics such as storytelling and new tools, for example artificial intelligence and how animation schools are approaching it. Among other highlights, the internationally renowned Baden-born CGI artist Ramón Arango will give insights

into his career as part of the Industry Day. At the end of the day, the 7th Swiss Animation Industry Award (SAIA) will be awarded in partnership with the SWISSFILM Association.

The full press release on the Industry Day is available at [fantoche.ch/en/industry-and-media/media](https://fantoche.ch/en/industry-and-media/media).

## **Last but not least ...**

Once again this year, animators from Switzerland and around the world will be looking back on their achievements in “Making-ofs” and “Meet the Artists”. For example, the Zimbabwean producer Tendayi Nyeke (member of the Swiss Competition jury) will be talking about the “Making-of” the action-packed African science fiction series “Kizazi Moto: Generation Fire” on Disney+. Elsewhere, the Swiss filmmaker Claude Barras, together with his producer Nicolas Burlet, his Lead Animator Elie Chapuis, and Elie’s puppets, will be giving the audience deeper insights into the process of making “Sauvages”.

The British director Osbert Parker and the Portuguese filmmaker Regina Pessoa will also offer exclusive insights into their respective creative practices. As well as giving an overview of her own work, Pessoa has also collaborated with Erik van Drunen to curate a retrospective in honour of Paul Bush, who died last year. The “Sacrebleu Productions – Women Only” retrospective also looks at various works from the internationally successful production studio Sacrebleu Productions. And to celebrate his 80th birthday, which falls just after the Fantoche festival, renowned Swiss animator Georges Schwizgebel and his son Louis Schwizgebel will invite attendees to a “Schwizgebel Cinematic Concert”.

New this year is the Game Pop-up, which will give aspiring game developers a platform to present their creations to the public as part of an exhibition at the Trafo Baden complex. And from 30 August, Swiss animators will be setting artworks in motion in the Re-MIX exhibition at the Aargauer Kunsthaus: with the help of an augmented reality app, short films will offer new ways of experiencing the art, with the power to stir the emotions or invite contemplation.

Finally, attendees also have the chance to meet filmmakers at the Artists’ Brunch in Bagno Popolare, in the church on Sunday, in Fantoche’s restaurant and bar area or at parties in the Royal.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

### Screeners

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

### Online film library

You can request access to our online film library via [kommunikation@fantoche.ch](mailto:kommunikation@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 2024.

### Images for download

A selection of high-resolution images are available for download at [fantoche.ch/en/industry-and-media/media](https://fantoche.ch/en/industry-and-media/media).

### Fantoche app

The Fantoche app for iPhone, iPad and Android can be downloaded for free from the iTunes App Store and Google Play Store. AR contributions are available via the Magic Eye app.

### Media accreditation

To receive media accreditation, please register on the Fantoche website. You will then receive a confirmation email and a personal access code for your tickets as well as additional information about the accreditation. You can pick up your accreditation from the information desk in the Festival Centre. The access code allows you to reserve spaces for your chosen tickets in advance and print them or show them on your phone. Alternatively, you can collect your tickets from the box office in the Festival Centre from midday on Tuesday (3.9.2024) or at the box office of the relevant cinema from Wednesday afternoon (4.9.2024). Please present your accreditation.

### Social media

[facebook.com/fantoche.ch](https://facebook.com/fantoche.ch)  
[instagram.com/fantoche\\_festival](https://instagram.com/fantoche_festival)  
[youtube.com/FantocheAnimation](https://youtube.com/FantocheAnimation)  
[vimeo.com/fantoche](https://vimeo.com/fantoche)

#fantoche #fantoche2024

### Contact for media professionals

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## FILMMAKERS AND ANIMATION EXPERTS IN ATTENDANCE

Fantoche is looking forward to once again meeting many filmmakers in Baden this year. With their talks, participation in the “Industry Day” and attendance at the Artists’ Brunch, they are an essential part of the festival.

This list is continually updated. If you are interested in setting up an interview, just get in touch with us at [media@fantoche.ch](mailto:media@fantoche.ch).

### Jury

Marie-Pauline Mollaret	FR	<a href="http://fantoche.ch/de/festival/jury/">fantoche.ch/de/festival/jury/</a>	International Competition
Aya Suzuki	JP/GB	<a href="http://fantoche.ch/de/festival/jury/">fantoche.ch/de/festival/jury/</a>	International Competition
Tina Schwizgebel	CH	<a href="http://fantoche.ch/de/festival/jury/">fantoche.ch/de/festival/jury/</a>	International Competition
Catherine Colas	FR	<a href="http://fantoche.ch/de/festival/jury/">fantoche.ch/de/festival/jury/</a>	Swiss Competition
Tendayi Nyeke	ZW	<a href="http://fantoche.ch/de/festival/jury/">fantoche.ch/de/festival/jury/</a>	Swiss Competition
Maya Yonesho	JP/DE	<a href="http://fantoche.ch/de/festival/jury/">fantoche.ch/de/festival/jury/</a>	Swiss Competition

### Focus programmes

Susanne Jirkuff	AT	Focus Austria
Thomas Renoldner	AT	Focus Austria
Siegfried A. Fruhauf	AT	Focus Austria
Nikki Schuster	AT	Focus Austria

### Feature films & Expanded

Nicolas Burlet	CH	«Sauvages»	Producer
Claude Barras	CH	«Sauvages»	Filmmaker
Ron Dyens	FR	Sacre Bleu Productions	Producer
Osbert Parker	GB	Meet The Artist, Kunstraum Baden, Taleint Industry	Filmmaker
Regina Pessoa	PO	Meet The Artist	Filmmaker
Georges Schwizgebel	CH	Ciné-Concert	Filmmaker
Louis Schwizgebel	CH	Ciné-Concert	

### Industry Day

Ramón Arango	CH	Artist Talk	Filmmaker
Kayvon Darabi-Fard	GB	The Art of Storytelling	Story artist
Salome Horber	CH	AI is a Tool	Rechtsexpertin, Suissimage
Klaus Lyngeled	SE	The Art of Storytelling	MoonHood Studios
Giulia Martinelli	IT/CH	Be your own best marketing agent	
Diane Schaefer	CH	The Art of Storytelling	Anthropologist and scriptwriter
Jonas Trottnow	DE	AI is a Tool	Research & engineer KI-Lab
Robbert van Rooden	CH	AI is a Tool	Inlusio Interactive

### Curators

Jo Bahdo	Talent Industry
Lara Bellon	Fokus Österreich
Samuel Bienz	Waves of Change
Fabienne Bieri	Let’s Talk
Špela Čadež	All We Need is Love

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Amélie Cochet	Industry Day
Djamila Grandits	Fokus Österreich
Oswald Iten	Langfilm Selektion
Ivana Kvesić	Selektion Schweizer Wettbewerb, Internationaler Wettbewerb & Panorama
Veronica L. Montaña	Industry Day
Regina Pesoa	Retrospektive
Valentina Romero	Talent Industry
Sara Sabatelli	A Fish Out of Water, TGIF
Maike Thies	RefreshxFantoche#3
Erik van Drunen	Making Ofs, Coming Soons, Retrospektiven
Kateřina Vesel	Game Pop-Up
Fantoche-Team	Music Video Darlings