

PRESS RELEASE



INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG AUDIENCE

06/09/2023

Start of the 28th Edition: That's the Programme of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth

On 23 September the time has finally come and the International Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences SCHLINGEL starts its 28th edition. Until 30 September it's finally "Film on!" again and numerous productions flicker across the big screen in a total of five Chemnitz venues. A total of 171 short and feature-length films will offer a glimpse beyond one's own nose, into other cultures, distant countries and the lives of our fellow human beings on the other side of the world. A total of 126 films will compete for one of the 23 prizes this year. The competition films will be judged by different juries of children, young people and experts. In order to offer the audience a very special film experience, numerous national and international filmmakers – from actors and directors to producers – will make their way to Chemnitz and answer questions from the audience.

After festival director Michael Harbauer presented the schedule for the 28th SCHLINGEL at the programme press conference today, it is clear which productions film fans can look forward to this year. In order to do justice to all audiences, this year's programme once again includes productions from all over the world and for all age groups. Over the past months, around 1,200 short and feature-length films have been carefully screened, from which the programme committee has selected the final 171 films.

All SCHLINGEL information:

- SCHLINGEL in Chemnitz:
 - Time period: 23 to 30 September 2023
 - Venues: CineStar in the Galerie Roter Turm, Metropol, Clubkino Siegmars, Opera House, Carlowitz-Congresscenter
- SCHLINGEL in Meißen:
 - Period: 20 to 23 September
 - Venue: Filmpalast Meißen
- Programme focus on the Canadian province of Québec
- Grand festival opening on Saturday, 23 September, at the Chemnitz Opera House
- A total of 171 films from 54 countries in the festival programme
- 57 feature-length films and 69 short films in the SCHLINGEL competitions
- Total in the short and feature-length film section
 - 8 world premieres
 - 9 international premieres
 - 2 European premieres
 - 56 German premieres
- More than 250 further films can be seen later in the year - e.g. at "SCHLINGEL on Wheels"



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The patron of the festival is the Minister President of the Free State of Saxony, Michael Kretschmer. Co-organiser is the Saxon State Institute for Private Broadcasting and New Media (SLM).

A total of eight productions will celebrate their world premiere at the 28th SCHLINGEL, nine films will celebrate their international premiere, two their European premiere and 56 their German premiere. The programme focus this year is on the Canadian province of Québec – no fewer than nine productions will be shown on the big screen in Chemnitz from 23 to 30 September.

This year's festival programme offers a range of 54 production countries and allows a cinematic flight around the globe. Directly from the cinema seat, viewers from Germany can make a stop in Finland, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Peru or the USA, for example. The different languages of the films are linked in a special way in the auditorium. As a rule, the festival films will be shown in the original language with German or English subtitles. For the very young audience, the films are also dubbed live in the auditorium.

After the screening, the films will be moderated and discussed with the film guests present, as is known from the festival, and they will be prepared once again in a pedagogically valuable way in the school context.

"As a festival, we are very proud to have grown into such a constant in the cultural landscape of the region over the past 28 years and to be able to build on the

support of the Chemnitz audience. The doors of SCHLINGEL are open to everyone. Even though our focus is on children's and youth films, film fans of all ages are invited to lean back in their cinema seats, immerse themselves in distant worlds and dream – because film enjoyment knows no age," says festival director Michael Harbauer.

After a successful start last year, a selected programme will once again be shown at the venue „Filmpalast Meißen“ from 20 to 23 September under the title "SCHLINGEL-Stars on Tour", offering young audiences in the region around Meißen the opportunity to see an international film programme.

Since one week of SCHLINGEL is by no means enough, further film screenings will take place directly after the festival and until the end of the year as part of the project "SCHLINGEL on Wheels". This introduces children and young people to international productions outside of mainstream cinema – directly at their school, after-school care centre, day-care centres and leisure facilities.



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Exciting world premiere performances for young and old:

- Arnold Cautious and the Happiness Stone
Director: Arto Halonen | Finland, Lithuania | 2023
- Call Bebel
Director: Paulo Nascimento | Brasil | 2023
- Mission: School of Fun
Director: Ekrem Ergün | Germany | 2023
- F for Frog
Director: Francis Joseph Jeera | India | 2023
- Scratches
Director: Imanuel Thiele | Germany | 2023
- If We Were Birds
Director: Anna Niebert | Austria | 2023
- SHARK or HYENA
Director: Britt Dunse | Germany, Denmark | 2023

Opening on 23 September at the Chemnitz Opera House:

This year's SCHLINGEL will be opened on 23 September at the Chemnitz Opera House. Together with interested Chemnitz residents, invited guests from politics, culture and the film industry as well as visitors to the city, the 28th SCHLINGEL will be celebrated in a fitting manner. The audience can look

forward to exclusive insights into this year's festival programme, exciting film clips and greetings from all over the world.

SCHLINGEL invites trade visitors to the INDUSTRY FORUM:

In recent years, the SCHLINGEL's INDUSTRY FORUM has established itself as the industry meeting place for the international children's and youth film industry and is already in its seventh edition this year.

This year's programme is a mixture of the tried and tested as well as new elements. This year, for example, two master classes will be held as part of the event series. The award-winning animated film director Michel Ocelot will report on his working methods in the field of animated film, just as the Norwegian director Christian Lo will present on the topic of directing children's films.

To mark the programme's focus on the province of Québec, there will also be a reception for invited guests at the art venue „Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz“ as part of the INDUSTRY FORUM. At this reception, the filmmakers who have produced films from Québec in this year's SCHLINGEL programme will have their say. There will also be a look at promising future projects from the Canadian province.

As in previous years, the ComingSoon project workshop will focus on potential children's film hits from Germany and Europe. In addition, as part of the



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INDUSTRY FORUM, there will again be project presentations from Central Europe, such as Croatia and the Czech Republic, among others.

As part of "Meet the Festivals", the INDUSTRY FORUM is the ideal place for film guests attending the festival to discuss their productions with the Club of Festivals, a network of representatives from other international film festivals.

Juries and prizes:

A total of 57 films will be shown in the various competition categories this year and will be screened and judged by the 13 juries during the SCHLINGEL week. Finally, on 30 September, the award ceremony will take place in the Carlowitz Congress Centre Chemnitz, where the winning films can look forward to receiving one of the coveted SCHLINGELs. These are lovingly made by Björn Köhler Kunsthandwerk. This year, for the first time, the newly introduced Main Prize of the City of Chemnitz will be awarded, which will support the selected German film on its way abroad.

The European Children's Jury will once again be a special jury consisting of 14 children from different European countries. Together, the young participants will watch the European productions in the programme and award the European Children's Film Prize of the Saxon Minister of Art, offered by the Saxon State Ministry of Science, Culture and Tourism.

For the first time, the 28th SCHLINGEL will also feature a CIFEJ jury in the field of professional juries, made up of members of the network, which is globally active in the field of audiovisual media for children and young people.

A big thank you to our partners:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our numerous partners, without whom the SCHLINGEL Film Festival would not be possible in this form. They have stood firmly by our side, in some cases for many years, support the festival and offer the audience wonderful added value time and again. Special thanks go to our main sponsor, the Volksbank Chemnitz, as well as to the SCHLINGEL co-organisier SLM and the institutional sponsors.