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ZURICH
FILM
FESTIVAL

24.9.–4.10.2026

MEDIA RELEASE



American Oscar Contenders and World Premieres by Acclaimed German Directors

Zurich, August 13, 2026

Hollywood heavyweights, the most anticipated Swiss film and two major German world premieres: Eleven titles from the Gala Premieres section have already been confirmed to screen at this year's ZFF, including I PLAY ROCKY, WICKER, 111 – ECHOES FROM HALIFAX, and JOSEPHINE, starring Channing Tatum. The two German productions LOVE, AFTER ALL by Andreas Dresen and HOW CAN I HELP? by Doris Dörrie will celebrate their world premieres in Zurich.

From September 24 to October 4, the Zurich Film Festival's Gala Premieres section presents the year's most anticipated films. These are often the films that are counted among the award favorites. In the spotlight are established figures from the world of film, both behind and in front of the camera. Oscar winners, celebrated directing talents, or artistic highlights with major festival resonance: these premieres celebrate cinema.

«The Gala Premieres section is dedicated to auteur cinema for a broader audience», says Christian Jungen, CEO of the ZFF. «We present films that will play an important role later in the award season, such as I PLAY ROCKY, which tells the story behind the

making of the cult classic starring Sylvester Stallone, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1977. From a Swiss perspective, 111 – ECHOES FROM HALIFAX deserves special mention. From multiple perspectives, the film sheds light on a major event that shook our nation: the crash of a Swissair aircraft near Halifax. We are particularly delighted that two major figures of German auteur cinema, Andreas Dresen and Doris Dörrie, have entrusted us with the world premieres of their new films. Their films are grounded in everyday life and, with a little wink, reflect on the state of our society.»

The full program of the 22nd Zurich Film Festival will be published on the ZFF website on Wednesday, September 9, at noon. Ticket sales will begin on Monday, September 14, 2026.



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I PLAY ROCKY

European Premiere

Biography
USA, 2026

Director: Peter Farrelly

Cast: Anthony Ippolito, Matt Dillon, Stephan James, AnnaSophia Robb, PJ Byrne, Toby Kebbell, Tracy Letts, Jay Duplass

Unknown actor Sylvester Stallone is writing a screenplay titled ROCKY that a studio is desperate to acquire. But Staallone refuses to sell the rights - unless he gets to play the lead himself. Despite numerous setbacks and rejections, he remains determined to make his dream a reality: playing Rocky Balboa. The result is the ultimate underdog story behind the legendary underdog film.



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WICKER

Comedy

USA, 2025

Director: Alex Huston Fischer, Eleanor Wilson

Cast: Olivia Colman, Alexander Skarsgård, Peter Dinklage, Elizabeth Debicki, Marli Siu, Nabhaan Rizwan

An audacious comedic fable about sex, marriage, and the absurdities of social convention, **WICKER** tells the wholly original love story of an ostracized fisherwoman (Colman) who commissions a husband to be made by the local basketmaker (Dinklage). When her wicker husband (Skarsgård) proves more spectacular than she ever imagined, his soulful spirit and unique prowess awaken something inside her, setting off a wave of jealousy, fascination, and upheaval that threatens the very fabric of village life.



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JOSEPHINE

Drama

USA, 2026

Director: Beth de Araújo**Cast:** Channing Tatum, Gemma Chan, Mason Lily Reeves

When 8-year-old Josephine witnesses a violent crime, her world is out of joint. She is trying to find a way to regain a sense of security. While her emphatic mother (Gemma Chan) wants to help her process what happened, her father (Channing Tatum) believes in preparing Josephine for the harsher realities of life but increasingly finds himself overwhelmed by the situation. With the suspense of a thriller, director Beth de Araújo tells a deeply empathetic family drama about fear and the limits of parental care. Channing Tatum gives one of his strongest performances in this year's great Sundance Film Festival sensation.



© C-Films

111 – ECHOES FROM HALIFAX**Internationale Premiere**

Drama

Switzerland, Canada, 2026

Director: Mauro Mueller**Cast:** Ursina Lardi, Kris Holden-Ried, Djibril Zonga, Fathia Youssouf, Natalie Brown

On September 2, 1998, the crash of Swissair Flight 111 off Halifax changes the lives of many people forever: relatives struggle for certainty about their loved ones, helpers try to offer comfort, and the residents of the Canadian coast are confronted with the traces of tragedy. As time passes and questions remain unanswered, the film shows how grief connects, relationships change, and new perspectives emerge. 111 – ECHOES FROM HALIFAX by Mauro Mueller is a quiet, poignant drama about loss, memory, and the power of human closeness.



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COMPANY

Mystery

Canada, USA, UAE, 2026

Director: Casey Affleck

Cast: Nick Nolte, Ben Mendelsohn, Adelaide Clemens, Scoot McNairy, Emily Alyn Lind, Caylee Cowan

On a winter night in 1975, a mysterious woman named Evelyn arrives uninvited at a holiday gathering and tells the story of Tom, an aging hermit who rescues a stranded actress during a Colorado blizzard in 1953. To pass the night, the actress recounts an older tale of a farming couple who take in a troubled young drifter as a series of grisly murders spreads fear across the frontier. As the stories intertwine across generations, COMPANY becomes a meditation on grief, vengeance, forgiveness, and the quiet acts of compassion that can heal even the deepest wounds.



© Netflix

POSSIBLE LOVE

Drama

South Korea, 2026

Director: Lee Chang-dong

Cast: Jeon Do-yeon, Sul Kyung-gu, Zo In-sung, Cho Yeo-jeong

POSSIBLE LOVE follows the intertwined relationship of two married couples facing different paths and hidden desires. Mi-ok (Jeon Do-yeon) lives quietly with her laid-off husband Ho-seok (Sul Kyung-gu) and their young son Cheol until a funeral brings them into the orbit of Ye-ji (Cho Yeo-jeong), a documentary filmmaker chronicling laid-off workers, and her husband Sang-woo (Zo In-sung) – a couple whose affluent lifestyle stands in sharp contrast to their own. When Mi-ok agrees to be filmed, she grows close to Ye-ji, and finds herself uneasily drawn to the unreadable Sang-woo. As their worlds collide, fractures begin to appear in their daily existence. Marking his first release in eight years, highly acclaimed director Lee Chang-dong (BURNING, POETRY, SECRET SUNSHINE) brings his signature nuance to POSSIBLE LOVE, capturing shifting emotions, conflicts, and contrasting outlooks that shape these relationships.



© Andreas Dresen Kordes und Kordes Film Pandora

LOVE, AFTER ALL

World Premiere

Tragicomedy

Germany, 2026

Director: Andreas Dresen

Cast: Dagmar Manzel, Joachim Król

Lore (Dagmar Manzel) and Harry (Joachim Król) have been married for nearly 40 years and there is rarely a moment of silence between them. Old stories, missed chances and the uncertainties of retirement fuel heated discussions. Lore is afraid of growing old and bitter in the garden alongside Harry while he longs for stability and peace. There is only one thing they agree on: Their daughter Gloria has little luck in love. Now, she wants to get married for the third time – this time to a wealthy man who is almost the same age as Harry. A warm-hearted love story inspired by real life, drawing the audience in with its authentic characters and lots of humor.



© Alberto Novelli

IT WILL HAPPEN TONIGHT

Romance

Italy, France, Spain, 2026

Director: Nanni Moretti

Cast: Louis Garrel, Jasmine Trinca, Hippolyte Girardot, Angela Finocchiaro, Melina Åkerman Kvie, Elena Lietti, Andrea Lattanzi, Antonio De Matteo, Nanni Moretti

I'll wait for you, for as long as you want me to. But will it ever happen?



© Beautiful Stories

BURGUNDY

Documentary

France, 2026

Director: Michael Dweck, Gregory Kershaw

Cast: Enzo Ferraroli, Céleste Kalis, Eric Goettelmann, Patrick Maniere, Guillaume Baroin, Bertrand Devillard

Burgundy is one of the world's most famous wine regions. Through the eyes of novices in hospitality and viticulture, BURGUNDY offers a fascinating glimpse into its unique wine culture, where time-honored traditions live on in rituals centered on luxury and indulgence. Blending documentary and fictional elements, directors Michael Dweck and Gregory Kershaw pay homage to the remarkable and charming people whose zest for life shapes and preserves this unique region and its centuries-old culture.



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HOW CAN I HELP?

World Premiere

Drama/Comedy

Germany, 2026

Director: Doris Dörrie

Cast: Angela Winkler, Laura Tonke, Josef Ellers, Via Jikeli, Eugene Boateng, Zoë Baier

Mrs. Winkler has a fall and becomes a nursing case. Her daughter, overwhelmed by her needs, hires a care robot. After some initial resistance, Mrs. Winkler grows

quite fond of him. He takes perfect care of her and keeps her entertained – except that he is also supposed to kill her in case her condition deteriorates further...



© Kiss & Kill

THE HAMMER

World Premiere

Documentary

France, USA, 2026

Director: Simon Wallon

Cast: Simon de Pury, Jeff Koons, Marina Abramović, Chloe Wise, Lou Zhenggang

A documentary portrait of famed auctioneer Simon de Pury, whose career saw him leading auction houses such as Sotheby's and Phillips, being the curator of major world collections, an artist, even a DJ, and always being a unavoidable personality «the Mick Jagger of auctions» takes us behind the curtain of the extravagant art market. Art fairs, collectors' homes, artists' studios, galas... The film is a welcoming and entertaining dive amongst the 1% and explores the complicated relationship between artists and commerce. Ultimately, it questions what it means to be an artist today. It was shot between NY, Tokyo, London, Cannes, Miami and Monaco.

Zurich Film Festival

The Zurich Film Festival (ZFF) is the second-largest film festival in the German-speaking world, presenting the year's finest discoveries and most anticipated films over a span of eleven days each fall. It fosters communication between emerging directors, established filmmakers, the film industry, and audiences.

The 22nd edition will take place from September 24 to October 4, 2026.

Further information: [Zurich Film Festival](#) | [ZFF Industry](#)

Media contact:

Simon Keller, PR Manager
For materials and interview requests, please contact:
media@zff.com, + 41 78 745 13 71

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Zurich Film Festival AG
Kreuzstrasse 2
8008 Zurich
Schweiz

+41442866000
media@zff.com
www.zff.com