

**ZURICH
FILM
FESTIVAL**

25.9.
–
5.10.25



MEDIA DOSSIER



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ZURICH FILM FESTIVAL GENERAL INFORMATION

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

The festival is supported by a variety of companies, institutions, or foundations, as well as private donors and public authorities.

Thank you to all partners for the valuable support.

Main Partner



Co-Partner



Media Partner



MANAGEMENT/EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Zurich Film Festival is taking place under new ownership for the first time this year. Alongside Festival Director Christian Jungen, the ownership group includes Vice Director Reta Guetg, entrepreneur and TV host Max Loong, long-time ZFF President Felix E. Müller, and financial expert Marek Skreta. In July 2025, the NZZ sold the ZFF to its new leadership as part of a management buyout.

Christian Jungen – Festival Director and Co-Owner of the Zurich Film Festival (ZFF)

Christian Jungen has been part of the Zurich Film Festival’s management team for six years, serving as Artistic and Festival Director. As of July 2025, he is also a co-owner of the festival. However, his interest in film began much earlier: he spent 25 years working as a film critic, ten of them at «NZZ am Sonntag», where he also served as head of the culture section. He earned a doctorate in film studies with his dissertation «Hollywood in Canne\$», which received a quality award from the German Publishers and Booksellers Association and was published as a book in both German and English. In 2011, he won the Prix Pathé for film journalism and simultaneously served as a president of the Swiss Association of Film Journalists until 2017. Before joining the Zurich Film Festival in 2019, he was a member of the Zurich Film Commission from 2013 to 2018.

Doris Fiala – Chair of the Board of Directors of the ZFF

Doris Fiala has been Chair of the Board of Directors of the Zurich Film Festival since July 2025. In this role, the Zurich-based entrepreneur and former National Councilor represents the festival externally and connects it with the political and business communities. Prior to this, she was active in politics for around 30 years, including serving as a member of the Zurich City Council and as a National Councilor for 16 years. She was also a member of the Swiss delegation to the Council of Europe from 2008 to 2019. In addition to her political work, Fiala is an entrepreneur in the communications sector. Since 2022, she has also taken on the role of President of ProCinema and is a board member of the Zurich Opera House. With her extensive network in politics, business and society, Doris Fiala brings valuable momentum to the festival.

FESTIVAL CENTER

The information center for media representatives (press desk) is located on the festival grounds at Sechseläutenplatz.

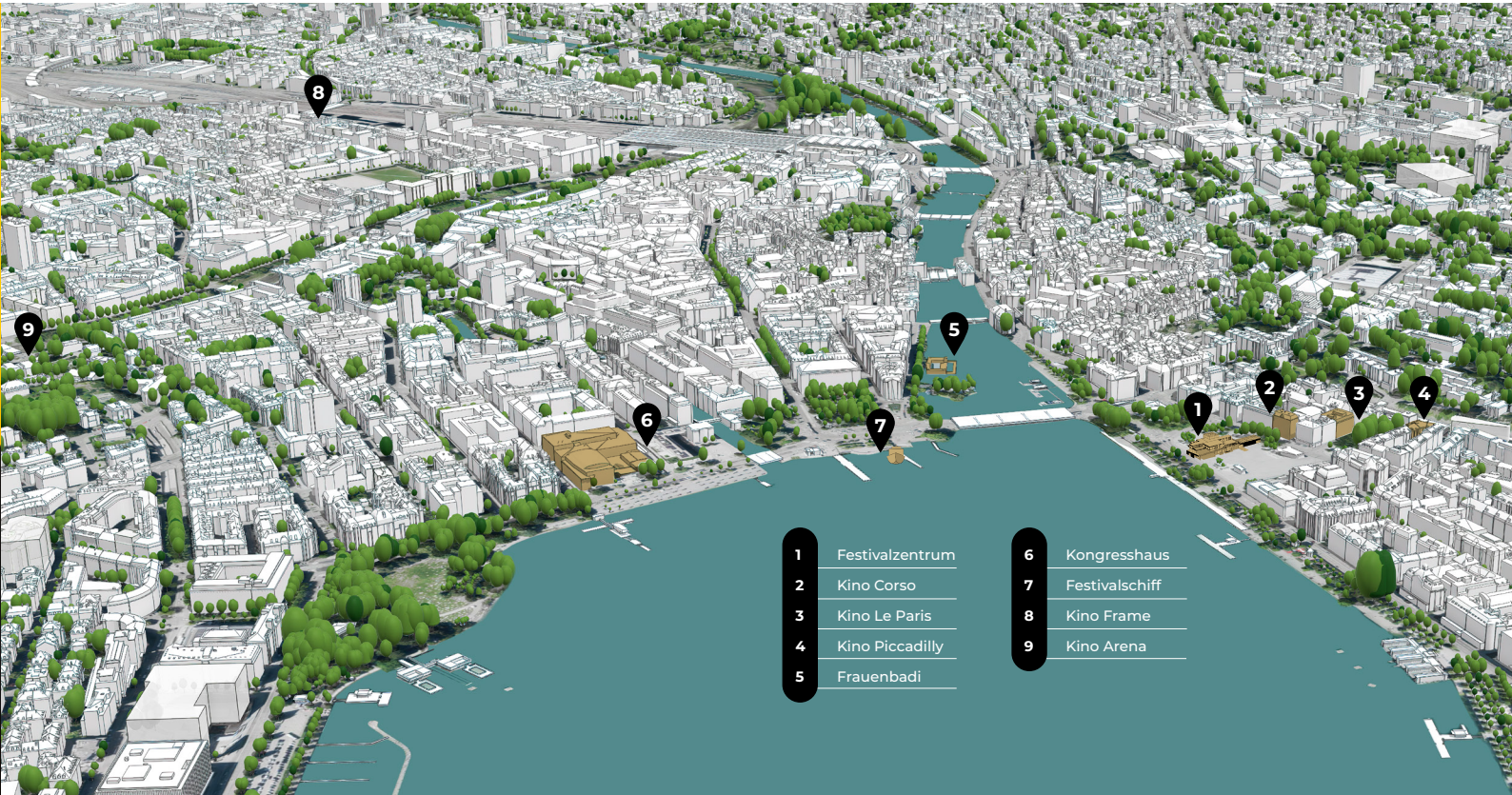
Opening hours:

25.09. THU: 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM
26.09. FRI: 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM
27.09. SAT: 08:00 AM – 7:00 PM
28.09. SUN – 04.10. SAT: 11:00 AM – 5 PM

Please note that the press desk is closed on Sunday, October 5.

If you need assistance outside of our opening hours, please don’t hesitate to contact us by phone (Noemi Bärtsch +41 79 273 71 78/ Anna Oestreich +41 79 284 03 77) or per mail (media@zff.com).

We kindly ask all media professionals and guests from the industry to apply for accreditation online in advance. Photocalls and Green Carpets are hosted in the festival center.



Felix E. Müller, Reta Guetg, Christian Jungen, Marek Skreta, Max Loong

Doris Fiala

YOUNG TALENT PROMOTION

The Zurich Film Festival has two talent programs, the ZFF Academy and the ZFF Summit Climber, which offer aspiring filmmakers and experienced sales and distribution professionals a unique platform to expand their knowledge and learn from top-class experts.

ZFF Academy

In an effort to bring together as many film talents as possible, the Zurich Film Festival has been organizing the ZFF Academy (formerly ZFF Master Class) since 2006. Every year, 20 talented producers, directors and screenwriters from all over the world are selected from hundreds of applications to take part in the five-day talent development program. The next ZFF Academy will take place from Wednesday, October 1 to Sunday, October 5, 2025 as part of the 21st Zurich Film Festival (September 25 to October 5).

ZFF Summit Climber

The main goal is to close two critical training gaps in the European film sector: the underrepresentation of business professionals in existing talent development programs and the lack of practical knowledge about transatlantic collaboration and financing models. The Zurich Film Festival enables eight junior executives from distribution and acquisition to learn from the best in Hollywood. The three-day development program ZFF Summit Climber will take place from September 26-29, 2025 at The Dolder Grand as part of the Zurich Summit, the Zurich Film Festival's prestigious boutique conference.

ZFF AND SUSTAINABILITY

As a cultural institution, the Zurich Film Festival supports the City of Zurich's climate goal of «net zero by 2040» out of conviction. We are committed to reducing and avoiding CO2 emissions and to using the influential platform of cinema to promote awareness and dialog for a more sustainable future. The Zurich Film Festival is climate neutral. Since 2010, the ZFF has been offsetting the flights of its guests, which was made clear in

the same year when a green carpet was rolled out on Sechseläutenplatz for the first time instead of the classic red one. Originally intended as a one-off event, this green carpet has since become one of the ZFF's trademarks.

PROGRAM- SECTIONS

COMPETITION

The festival's core highlight is the international competition, which is split into two distinct categories. Movies from emerging, promising filmmakers are showcased in this category. All competition films are, at most, the directors' third directorial work, with which filmmakers compete for the Golden Eye, which is ZFF's main award, worth CHF 25'000. At the Award Night on October 4, 2025, the winning films will be awarded by an international jury at the Zurich Opera House. All competition films are also nominated for the Audience Award.

Feature Film Competition

In the «Feature Film» section, 14 carefully curated debut, second, or third films by directors compete – powerful works that captivate with fresh perspectives and bold storytelling. The nominated films compete for the prestigious Golden Eye, the ZFF's main award, endowed with CHF 25'000. At the same time, all entries in this category are also nominated for the Audience Award – a special honor that reflects the direct response of the festival audience. The competition highlights the ZFF's commitment to sustainable talent development, cinematic excellence, and the international visibility of emerging directorial voices.

Documentary Film Competition

The Documentary Film Competition is one of the most important sections of the Zurich Film Festival and represents its thematic core. In this category, 14 impressive debut, second or third feature-length documentaries compete – films that stand out through striking visual language, relevant subject matter, and bold artistic vision. At the center is the Golden Eye, the ZFF's main award, endowed with CHF 25'000, honoring a new generation of documentary filmmakers. All entries in this category are also automatically nominated for the Audience Award, which is the direct voice of the festival audience. Through this competition, the ZFF celebrates the power of documentary cinema to spark social dialogue and open up new perspectives.

OUT OF COMPETITION

Gala Premieres

The «Gala Premieres» section of the Zurich Film Festival showcases the year's most anticipated films – impressive works by internationally acclaimed directors, often featuring top-tier star casts. The spotlight is on established figures of global cinema, both behind and in front of the camera. Whether Academy Award winners, celebrated directorial talents, or artistic highlights that have garnered acclaim on the international festival circuit, these premieres celebrate cinema as a grand event and create unforgettable film moments for a wide audience.

Signatures

In the «Signatures» section, the Zurich Film Festival presents outstanding auteur films distinguished by a unique artistic signature. Both narrative

and documentary films are featured – works marked by personal perspective, stylistic originality, and narrative depth. These films unmistakably bear the imprint of their directors – bold, often genre-blending creations that enrich international cinema and place individual storytelling at the forefront.

Hashtag

This year's Hashtag is #SaveDemocracy. Democracies around the world are in danger. Political positions are becoming increasingly extreme, and the world faces acute threats: authoritarian regimes that disregard the separation of powers and the gradual disappearance of diplomacy in favor of military initiatives. These developments are preoccupying the world in the here and now. The films in the #SaveDemocracy section show

SIDE EVENTS

how quickly fragile systems can be shaken. They illustrate how quickly the belief in the political rights of adult citizens can be lost and how important it is to remain vigilant. #SaveDemocracy shows films that are emotionally moving and thought-provoking. They are works by filmmakers who deal with freedom, equality, and the future of humanity.

Sounds

The section «Sounds» celebrates the relationship between music and film in all its dimensions. Film history has always been closely intertwined with music and that's exactly what Sounds aims to highlight. With an exquisite selection of feature and documentary films, the soundtrack takes center stage – whether the film showcases musicians, features exceptional film scores or fundamentally explores the themes of sound.

ZFF for children

Great cinema for the little ones: In the «ZFF for Kids» section, we present the most beautiful children's and family films of the year. In these films, young characters don't just experience exciting adventures, they also embark on wonderful journeys, form new friendships and learn how to deal with prejudices and conflict. The audience is also taken on a discovery journey through different

countries in this section. Our children's films are always also suitable for the whole family, offering great entertainment for both young and old, while addressing current issues in an age-appropriate way. Foreign-language films are shown in their original version and dubbed into German on site. After each screening, the audience votes by ballot to decide which film wins the Children's Audience Award. Additionally, a newly formed children's jury awards its prize each year.

Border Lines

In the «Border Lines» section, we present documentaries and feature films that deal with human rights issues: current world events, activist and humanitarian projects, territorial and social tensions and conflicts between the individual and the state. Border Lines is organized this year in collaboration with the EurAsia Heart Foundation.

ZFF Masters

The ZFF Masters are moderated discussions with international greats from all areas of the film business. Actors and actresses, directors, producers and screenwriters tell us all about their work. The audience will have the opportunity to ask questions at the end.

Cinema in Concert | 13th International Film Music competition (IFMW)

Film music adds the finishing touch to emotional images, which is why compositions for the cinema are particularly close to our hearts. As part of the «Cinema in Concert» gala, the International Film Music Competition will take place for the 13th time at the 21st Zurich Film Festival. For this prestigious event, a total of around 170 compositions from 36 countries were submitted for the short film WILD LOVE. The jury headed by Oscar winner Hildur Guðnadóttir has now selected the three finalists whose compositions will be performed live by the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich on October 2.

ZFF Summit

The Zurich Summit is a high-profile conference known as the «Davos of the film industry», where innovative leaders and forward-thinking innovators from around the world discuss the state of the entertainment business in relation to film financing, distribution awards and streaming. Taking place every year in the fall within the framework of the Zurich Film Festival in the 100 million German-speaking market, the exclusive and prestigious gathering is organized at the iconic and legendary 5-star The Dolder Grand Hotel in Switzerland. This year's Zurich Summit will not only address relevant industry topics such as AI, streaming and film financing, but also timely global political questions and their impact on entertainment, which the conference aims to provide solutions for.

This year's Zurich Summit takes place from September 26-28. Find out more about this year's program [here](#).

THE 21ST ZURICH FILM FESTIVAL

- The 21st Zurich Film Festival will take place from September 25 to October 5, 2025.
- Doris Fiala has been serving as the Chair of the ZFF Board of Directors since July 2025.
- A total of 114 films will be shown at the Zurich Film Festival. These include 21 world premieres, 4 international premieres and 16 European premieres.
- American actress and producer Dakota Johnson will open this year's ZFF. On Opening Night, September 25, she will present her film SPLITSVILLE together with director, actor and producer Michael Angelo Covino. She will be honored with the Golden Eye award that same evening.
- Colin Farrell will receive the Golden Icon Award on September 27.
- Stars such as Claire Foy, Benedict Cumberbatch and Wagner Moura will receive a Golden Eye.
- The US-American screenwriter and director Noah Baumbach will receive an A Tribute to... Award.
- The Icelandic composer and Oscar winner Hildur Guðnadóttir will receive a Career Achievement Award.
- Russell Crowe will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Tom Quinn will be presented with the Game Changer Award.
- The Award Night, at which our competition films will be honored by an international jury, will take place on October 4 at the Zurich Opera House.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Total of films 114
Debut films 23
Films in competition 28
Films out of competition 85
Cinemas 5
Screens 13

Premiere status

World premieres 21
International premieres 4
European premieres 16

Swiss films in the programme 16

World Premieres

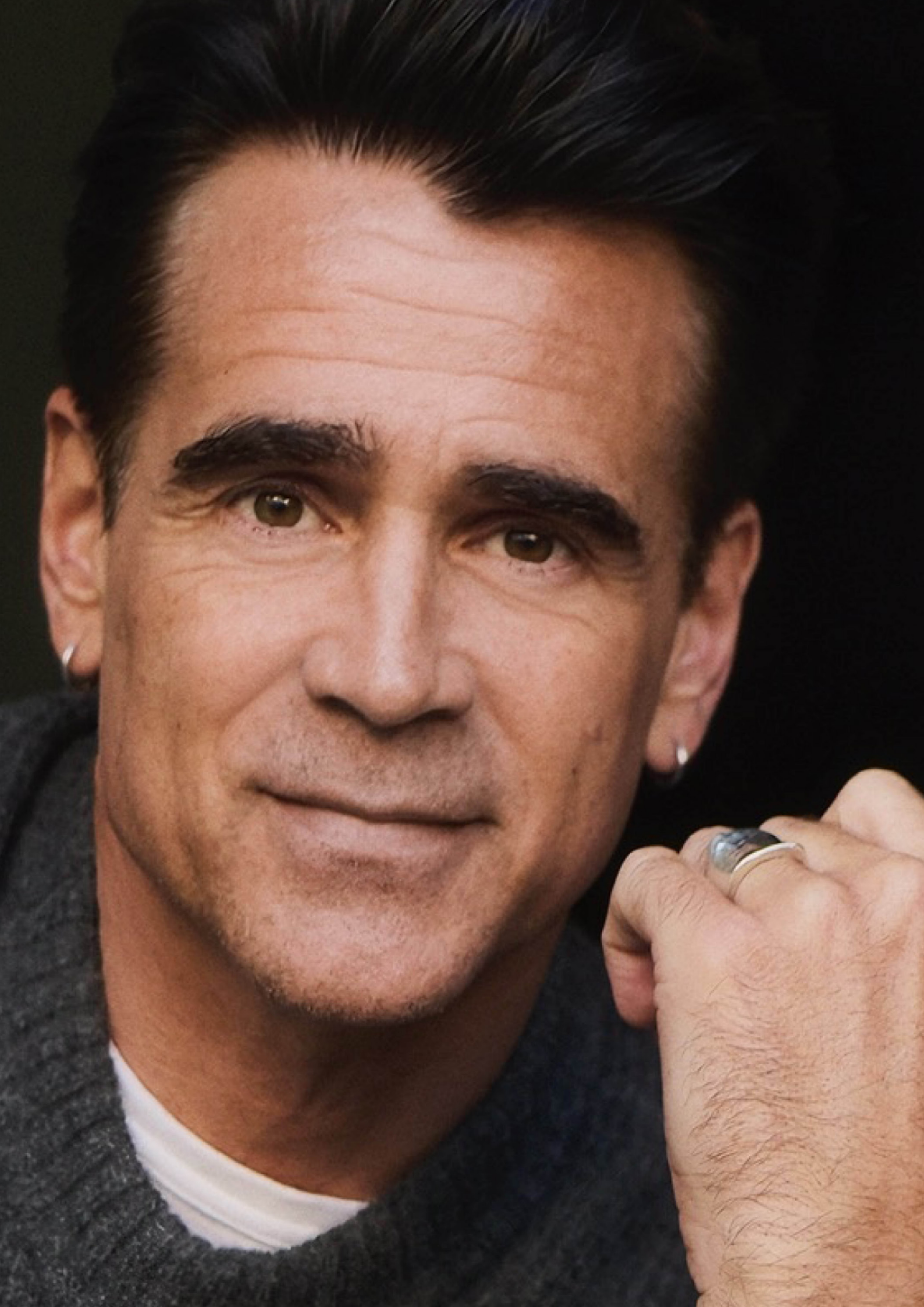
OBHUT / WOLVES / IN SEARCH OF STOLEN TIME / I LOVE YOU I LEAVE YOU / THE BEAUTY OF THE DONKEY / WHISPERING IN THE WOODS / TIME WE LOST / MOMO / THE LIFE OF WISHES / UNSE-RE KLEINE BOTSCHAFT / L'ULTIM RUMANTSCH / TO NEW BEGINNINGS / C'EST QUOI L'AMOUR? / DESERT WARRIOR / TATTI IN THE WORLD / TRACES OF WHAT REMAINS / VOICE OF MY PEOPLE / MELODY / MELODIE DER ANGST (ZFF Studio Film) / FOLLOW ME (ZFF Studio Film)

International premieres

LIFE AFTER SIHAM / STILLER / IL MAESTRO / TUNER

European premieres

RETREAT / TWINLESS / MÄRAMA / BABYSTAR / SINGING WINGS / THE LOST BUS / UNIDENTIFIED / HEDDA / THE BALLOONISTS / RENTAL FAMILY / ROOFMAN / CHRISTY / H IS FOR HAWK / GAVAGAI / CALIFORNIA SCHEMIN' / EPiC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT



GOLDEN ICON AWARD

COLIN FARRELL

AWARD CEREMONY: SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

The Zurich Film Festival is honored to present the outstanding actor Colin Farrell with the Golden Icon Award. The award acknowledges his remarkable performance in the film *BALLAD OF A SMALL PLAYER* as well as his overall career achievements. The Oscar-nominated actor will accept the award in person on September 27, 2025. On September 28, he will also give a ZFF Masters. Farrell will be accompanied by renowned Swiss director and Oscar winner Edward Berger.

From Dublin to Hollywood: The versatile actor Colin Farrell became internationally known through films such as *MIAMI VICE*, *MINORITY REPORT*, *IN BRUGES*, *THE BATMAN*, *THE LOBSTER*, *THE KILLING OF A SACRED DEER*, and *THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN*. For his role in *THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN*, he won a Golden Globe in 2023, received an Oscar nomination for Best Actor, and was awarded Best Actor in Venice. He has worked with some of the most celebrated directors in the industry, including Sofia Coppola, Yorgos Lanthimos, Woody Allen, Terry Gilliam, Steven Spielberg, Oliver Stone, Michael Mann, and Tim Burton. Having featured three of his films in recent years, the Zurich Film Festival is now excited to welco-

me Colin Farrell in person as a guest. On Saturday, September 27, Farrell will personally present his new film *BALLAD OF A SMALL PLAYER* to the audience. He will be presented with the Golden Icon Award at a gala premiere, honoring both his performance in the new film as well as his exceptional career. On Sunday, September 28, Farrell will also give a ZFF Masters.

BALLAD OF A SMALL PLAYER

Directed by Edward Berger, *BALLAD OF A SMALL PLAYER* marks the third consecutive Berger film to be showcased at ZFF, following *ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT* and *CONCLAVE*. Berger received the prestigious A Tribute to... Award at the 2024 edition of the festival. His new film is based on the 2014 novel by Lawrence Osborne and is set in Macau. It tells the story of a high-stakes gambler whose past and debts start to catch up with him, but whilst laying low in Macau he encounters a kindred spirit who might just hold the key to his salvation.

For more information please find the full press release here:

Colin Farrell receives Golden Icon Award



GOLDEN EYE AWARD DAKOTA JOHNSON

AWARD CEREMONY: SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

Dakota Johnson will open this year's Zurich Film Festival. Together with director, actor and producer Michael Angelo Covino, she will present the relationship comedy SPLITSVILLE at the Opening Night – a film she not only stars but also produced. For her performance in the film as well as her outstanding career, she will be honored with the Golden Eye Award during the Opening Night. Additionally, she will be offering insights into her work at a ZFF Masters conversation.

In full bloom as a character actress: Dakota Johnson has established herself as one of the most versatile actresses of her generation. Coming from a Hollywood dynasty— father Don Johnson, mother Melanie Griffith, and granddaughter of actress Tippi Hedren—she achieved international fame in 2015 with the role of Anastasia Steele in the blockbuster trilogy FIFTY SHADES OF GREY, for which she received the People's Choice Award. Since then, she has appeared in works ranging from arthouse cinema to major international productions. Under the direction of Luca Guadagnino, she shone in A BIGGER SPLASH (2015) and SUSPIRIA (2018). She starred alongside Johnny Depp in BLACK MASS (2015), impressed under Maggie Gyllenhaal's direction in THE LOST DAUGHTER (2021), and captivated audiences in CHA CHA REAL SMOOTH (2022), which won the Audience Award at Sundance. She thus joins the ranks of actresses who successfully navigate between Hollywood mainstream and independent cinema.

SPLITSVILLE

In the new film SPLITSVILLE by Michael Angelo Covino, Dakota Johnson plays the character Julie. When her friend Ashley (Adria Arjona) tells her husband Carey (Kyle Marvin) that she wants a divorce, he seeks comfort from Julie and Paul (Michael Angelo Covino). The couple shares their secret to a happy marriage: an open relationship. But when Carey and Julie cross the line, everything spirals into utter chaos. SPLITSVILLE is a fast-paced indie comedy full of absurd twists and subtle humor, charmingly spotlighting the pitfalls of modern love. A dream of an opening film.

You can find the whole media release here:

Dakota Johnson to open the 21st Zurich Film Festival and Receive the Golden Eye



GOLDEN EYE AWARD

CLAIRE FOY

AWARD CEREMONY: SEPTEMBER 29, 2025

The 21st edition of the Zurich Film Festival honors British actress Claire Foy with the Golden Eye for her versatile career and her outstanding performance in her new film *H IS FOR HAWK*. The award will be presented to her on September 29 at the Kongresshaus in Zurich. In addition, she will give insights into her work as part of a ZFF Masters.

From Highnesses to hawks: Claire Foy first made a name for herself with television productions such as *LITTLE DORRIT* (2008) and *UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS* (2010), and the BBC adaptation of *WOLF HALL* (2015) for which she received a BAFTA TV nomination. However her international breakthrough came with the Netflix series *THE CROWN* (2016–2017). In the first two seasons she portrayed the young Queen Elizabeth II and received a Golden Globe, two Emmy Awards, and a Screen Actors Guild Award for her performance. Foy also proved her versatility on the big screen: in Steven Soderbergh's *UNSANE* (2018) she played the leading role, in *THE GIRL IN THE SPIDER'S WEB* (2018) the hacker Lisbeth Salander, and in *FIRST MAN* (2018) she played as Janet Armstrong alongside Ryan Gosling. Her more recent work includes, Andrew Haigh's acclaimed feature, *ALL OF US STRANGERS*, which earned her a BAFTA and BIFA nomination and the Oscar-nominated drama *WOMEN TALKING* directed by Sarah Polley (2022).

H IS FOR HAWK

In *H IS FOR HAWK*, Claire Foy plays the role of Helen. When Helen (Claire Foy) unexpectedly loses her father Alistair (Brendan Gleeson), her world falls apart. To cope with his death, Helen takes in the hawk Mabel; falconry was a childhood passion of hers – one that her father always supported. The demanding training of this spirited bird of prey presents Helen with great challenges. However, it creates a special bond that not only helps her overcome her grief, but also allows her to rediscover the beauty of life. A moving story, based on an autobiography and powerfully portrayed by Claire Foy. For her outstanding performance in this new film and her versatile career, the Zurich Film Festival honors the British actress Claire Foy with the Golden Eye

You can find the whole media release here:

Star gathering in Zurich: Dakota Johnson, Russell Crowe, Colin Farrell, Benedict Cumberbatch and Claire Foy at ZFF



GOLDEN EYE AWARD BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH

AWARD CEREMONY: SEPTEMBER 29, 2025

Benedict Cumberbatch, CBE, will be honored by The Zurich Film Festival for his multifaceted career and his impressive role in the drama *THE THING WITH FEATHERS*, which he also produced with his company SunnyMarch and Lobo Films. Cumberbatch will receive the award in person on September 29. Afterwards, he will give insights into his career at a ZFF Masters.

Charisma, intelligence and an unmistakable voice define Benedict Cumberbatch, who is best known to many for his iconic role as Sherlock. Cumberbatch has worked with some of the most important directors of our time, including Jane Campion, Joe Wright, Steve McQueen and Wes Anderson, and has breathed life into a wide variety of characters. Whether playing a British aristocrat in *ATONEMENT*, a visionary inventor in *THE CURRENT WAR*, a conflicted rancher in *THE POWER OF THE DOG* or a morally torn plantation owner in *12 YEARS A SLAVE*, he always commands the screen. His distinctive voice has become a signature in his work, most notably as the dragon Smaug in Peter Jackson's *HOBBIT* trilogy, where he crafted an iconic character that still holds cult status. At the same time, his portrayal of *DOCTOR STRANGE* in the Marvel universe, including *AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR* and *AVENGERS: ENDGAME*, cemented his place in the landscape of modern blockbuster cinema. He will also star in the upcoming satirical black comedy *THE ROSES* alongside Olivia Colman.

THE THING WITH FEATHERS

In his new film *THE THING WITH FEATHERS*, directed by Dylan Southern, Cumberbatch takes on dual roles, as both lead actor and producer through his company SunnyMarch in partnership with Lobo Films. The story follows a father of two (Cumberbatch) who, after the sudden death of his wife, struggles to navigate everyday life while caring for his sons. His world becomes increasingly unsettled when he begins to be stalked by a mysterious, human-like crow which acts as a haunting symbol of grief and loss.

You can find the full press release here:

Benedict Cumberbatch Receives Golden Eye Award



GOLDEN EYE AWARD

WAGNER MOURA

AWARD CEREMONY: SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

The Zurich Film Festival will honor awardwinning Brazilian actor, director, and producer Wagner Moura with the Golden Eye for his career and remarkable performance in the film *THE SECRET AGENT*, which earned him the Best Actor Award in Cannes and established him as an Oscar contender. Kleber Mendonça Filho's film will be shown at a gala premiere, and Moura will also give insights into his work as part of a ZFF Masters.

Wagner Moura achieved worldwide fame for his nuanced portrayal of Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar in the hit Netflix series *NARCOS*, for which he earned a Golden Globe award nomination. He starred in *BEHIND THE SUN* for director Walter Salles and *ELITE SQUAD* for director José Padilha. He has continued to deliver stand-out performances in numerous films including *ELYSIUM* for director Neill Blomkamp, *THE GRAY MAN* for directors Anthony and Joe Russo, and *WASP NETWORK* for director Olivier Assayas. He recently starred in the Netflix biopic *SERGIO* for director Greg Barker, the feature film *CIVIL WAR* for director Alex Garland and is currently starring in Apple TV+'s *DOPE THIEF*. His directorial debut *MARIGHELLA*, which chronicles the struggle of Brazilian politician and activist Carlos Marighella, premiered at the 2019 Berlinale Film Festival.

THE SECRET AGENT

In *THE SECRET AGENT*, Moura plays the role of university professor Marcelo, who flees to Recife in 1977 to reconcile with his son during the carnival. But instead of peace, he finds a city full of violence, political tensions and personal threats. The film celebrated its world premiere in competition at the Cannes Film Festival 2025, where it won the Best Director Award, the FIPRESCI Award and the Best Actor Award for Moura - making him the first South American actor ever to win in this category.

You can find the full press release here:
[Wagner Moura Receives Golden Eye Award](#)



A TRIBUTE TO ... AWARD NOAH BAUMBACH

AWARD CEREMONY: SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

The 21st Zurich Film Festival will honor U.S. director and screenwriter Noah Baumbach with the prestigious A Tribute to ... Award for his outstanding body of work. The honorary award will be presented to him on September 26 during the «Gala Premieres» of his new film JAY KELLY at the Kongresshaus. In addition, Baumbach will hold a public ZFF Masters.

Since 2005, the Zurich Film Festival has presented the A Tribute to... Award to outstanding auteur filmmakers in recognition of their contribution to film history. Past recipients include Edward Berger, Paolo Sorrentino, Wim Wenders, Olivier Assayas, Claire Denis, Michael Haneke, Oliver Stone, Maiwenn, and Luca Guadagnino.

Noah Baumbach has been one of the most distinctive voices in American cinema for decades. With films such as THE SQUID AND THE WHALE (2005), FRANCES HA (2013), and MARRIAGE STORY (2019), he has made film history and become synonymous with finely tuned yet humorous relationship dramas. For MARRIAGE STORY, Baumbach received six Academy Award nominations, and Laura Dern won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in 2020. Time and again, Baumbach succeeds in blending intimate everyday stories with existential questions—brought to life by outstanding actors such as Scarlett Johansson, Adam Driver, Nicole Kidman, Ben Stiller, Adam Sandler, Dustin Hoffman, and Greta Gerwig.

JAY KELLY

His new film also remains true to the «comédie humaine»: JAY KELLY is a delightful satire on the Hollywood star circus. George Clooney plays a movie star who is supposed to accept an honorary award in Italy—but has absolutely no desire to do so. Adam Sandler as his manager and Laura Dern as his publicist have their hands full keeping the vain diva on track. For Netflix, this biting comedy is considered one of the major Oscar contenders of the season.

You can find the full press release here:
Noah Baumbach Receives the A Tribute to... Award



CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

ANNE WALSER

AWARD CEREMONY: OCTOBER 3, 2025

Swiss film producer Anne Walser will be honored at the 21st edition of the Zurich Film Festival (September 25 – October 5) with the Career Achievement Award for the literary adaptation *STILLER* and her exceptional career. She will personally receive the award on October 3, 2025.

Anne Walser is one of Switzerland's most prominent film producers and has made a name for herself with numerous national and international projects. Since 2007, she has been a partner and co-owner of C-FILMS AG in Zurich, where together with business partner Peter Reichenbach she is responsible for feature films, TV series and documentaries from story development through financing and production to the premiere.

The company C-FILMS produced successful Swiss films such as *GROUNDING – DIE LETZTEN TAGE DER SWISSAIR* (2006) and *SCHELLENURSLI* (2015). *DER KOCH* (2014) and *DER LETZTE WEYNFELDT* (2018) were based on bestselling novels by Martin Suter, as was *MITTAGSFRAU* (2023) and the upcoming *EUOTRASH*. Other projects of her company include *MARCELLO MARCELLO* (2008), *DIE AKTE GRÜNINGER* (2013), *ZWINGLI* (2019) and *PLATZSPITZBABY* (2020). All films achieved high audience numbers and shaped Swiss cinema. Internationally, Anne Walser worked as co-producer on *YOUTH* (2015) by Paolo Sorrentino with Michael Caine, Harvey Keitel, Rachel Weisz and Jane Fonda. The film was shown in Cannes and won multiple awards.

STILLER

«Anne Walser has been continuously producing films of high quality for more than 20 years. This is an enormous achievement. We particularly appreciate that she repeatedly creates intelligent entertainment with depth for a broad audience, with films such as *ZWINGLI*, *MARCELLO MARCELLO* or most recently *STILLER*,» explains Christian Jungen, Festival Director of the ZFF. «*STILLER* is one of the highlights of this year's program – Anne and her creative team have managed to adapt a novel long considered unfilmable and to take the audience on a fascinating journey. Therefore, it is a great pleasure to honor Anne Walser on the occasion of the premiere of *STILLER* with our Career Achievement Award. With her company C-Films, Anne Walser is undoubtedly one of the defining producers of the Swiss film industry and has contributed significantly to the positive reputation of Swiss cinema today.»

You can find the whole media release here:

Star gathering in Zurich: Dakota Johnson, Russell Crowe, Colin Farrell, Benedict Cumberbatch and Claire Foy at ZFF



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

RUSSELL CROWE

AWARD CEREMONY: SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

The Zurich Film Festival honors actor, producer, director, musician, and Academy Award winner Russell Crowe for his life's work and his outstanding performance in his new film *NUREMBERG*, in which he portrays Nazi leader Hermann Göring. Crowe will personally receive the Golden Eye on September 27 together with director James Vanderbilt and will give insights into his work as part of an exclusive ZFF Masters.

From gladiator to cinema legend: Russell Crowe has written film history in leading roles of numerous classics. He gained worldwide recognition as Maximus Decimus Meridius in Ridley Scott's *GLADIATOR* (2000), for which he won the Academy Award for Best Actor. His portrayal of young scientist John Nash in *A BEAUTIFUL MIND* (2001) was also highly acclaimed and earned him, among others, a Golden Globe and a SAG Award. In the following years, he continued his career with films such as *ROBIN HOOD* (2010), *NOAH* (2014), as well as more recent productions like *THOR: LOVE AND THUNDER* (2022) and *LAND OF BAD* (2024). Crowe has worked with some of Hollywood's greatest directors, including Ridley Scott, Ron Howard, Michael Mann, Peter Weir, Sam Raimi, James Mangold, and Darren Aronofsky.

NUREMBERG

In James Vanderbilt's gripping historical drama *NUREMBERG*, Crowe now portrays Hermann

Göring, one of the highest-ranking Nazis and main defendants at the Nuremberg Trials. Young American psychiatrist Douglas Kelly (Rami Malek) is tasked with determining whether the Nazi prisoners are mentally fit to stand trial. An intense duel between morality and manipulation unfolds. Inspired by the book *THE NAZI AND THE PSYCHIATRIST*, James Vanderbilt has created a riveting thriller in which Academy Award winner Rami Malek and Russell Crowe clash in a dramatic battle of wills.

You can find the whole media release here:

Star gathering in Zurich: Dakota Johnson, Russell Crowe, Colin Farrell, Benedict Cumberbatch and Claire Foy at ZFF



CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HILDUR GUÐNADÓTTIR

AWARD CEREMONY: OCTOBER 2, 2025 AT THE TONHALLE ZÜRICH

Every year, the Zurich Film Festival presents honorary awards to important filmmakers whose works have shaped and enriched the film landscape. This year, the ZFF (25.9. - 5.10.) honors the multifaceted life's work of Hildur Guðnadóttir with the Career Achievement Award. «Hildur Guðnadóttir is one of the most innovative composers of our time,” explains Christian Jungen, Festival Director. «She knows how to shape mainstream pop culture with experimental sounds and give it atmospheric depth. She is a curious musician who develops her scores in dialog with the filmmakers and their sequences, creating melodies that you might not hum to yourself on the way home, but which have an effect deep within us, resonating and thus shaping our experience of films like JOKER or TÁR. Her unmistakable style makes her a groundbreaking artist and a role model for many young talents worldwide. It is a special pleasure and honor for us to be able to award her work.» The award ceremony will take place October 2 at the Tonhalle Zurich.

Hildur Guðnadóttir is an award-winning composer and cellist whose virtuosic, versatile and original approach has earned her a unique place in the contemporary music scene. She has won an Oscar, a Golden Globe, an Emmy, two Grammys and a BAFTA. Her groundbreaking score for the HBO series CHERNOBYL earned her an Emmy and the title «Television Composer of the Year» at the World Soundtrack Awards. For the soundtrack to the film JOKER, she became the first solo

composer to win a Golden Globe for Best Original Score and went on to win an Academy Award and a Grammy. Her work includes numerous film and television projects such as SICARIO: DAY OF THE SOLDADO, MARY MAGDALENE, WOMEN TALKING, JOKER: FOLIE Á DEUX and TÁR.

Hildur Guðnadóttir at the International Film Music Competition

The Zurich Film Festival and the Tonhalle Society Zurich are organizing the International Film Music Competition in collaboration with the Forum Filmmusik for the 13th time this year. The task is to score the short film WILD LOVE by Paul Atric, Quentin Camus, Léa Georges, Maryka Laudet, Zoé Sottiaux und Corentin Yvergnaux for the symphony orchestra.

You can find the full press release here:
ZFF honors composer Hildur Guðnadóttir



GAME CHANGER AWARD

TOM QUINN VON NEON

AWARD CEREMONY: SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

Tom Quinn, CEO and founder of the independent production and distribution company NEON, will be honored with the Game Changer Award at this year's Zurich Summit. The event will take place on September 27 during the 21st edition of the Zurich Film Festival. The festival is honoring the «Palme d'Or Whisperer» for his outstanding achievements and services to the film industry.

The Game Changer Award recognizes leaders in the film industry who are driving change and pursuing forward-looking approaches. This year, the coveted trophy goes to Tom Quinn, who led films such as ANORA, PARASITE and ANATOMY OF A FALL to success with his indie production and distribution company NEON. The films won the Palme d'Or at Cannes and later also enjoyed success at the Oscars®. Previous recipients of the Game Changer Award include Roeg Sutherland, Co-Head of Media Finance at CAA, Oscar® winner Patrick Wachsberger (CODA), Pamela Abdy, Co-Chairman & CEO of Warner Bros. Motion Picture Group, and Michael Barker and Tom Bernard, Co-Presidents of Sony Pictures Classics.

Statement by Christian Jungen, Director of the Zurich Film Festival: «Since its inception, NEON has been a pioneer in the promotion of bold,

innovative and visionary auteur cinema. Founder Tom Quinn is a passionate movie lover. Under his leadership, the company has established itself as a dynamic force in independent film. Tom's exceptional instincts and strategic business acumen have made NEON a globally recognized cult label that bridges the gap between American and international audiences and filmmakers. With a deep understanding of a variety of genres, Tom has been instrumental in bringing auteur-driven films to theaters worldwide and ensuring that their creative vision reaches a wide audience. With its program, NEON proves that even in the current challenging environment, artistic quality can bring great commercial success to cinemas. As a long-time friend, supporter and participant of the Zurich Film Festival, Tom embodies the spirit of the Game Changer Award. His commitment to outstanding cinema and his contribution to the film industry make him a worthy recipient of this award.»

You can find the full press release here:

Tom Quinn from NEON receives Game Changer Award at Zurich Film Festival

GENERAL MEDIA INFORMATION

PRESS ACCREDITATION

A detailed guide on how to activate your accreditation can be found [here](#). Please note that this guide applies to press accreditations only. Photo/TV accreditations are not included.

If you would like to report on the 21st Zurich Film Festival, you can apply for press accreditation.

Online accreditation can be requested via your personal MyZFF account until September 18, 2025. The fee must be paid no later than September 22, 2025 at 12:00 AM.

If the accreditation application is submitted on or after September 18, 2025, or if the application is submitted before September 18, 2025 but payment made after 12:00 AM on September 22, 2025, an additional fee will be charged. Details about the late fee can be found on our website in the «Payment» section.

The press accreditation fee is CHF 70 and can be paid online via the payment link provided in the confirmation email. Accreditation for photo and camera crews is free of charge.

Important: If the regular accreditation fees are not paid on time or the application is submitted late, a late fee will apply: if the application is submitted on or after September 18, 2025, or if a timely submitted application is not paid by September 22, 2025 at 12:00 AM.

The late fee for press accreditation is CHF 30. Once the accreditation fee has been successfully paid, you can download your digital accreditation badge directly and save it to your Apple Wallet or Google Wallet or print it at home.

If you prefer a physical badge, you can request one by emailing media@zff.com. Please note that the physical badge can only be collected from September 25, 2025 during the opening hours of the Guest Management, Industry, or Press Desk at the Festival Center. A valid ID must be presented upon collection.

INTERVIEW REQUESTS

Swiss Media

For interview requests, please contact the respective Swiss film distributor directly, if known. For further interview requests, please contact Simon Keller directly (simon.keller@zff.com).

International Media

International media please contact Premier directly (ZFFIntlPress@premiercomms.com).

INFORMATION ON PRESS VISIONING, PHOTOCALLS UND GREEN CARPETS

The dates of the press screenings, photocalls and green carpets can be viewed on the ZFF website under Media under Downloads. Please note that changes may be made at short notice.

All press-accredited persons receive a personal digital accreditation badge and gain access to the press screenings upon presenting a valid ID.

Photocalls are open to all accredited media and do not require registration.

Participation in a Green Carpet must be registered in advance. please contact Andrea Vogel (andrea.vogel@zff.com) for this purpose.

OFFICIAL DOWNLOADPORTAL TMDB.PRO

The Zurich Film Festival offers accredited journalists video material, sound bites, interviews, photos and texts on the individual films for download. This service is a collaboration between the festival and the Territory Movie Database for Professionals (TMDB.pro), the largest Swiss online platform for media and promotional material in the film industry. Once again this year, a dedicated ZFF Channel has been set up for the

Zurich Film Festival under Downloads, which will be updated daily during the festival. Those who register will receive their password by e-mail. It is recommended that you create an account in advance. The media material may not be used for commercial purposes and may only be used with image credits.

FESTIVAL SCOPE VIDEO LIBRARY

Your press accreditation also gives you access to the ZFF Online Video Library via Festival Scope. The Video Library will be available during and until 10 days after the festival. If you register online by September 22, 2025, you will receive access to the platform before the start of the festival. For later accreditation or accreditation on site, it usually takes about one to two days.

MEDIA CONTACT

The Press and Communications department can be contacted by telephone and e-mail:

Simon Keller | PR Manager
simon.keller@zff.com
+ 41 78 745 13 71

Premier Team
International Media
ZFFIntlPress@premiercomms.com



Mercedes-Benz gives ZFF visitors a starring role

In 2025, the ZFF will again be relying on Mercedes-Benz vehicles for its shuttle service. A variety of all-electric Mercedes-Benz models will be in operation, encompassing around 30 vehicles from compact SUVs and luxury saloons to cross-country vehicles and vans. “We’re proud to be supporting the festival for the seventh time in a row as a Main Partner,” says Roland Schell, CEO of Mercedes-Benz Switzerland. “We deliver ZFF guests to the green carpet safely and comfortably, saving the festival several tonnes of CO₂.”

Hollywood stars

Mercedes-Benz and cinema go together like blockbusters and popcorn. Mercedes-Benz models have starred in both minor and major roles in numerous films. Some memorable examples include the S-Class used by leading actor Jason Statham to perform rapid escape manoeuvres and elaborate action sequences as Martin in *The Transporter* in 2002, along with the black Mercedes-Benz saloon used to chauffeur Meryl Streep around in *The Devil Wears Prada* in 2006.

The latest example is Hollywood blockbuster *F1® THE MOVIE* starring Brad Pitt and Damson Idris. The film was shot during Formula 1® races around the world and features realistic racing scenes combined with equally captivating characters and a thrilling storyline. As an official promotional partner of Apple Original Films and Warner Bros. Pictures, Mercedes-AMG supported the film crew with racing expertise and provided performance vehicles and sports cars from its current range.

Good vibes and the “Star Cam” in Zurich

Will a Mercedes-Benz model feature in any of the films at the ZFF? Visitors will find out when they attend the screenings. They’ll definitely spot one at the ZFF Festival Center, where Mercedes-Benz will also be creating a star-studded atmosphere again this year. With the motto “Mercedes-Benz Star Vibes”, renowned DJs will be behind the decks at the Sechseläutenplatz. And for anyone who wants to play a starring role themselves, the “Mercedes-Benz Star Cam” will be a particular highlight. This high-speed camera, made famous at the glamorous Oscars and Golden Globes award ceremonies, produces spectacular videos – making everyone a star.

Questions about Mercedes-Benz's involvement in the ZFF?

Mercedes-Benz Switzerland Media Office, media_ch@mercedes-benz.com