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International Film Festival Rotterdam **25 January – 5 February 2023**

PRESS RELEASE

52th International Film Festival Rotterdam

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Local curators and cinematic heritage at IFFR 2023

Cinema Regained titles announced with RTM curators and first confirmations.

International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) has announced the latest titles for its 52nd edition. The Cinema Regained programme creates a sphere of collective remembrance for cinematic heritage, offering restored classics, documentaries on film culture, archival discoveries and more. The first titles in the programme are announced for 2023, including the world premiere of a documentary from Mika Taanila and Sami van Ingen, the grandson of Robert Flaherty. IFFR's Rotterdam-dedicated programme RTM also has its first titles, programmed for the first time by three local guest curators.

Festival director Vanja Kaludjeric: “It's rewarding and moving to see the different parts of this year's programme taking shape in line with our ongoing mission. The Cinema Regained programme promises to be a bold and adventurous exploration of the actuality of film history from all over the world. On the local front, for the first time this year we have invited three Rotterdam creatives to curate our RTM programme. Through their fresh perspectives and respective networks we continue to foster and enhance local connections, while celebrating all the uniqueness this amazing city has to offer.”

Cinema Regained

The festival's programme for cinematic heritage presents a myriad of discoveries at IFFR 2023. Originally from India, Rajendra Gour was Singapore's pioneering independent filmmaker. From the experimental anti-war **Eyes** (1967), the lyrical city portrait **Sunshine Singapore** (1972) and his sole work as a screenwriter for the fiction feature **I Want to Live** (1970; M. Amin), IFFR presents his complete existing filmography.

From Mexico in 1970 comes René Cardona's **Santo contra los jinetes del terror**, a monument of masked wrestling cinema which has been freshly digitally restored complete with previously unreleased scenes. Ömer **Kavur** was one of Turkey's most celebrated contemporary filmmakers and is the subject of Firat Özeler's documentary **Kavur**, which has its world premiere at IFFR 2023. Accompanying the film is the first screening of a newly discovered 1971 short from Kavur, **The Porter**.

IFFR regular Mika Taanila and Sami van Ingen, the great-grandson of documentary grandmaster Robert Flaherty, bring the world premiere of **Monica in the South Seas**. The experimental documentary on the pursuit of Monica Flaherty to add sound to her father's 1926 **Moana**, more than half a century after the film was shot. The result, **Moana with Sound** (1980) also screens.

More about Cinema Regained here.



Clockwise, stills from the films: *Eyes*, *Kavur*, *Monica in the South Seas*, *Santo contra los jinetes del terror*

RTM

The RTM programme gives the stage to local films and talent. Three local creatives have been given the freedom to programme the RTM Day which takes over LantarenVenster on Friday 27 January 2023. Actress and filmmaker Cheryl Ashruf, designer and digital landscaper Noémi Biró, and actor and creative producer Nizar El Manouzi will together curate the programme.

After **New Neapolis** (IFFR 2020), Gyz La Rivière returns to the festival with the world premiere of another speculative feature documentary on the city – this time turning his attention to the links between Rotterdam and China in **Malin TV**.

Diana Al-Halabi takes us from the port of Rotterdam to that of Beirut in **The Disaster Cannot Be Contained**. Her documentary short weaves together the filmmaker's dreams with the trauma of the 2020 explosion. **Filantropia** is an energetic documentary from Bouba Dola on the immersive, disruptive performance collective Grand Lodge, an initiative of the Rotterdam theatre maker Tjon Rockon that incorporates street culture and urban talent.

Also screening in the RTM selection will be the winner of the RTM Pitch for 2022, **Fantoomwijk** by Ravi Sandberg – a short interdisciplinary film about the filmmaker’s former neighbourhood, the Tweebosbuurt in Rotterdam. In July 2022 the project was awarded a programme of expert guidance and €20,000 financed by the municipality of Rotterdam to bring it to reality for its world premiere at IFFR 2023.

Read more about our RTM guest curators here.



IFFR 2023 RTM curators

More Harbour confirmations

New titles continue to be added to IFFR’s largest and broadest festival programme, Harbour. Don Palathara’s nuanced, finely observed portrait of a devout Christian community in Kerala in Southern India, **Family**, will have its world premiere. Ukrainian filmmaker Dmytro Sukholytkyy-Sobchuk will present his Hubert Bals Fund-supported and EFA-nominated **Pamfir**. The surreal and quirky **Convenience Story** by Japanese filmmaker Miki Satoshi will have its European premiere.



Still from the film *Pamfir*

Cinema Regained first titles:

Je t'aime Ronit Elkabetz, Moran Ifergan, 2022, Israel, international premiere

Kavur, Fırat Özeler, 2023, Turkey, world premiere

Moana with Sound, Robert J. Flaherty, Frances H. Flaherty, Monica Flaherty, 1980, United States

Monica in the South Seas, Sami van Ingen, Mika Taanila, 2023, Finland, world premiere

Orpheus in der Unterwelt, Horst Bonnet, 1974, DDR

Santo contra los jinetes del terror, René Cardona, 1970, Mexico, international premiere

Scar, Haim Bouzaglo, 1994, Israel

The Porter, Ömer Kavur, 1971, Turkey, world premiere

Eyes, Rajendra Gour, 1967, Singapore, international premiere

I Want to Live, M. Amin, 1970, Singapore, international premiere

Labour of Love – The Housewife, Rajendra Gour, 1978, Singapore, international premiere

My Child My Child, Rajendra Gour, 1979, Singapore, international premiere

Sight and Desire (Eyes), Rajendra Gour, 1967, Singapore, international premiere

Sunshine Singapore, Rajendra Gour, 1972, Singapore, international premiere

RTM first titles:

Deeply, Madly, Helen Anna Flanagan, 2022, Netherlands, world premiere (festival)

The Disaster Cannot Be Contained, Diana Al-Halabi, 2022, Netherlands, Lebanon, international premiere

Fantoomwijk, Ravi Sandberg, 2023, Netherlands, world premiere

Filantropia, Bouba Dola, 2023, Netherlands, world premiere

Fin. Finito. Infinito., Laurence Henriquez, 2022, Spain, Netherlands

Malin TV, Gyz La Rivière, 2023, Netherlands, world premiere

Nani, Jeske Maas, 2022, Netherlands

Full details and film pages for the RTM programme will be published in the coming weeks.

Newly confirmed Harbour titles:

Convenience Story, Miki Satoshi, 2022, Japan, European premiere

Family, Don Palathara, 2023, India, world premiere

LOLA, Andrew Legge, 2022, Ireland, United Kingdom

Pamfir, Dmytro Sukholytkyy-Sobchuk, 2022, Ukraine, France, Poland, Chile

Unidentified, Jude Chun, 2022, South Korea, European premiere

Click here for the film stills and here for the programme.

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