



Still from Chris the Swiss

48th International Film Festival Rotterdam
23 January - 3 February 2019

Rotterdam, 9 August 2018

After four runs of IFFR Live in Rotterdam, International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) takes its unique live cinema event abroad. On 11 August, Sarajevo Film Festival will screen the documentary *Chris the Swiss* by Anja Kofmel. In IFFR Live fashion, the film will be shown simultaneously in nine different cinemas across Europe, where visitors can participate in the live online Q&A session with the filmmaker through social media. The film and Q&A will also be streamed live on IFFR's online video platform [IFFR Unleashed](#). This new collaboration between Sarajevo Film Festival and IFFR is the culmination of a long-standing partnership.

Bero Beyer, festival director IFFR: “Our collaboration with Sarajevo Film Festival goes a long way back. It has always been our mission to showcase quality independent film to a wide audience – as wide as possible, in fact. Europe-wide cooperation between film festivals is a vital part of that equation.”

Mirsad Purivatra, director of Sarajevo Film Festival: “Since our launch in 1995 we have partnered up with IFFR through an exchange of knowledge and content. The new IFFR Live event in Sarajevo is a great continuation of the special relationship between our two festivals.”

IFFR Live was launched in 2015 and since then the event has seen four successful editions. The idea is to bring a film beyond just one cinema theatre, thereby turning a single screening and subsequent Q&A into a global event in which anyone can participate, no matter their location – from a venue or from the comfort of their home through social media.

By collaborating with Sarajevo Film Festival, IFFR Live is moving beyond the twelve-day festival period of IFFR. This innovative distribution model has matured enough to be exported to other festivals so that collective worldwide cinema screenings can be experienced throughout the year.



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Chris the Swiss is part of Sarajevo Film Festival's programme entitled [Dealing with the Past](#), which features films that tackle painful events of recent history. "The selection strives to encourage a polyphony of voices, aesthetic approaches and point of views," explains Maša Marković, Dealing with the Past Programme Manager. "With its mesmerising combination of animation, investigative journalism and archives, we believe **Chris the Swiss** is the perfect film to take audiences on a journey to confront the past and its ghosts that still haunt us in the search for understanding and reconciliation."

The [IFFR Live screening in KINO, Rotterdam](#) is the film's Dutch avant-premiere. **Chris the Swiss** will also screen at International Documentary Filmfestival Amsterdam (IDFA) in November 2018 as part of their [Best of Fests](#) programme.

Chris the Swiss is a part-animated documentary in which filmmaker Anja Komfel sets out to reconstruct the story of her cousin Chris, a young Swiss journalist whom she admired deeply as a little girl. Chris died in the middle of the Yugoslav Wars under mysterious circumstances, wearing the uniform of an international mercenary group. Now a grown-up woman, Komfel decides to investigate his story, trying to understand the extent of her cousin's involvement in the conflict.

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