



**WATCH
OUT!**

**TETOVO
INTERNATIONAL
FILM
FESTIVAL**

**18-21 June
2025**

**20:00 hrs
Amphitheater in front
of the Museum of the
Communist Party
Tetovo**

INTRODUCTION

The Fourteenth Edition of WatchOut! Film Festival: A Celebration of Art and Change.

WatchOut! is an International open-air Film Festival organized by Center for Balkan Cooperation LOJA in the city of Tetovo, North Macedonia, and it will take place from 18th to 21st of June, 2025.

This year's edition will explore art's impact and cinema's role in shaping perspectives and inspiring change. At a time when the world feels uncertain, when stagnation and numbness seem to overshadow progress, we turn to film and art as forces of transformation.

Through storytelling, creativity, and cultural expression, we believe in the ripple effect that cinema can create, thus sparking debate, shaping public opinion, and challenging the status quo.

As the world stands on the brink of change, art remains the miracle that can ignite transformation, harnessing the power of creativity and highlighting the influence of culture and art in reshaping politics, confronting crises, and building a better future for generations to come.

This year, WatchOut! Film Festival received 892 films from 95 countries and 6 continents. WatchOut! is organized by Center for Balkan Cooperation LOJA and is supported by the Goethe Institut – Skopje and Kurve Wustrow.

EVENT PROGRAM

MEDIA LITERACY

19.06.2025 at 14:00 – 15:30h

Guests:
Christoph Grafinger

The excessive use of social media and the excessive sources of information have made it increasingly difficult to distinguish which information is fake and which is the truth. In this workshop, held by the German political scientist Christoph Grafinger, we will explore how to distinguish fake news and how to avoid getting the wrong information.

PROPAGANDA IN PICTURES

20.06.2025 at 14:00 – 15:30h

Guests:
Alex Metz

From war photography to viral memes, this workshop explores how visual media shapes perception. Using footage, headlines, and propaganda posters, we explore how images build narratives, stir emotions, and blur truth and manipulation.

CLASSICAL GUITAR CONCERT

21.06.2025

Guests:
Ben Enzon



COMPETITION DOCUMENTARY FILM SECTION

CAPTIVE WOMEN

Itxaso Díaz, Spain, 20'

Documentary film

(Winner of Category)

NOT MY FILM

Astra Zoldnere, Germany, 30'

Documentary film

STAND BY ME

Parisa Zandbaf, Netherlands, 9'32"

Documentary film

THE ISLAND

Mahmut Taş, Turkey, 5'

Documentary film

THROUGH XHELO'S EYES

Besa Tusha, North Macedonia, 13'12"

Documentary film

UNDER YOUR FEET

A. J. Kelly, Indonesia, 11'56"

Documentary film

WHISPERING ROCKS

Ali Mohammad Tarahomi, Iran, 19'45"

Documentary film

SHORT FEATURE FILM SECTION

A MOTHERLY HARMONY

Ara Torosian, USA, 14'01"

Short Feature film

GOOD ADVICE

Barbara de la Fuente, Canada, 4'14"

Short Feature film

INSETTI

Greta Zamparini, Italy, 14'06"

Short Feature film

INSIDE THE BOX

Yazan Alnakdali, Germany, 10'

Short Feature film

KNOR

Sterre Rutten, Netherlands, 4'31"

Short Feature film

LOVE YOU FOREVER

Ismar Vejzovic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 5'10"

Short Feature film

MERLICH MERLICH

Hannil Ghilas, France, 17'

Short Feature film

COMPETITION

SHORT FEATURE FILM SECTION

MOTHER

Sebastian Kwidziński, Poland, 29'08
Short Feature film

PUFFERFISH

Mohammad Kamal Alavi, Iran, 14'59
Short Feature film

THE BOY WITH WHITE SKIN

Simon Panay, France, 15'
Short Feature film

THE FIGHT WITHIN

Yazan Alnakdali, Germany, 20'
Short Feature film

THE MAN WHO COULD NOT REMAIN SILENT

Nebojša Slijepčević, Croatia, 13'
Short Feature film (Winner of Category)

WATER JUTSU

Riezky Aulia, Indonesia, 15'34
Short Feature film

EXPERIMENTAL AND ANIMATED FILM SECTION

A HOUSE TO SHARE

Pascale Hecquet, Belgium, 4'30
Experimental and animated film

AXE

Esmail Jabbari, Iran, 6'
Experimental and animated film

BANGKOK NOTE

Jian Xing Mao, Thailand, 2'17
Experimental and animated film

BUBBLES

**Star Akhom, Olivia Armstrong, Allen Marin,
Emily Mishoe, Ashten Royse, Dani Oliver,**
USA, 2'54
Experimental and animated film

COLORS OF KINDNESS

Júlia Guerreiro, Portugal, 1'08
Experimental and animated film

JUS D'ORANGE (ORANGE JUICE)

Alexandre Athané, France/Poland, 13'45
Experimental and animated film
(Winner of Category)

LES ŒUFS MAUDITS (THE CURSED EGGS)

Mohamed Ait Hamou, Algeria, 1'34
Experimental and animated film

ORA 17 (17 O'CLOCK)

Flaka Kokolli, North Macedonia, 9'
Experimental and animated film

PHOTOSYNTHESIS

Emma Brandl, USA, 1'45
Experimental and animated film

RUPTURE

Martina Fernanda Riveros, Chile, 3'31
Experimental and animated film

DAY 1_WEDNESDAY 18TH / 8 FILMS / 73'



STAND BY ME
Parisa Zandbaf

Netherlands, 9'32
Documentary Film

An American couple struggling with a serious medical condition shows the way they deal with it, which has become internationally popular, attracting tourists from around the globe. The couple's dream to travel to Amsterdam becomes a test of their love and a journey of universal bittersweet favors.



BANGKOK NOTE
Jian Xing Mao

Thailand, 2'17
Experimental & Animation

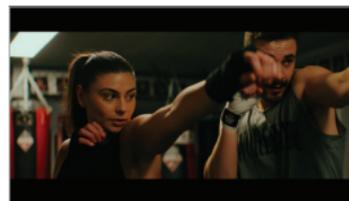
Through a painter's sketches of strangers on the subway, we explore the subtle connections and separations between people in the digital age.



**THE MAN WHO
COULD NOT
REMAIN SILENT**
Nebojša Slijepčević

Croatia, 13'
Short Feature Film
(WINNER)

February 27, 1993, Strpci, Bosnia and Herzegovina. A passenger train from Belgrade to Bar is stopped by paramilitary forces in an ethnic cleansing operation. As they haul off innocent civilians, only one man out of 500 passengers dares to stand up to them.



THE FIGHT WITHIN
Yazan Alnakdali

Germany, 20'
Short Feature Film

Omar, a young man who faces challenges related to his identity and dignity, finds himself stuck between his love for Lina and his self-esteem after the return of her ex-lover, Fabian. To regain his self-confidence, Omar learns boxing and prepares to face Fabian in a decisive fight.



THE ISLAND
Mahmut Taş

Turkey, 5'
Documentary Film

Ada is a little girl living in a dry village where it has not rained for a long time. Her family is considering leaving the village, which makes her very upset. With her camera, she goes to a lake that used to be full of water and visits the island named after her.



WATER JUTSU
Riezky Aulia

Indonesia, 15'34
Short Feature film

A religious gathering and joint prayer are held for elementary school children before they take the National Exam. Untung prays for good grades. However, his best friend Basir suggests a different way to achieve them, by washing his mother's feet.



RUPTURE

Martina Fernanda Riveros

Chile, 3'31

Experimental & Animation

Agu, a very imaginative kid, enjoys playing in his room when suddenly a bunch of monstrous hands invade it, threatening to take not only his belongings but also his most valuable possession, his inseparable stuffed animal, Pochi.



KNOR

Sterre Rutten

Netherlands, 4'31

Short Feature Film

Laila found a true companion in her stuffed animal Knor. But as she grows older she is forced to reconsider her infatuation with the little pig; are we ever truly too old for the things that make us feel whole?

DAY 2_THURSDAY 19TH / 7 FILMS / 82'



INSETTI

Greta Zamparini

Italy, 14'6

Short Feature Film

Adele is on vacation with her mother on the island of Lampedusa, in deep contact with the wild world. She is more at ease with it than with the social context to which she does not know how to relate. When she witnesses a cruel superficiality at the damage of a defenseless being about to die, she will be able to overcome her limits and find the courage to act despite others.



AXE

Esmail Jabbari

Iran, 6'

Experimental & Animation

Two ax characters who are in love with each other spend happy hours in the forest with a grinder. Since they are axes, they are forced to cut trees by the hand that uses them. This time, cutting down the trees hurts their friend, the bird, and the bird dies. The ax woman is very affected by this incident...



THE BOY WITH WHITE SKIN

Simon Panay

France, 15'

Short Feature Film

Entrusted by his father to a group of gold-miners, an albino child embodies all of their hopes.



ORA 17 (17 O'CLOCK)
Flaka Kokolli

North Macedonia, 9'
Experimental & Animation

An Albanian family must live an everyday life while the world around them shatters during the armed conflict 2001. The parents are in a constant dilemma, protecting and sheltering their children inside the four walls of their home, as they beg to play in the sun, or allowing them to play and have a childhood.



CAPTIVE WOMEN
Itxaso Díaz

Spain, 20'
Documentary Film

Captive Women follows the journey of Cristina Quintanilla, sentenced to thirty years in prison accused of having an illegal abortion in El Salvador. Released from prison after four and a half years, Cristina testifies about an already broken life and a criminal record that will haunt her for the rest of her life.



MERLICH MERLICH
Hannil Ghilas

France, 17'
Short Feature film

In Marseille, a family meets to mourn the loss of the patriarch. Will generation conflicts be stronger than family spirit?



COLORS OF KINDNESS
Júlia Guerreiro

Portugal, 1'08
Experimental & Animation

In a black and white world, only the ones who are kind and joyful are colorful. Can kindness paint someone's world?



UNDER YOUR FEET
A. J. Kelly

Indonesia, 11'56
Documentary Film

The LZ Tile House in Lasem was once the center of tile production and trade in the 1900s. However, when the president of Indonesia Suharto was impeached, it stepped down as ceramics with pragmatic designs entered Indonesia and changed people's mindsets. Decades later, Rumah Tegel LZ is in a dying condition but the people in charge still care about this place and are hoping for government's funding to conserve this history-filled house.



MOTHER
Sebastian Kwidziński

Poland, 29'08
Documentary film

Paulina is out on parole after serving a prison sentence for the murder of her husband Andrzej. She returns to her hometown to meet her 11-year-old son Nikodem but Paulina's mother-in-law who takes care of Nikodem, does not want this meeting to take place. She is still grieving the loss of her son, Andrzej, and is unable to forgive Paulina for what she did.



JUS D'ORANGE (ORANGE JUICE)

Alexandre Athané

France / Poland, 13'45

Experimental & Animation
(WINNER)

Toni grows oranges. He loves them, they are his treasure. Until one day, strange cargo ships dock in the valley. Cargos loaded with... GREEN oranges!



LOVE YOU FOREVER **Ismar Vejzovic**

Bosnia and Herzegovina, 5'10

Short Feature Film

Love You Forever portrays final moments of a grieving mother who's young child fell victim to a pedophile. Unwilling to accept the release of the perpetrator, she confronts the man who shattered her world.



PHOTOSYNTESI **Emma Brandl**

USA, 1'45

Experimental & Animation

Zoey, a young witch, finds herself alone ...again. Trapped in a cycle of self-isolation, she only brings herself down more. This time, however, is different. This time, with the help of her cat, Paul, maybe Zoey won't hide away.



WHISPERING ROCKS

**Ali Mohammad
Tarahomi**

Iran, 19'45

Short Feature Film

Miners are showing the everyday's hard working conditions in the mine.



LES ŒUFS MAUDITS (THE CURSED EGGS)

Mohamed Ait Hamou

Algeria, 1'34

Experimental & Animation

In a fantastical world, fragile eggs - symbols of dreamer children - are struck by a golfer toward a dark and perilous sea. Inspired by the migration crisis, this story follows a young egg braving the unknown, confronting the journey's dangers and the quest for a distant hope.



GOOD ADVICE **Barbara de la Fuente**

Canada, 4'14

Short Feature Film

Amanda is in a relationship that has her running off her feet and leaves her physically battered. Georgie, a stranger and well-intentioned busy-body, encourages Amanda to share her pain in an earnest discussion that devolves into a comedy of errors.



INSIDE THE BOX
Yazan Alnakdali

Germany, 10'
Short Feature Film

Millions of people from other countries live among us, trying to find their way, fulfill their dreams, and advance in their careers. But for refugees, it's not that simple.



A MOTHERLY HARMONY
Ara Torosian

USA, 14'01
Short Feature Film

As war sounds intensify, a mother and her son find comfort in shared meals and bedtime stories. Amidst the looming threat, the mother uses music and dance to create fleeting moments of joy for her son.



BUBBLES
Star Akhom, Olivia Armstrong, Allen Marin, Emily Mishoe, Ashten Royse, Dani Oliver

USA , 2'54
Experimental & Animation

Bubbles is a darkly comedic short film, presented as a livestream in a world devastated by climate change. The protagonist films herself reviewing products from the comfort of her apartment. Will living in her own bubble be her downfall?



THROUGH XHELO'S EYES
Besa Tusha

North Macedonia, 13'12
Documentary Film

Through the stories of Old Bazaar artisan, Xhelo, we experience the past and Skopje's economic, political and social crises.



A HOUSE TO SHARE
Pascale Hecquet

Belgium, 4'30
Experimental & Animation

After the departure of his children and the death of his wife, René-Claude lives alone in his large house. One day, he decides it's time to share it.



PUFFERFISH
Mohammad Kamal Alavi

Iran, 14'59
Short Feature Film

Ava is an Iranian 9 years old girl. There is a religious rite in the school and the teachers sing hymns for the children instructing her to "be a good girl". After school, Ava goes to the birthday party of her cousin who is her best friend, Pouya, but with the presence of uninvited guests, the birthday takes a different form for Ava...



NOT MY FILM
Astra Zoldnere

Germany, 30'
Documentary Film

What happens if older people challenge stereotypes in films about aging? Six seniors re-perform scenes of poor health, sexual invisibility, and gendered stereotypes of the wise old man and the bad witch.



WINNERS

DOCUMENTARY FILM CATEGORY

CAPTIVE WOMEN

Itxaso Díaz

Spain

EXPERIMENTAL AND ANIMATED FILM CATEGORY

JUS D'ORANGE (ORANGE JUICE)

Alexandre Athané

France / Poland

SHORT FEATURE FILM CATEGORY

THE MAN WHO COULD NOT REMAIN SILENT

Nebojša Slijepčević

Croatia

JURY

Sinolicka Trpkova (Actress and University Professor)

North Macedonia

Mario E. (Freelance Journalist and Photographer)

Germany

Visar Krusha (Screenwriter and Producer)

Kosovo

WATCHOUT! TEAM

Bujar Luma, Egzona Musliu, Blerim Jashari, Lek Luma, Aleksandra Sardjoska, Anna Bernhardt, Merita Asani, Janek Lindemann, Sonia Baylard-Gaminde, Djaylane Youssoufa, Julie Poteloin, and all WatchOut! volunteers.

DESIGN

egggra

