

PRO GUIDE



55TH INTERNATIONAL FILM  FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM 29/1-8/2 2026



- Screening venues
- 1 de Doelen

Schouwburgplein

2 Pathé Schouwburgplein

Schouwburgplein 101

3 Theater Rotterdam

Schouwburgplein 25

4 Cinerama Filmtheater

Westblaak 18

5 Oude Luxor

Kruiskade 10

6 KINO

Gouvernestraat 129-133

7 LantarenVenster

Otto Rauchlinweg 996

8 Nieuwe Luxor

Posthumalaan 1

9 Podium Islemunda

Herenwaard 17

10 Roodkapje

Delftseplein 39

11 Muziekwerf

Haagseveer 4

- Art Directions
- 12 de Doelen Studio 2

Schouwburgplein

13 Plein / Fenix

Paul Nijghkade 5

14 WORM CS & WORM UBIK

Boongaardsstraat 71

15 V2_Lab for the Unstable Media

Eendrachtstraat 10

16 Nieuwe Instituut

Museumpark 25

17 Rotterdam Central Station Hall

Stationsplein

18 Brutus

Keileweg 10-18

19 Katoenhuis

Keilestraat 9c

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Kruisplein 40

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Schouwburgplein 56

22 Bento

Weena-Zuid 146

23 Brutus

Keileweg 10-18

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Schouwburgplein 28

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Museumpark 24

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Nieuwe Binnenweg 111-A

28 Kaapse Maria

Mauritsweg 52

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Nico koomanskade 1025

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Gouvernestraat 129-133

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Otto Reuchlinweg 996

33 LITTLE V

Grotekerkplein 109

34 Multi Multi Cafe

Weena 709

35 SUE

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36 O'Pazzo Schouwburgplein

Karel Doormanstraat 34

37 Theater Rotterdam

Schouwburgplein 25

38 WORM – Daily Fresh

Boongaardsstraat 71



Go to our interactive map

DISCOUNTS

Looking to grab a bite before the screening or continue the conversation over a Rotterdamse borrel (a typical meet-up with drinks and snacks)? Need a convenient spot to meet fellow festivalgoers? Or keen to explore a new IFFR partner location?

Your badge gives you exclusive discounts and special offers at our curated selection of hospitality and cultural partners across the city.

Start at the IFFR Festival Heart in 'de Doelen' – the centre of it all.

- de Doelen
- 10% discount on drinks in the Festival Heart (Willem Burger Hal) and at all the bars during the opening and closing party.

- de Doelen Studio 3
- 10% discount on sandwiches, wraps, sweets and bites.

Further discounts:

- Bento
- 10% discount

- Brutus
- Free access to the installation Alterity.

- Café Floor / Theater Rotterdam
- 15% off coffee, tea and pastries from opening until noon (12.00).

- Cinerama
- 15% discount on standard drinks (coffee, tea, soft drinks, wine and beer).

- Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen
- IFFR Art Directions badgeholders will have free access to the Depot.

• IFFR Pro badgeholders will receive a 50% discount on the entrance.

- Kaapse
- 10% discount on Kaapse Tiger beer at all Kaapse locations (Maria, Fenix Food Factory & Kaapse Lenie/Will'ns).

- Kaapse Maria
- Kaapse Maria IFFR Dinner Special for €38: two small dishes (max. one meat dish) served with a portion of fries with a Kaapse Tiger beer or alcohol-free Nada.

- Kaapse Kaap (Fenix Food Factory)
- Kaapse Fenix IFFR Dinner Special for badgeholders for €19.50: choice of smash burger (beef), chicken burger or veggie burger, served with portion of fries and a Kaapse Tiger beer or alcohol-free Nada.

- Katoenhuis
- Free coffee or tea if you bring your own cup.

- KINO – NIKO's resto
- 20% off all burgers.

- LantarenVenster
- 15% discount on the Brioche Club Sandwich during lunch (11.00 – 16.00): little gem, avocado-cream, egg, hummus, halloumi, roasted bell pepper, chili-lime dressing (vegetarian).

• 15% discount on the Caribbean Beyond Burger during dinner (17.00 – 21.00/21.30 Fri&Sat): pretzel bun, pineapple-mango salsa, avocado-lime spread, little gem lettuce, mais ribs, french fries (vegan). Also available with a Black Angus Burger.

- LITTLE V
- Little V Lunch Experience for €39.95: a relaxed but festive lunch moment at Little V includes: lunchbox, bao, free-flow cocktails.

• IFFR Festival Menu at Little V: one-pan dish plus one drink for €25, two courses plus two drinks for €35, three courses plus three drinks for €49,95.

- Multi Multi Cafe
- Free coffee, tea or lemonade with every lunch deal (€14) or Multi Menu (€22).

- SUE
- 10% discount.

- O'Pazzo Schouwburgplein
- Three-course theatre menu for €35, including: antipasti (burrata or vitello tonnato), piatto principale (pizza bufalina / pizza formaggio caprino con spinaci / pizza diavolo / pizza O'Pazzo / strozzapreti d'autunno / pasta carbonara), plus dolce (tiramisu).

• Pizza margherita or pasta arrabiata for €16 and a soda.

- Theater Rotterdam
- 10% discount on drinks at the bars.

- WORM – Daily Fresh
- 10% off all meals (while stock lasts)

Pro Guide

Your complete guide to the IFFR Pro Days 2026, taking place during the 55th International Film Festival Rotterdam.

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Displacement Film Fund



INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
ROTTERDAM

IFFR Pro 2026 is supported by



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Cultuur en Wetenschap



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Rotterdam



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de Volkskrant

VRIENDEN
LOTERIJ

IFFR Pro Awards are supported by

eurimages



PUBLIKUM /



Hubert Bals
Fund



arte



Colophon

Editor
Fraser White

Design
Martijn Smits

Cover
Philippine Haverbeke

**Campaign, concept &
design**
75B

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IFFR.com/en/iffr-pro



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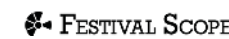
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Talenthub ZH





WELCOME TO IFFR PRO 2026

It's now my second edition helming IFFR Pro, the festival's industry arm, and we're continuing to evolve our programme to meet filmmakers' shifting needs and create opportunities where others don't. Next to our CineMart and Darkroom lineups that are as strong as ever, this year we're launching Safe Harbour for emerging filmmakers who've experienced displacement, expanding Rotterdam Producers Lab with the new Creators Lab for writers and directors, piloting the Dutch Talent Market on Sunday 1 February, welcoming the first HBF Reunion at IFFR, to name just some of the initiatives.

Our commitment to supporting independent storytellers at every stage is the natural extension of the festival's programme, which as always this year offers an incredible opportunity for discovery and finding new perspectives on the world – presenting cinema as a space for reflection, encounter and imagination.

IFFR's Art Directions programme celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, and marking this landmark we've launched our Lightroom industry programme for immersive work at Katoenuis, featuring a project market and Reality Check: Lightroom symposium on 31 January. Complementing this is our brand new Art Directions accreditation for artists and makers whose work stretches beyond the screen with a dedicated programme to boot.

The Pro Hub is your meeting place throughout the festival, extending these possibilities beyond the screen. Join us for Pro Dialogues exploring topics that resonate directly with the programme – from Asian genre cinema and African independent film to putting sex on screen and contemporary Arab filmmaking – alongside priceless Meet the Experts sessions, Pro Encounters networking roundtables with festival programmers, Pitch Out! opportunities and one-to-one mentor meetings with industry insiders.

We're thrilled to welcome you to Rotterdam. Wishing you an inspiring festival.

Marten Rabarts
Head of IFFR Pro



Guide to IFFR Pro 2026

We're delighted you're joining us in Rotterdam for IFFR 2026! Here's everything you need to know for your festival stay, including picking up your accreditation, ticket reservations, your schedule and other practical details.

Arriving in Rotterdam

If you're arriving by plane, the fastest way from Schiphol Airport to Rotterdam is the NS Intercity Direct train, taking just 26 minutes. The station is located directly below the terminal. Take the Intercity Direct trains, listed on departure boards, which run nonstop to Rotterdam, sometimes continuing to Breda or Brussels. Make sure to buy your Intercity Direct supplement in addition to the NS ticket. Plan your journey with [the NS app](#).

Getting to 'de Doelen'

The festival's heart is located at 'de Doelen'. During the festival you can enter via the Willem Burger Zaal entrance on Kruisplein 40 which is less than a five-minute walk from Rotterdam Centraal train station.

Picking up your accreditation

Once you arrive in Rotterdam, you can collect your accreditation at 'de Doelen'. The Accreditation Desk is located on the third floor and is open at the following times:

- Thu 29 Jan: 9.30–17.30
- Fri 30 – Tue 3 Feb: 9.30–19.00
- Wed 4 – Thu 5 Feb: 10.00–18.00
- Fri 6 – Sat 7 Feb: 12.00–13.00 or by appointment
- Sun 8 Feb: Closed

Moving around the festival

The locations of IFFR are spread across the city of Rotterdam. In Rotterdam, use the RET (bus, tram and metro) to move between the various festival locations. With [the RET app](#) you can easily plan your trip and download it from the app store.

Visit our location pages to find everything you need to know about locations and how to get to them, including Google Maps entries of all our locations and hospitality partners. Find the page [here](#).

For the second year running, **Katoenhuis** will be the main venue and partner for Art Directions, hosting installations, immersive media and for the first time – the industry extension of the programme, Lightroom. Katoenhuis is located in M4H, Rotterdam's creative district which is easily accessible by public transport. We will also be running shuttle busses from 'de Doelen' to Katoenhuis. Please sign-up at the information desk.



Booking tickets

Accredited guests can order tickets for the full IFFR 2026 programme (excluding IFFR Festival Specials, with some exceptions) when logged into the IFFR website. Find more about press and industry screenings, and the online video library, [here](#). Should you encounter any difficulties, there is a ticket chat support button on the bottom right corner of IFFR.com, or you can send a message to service@IFFR.com.

Video library

Depending on rightsholder permission, films from the IFFR 2026 programme will be available to watch online for accredited guests via their regular film pages on IFFR.com. Competition titles (Tiger, Big Screen and Tiger Short) will be released on the day of their premieres and remain available until 22 February, 9.00 CET. Titles across the rest of the programme will be available in the video library from 29 January, 9.00 CET until 22 February, 9.00 CET. Access is given under strict confidentiality.

Please note: you must first have collected your badge in Rotterdam in person before you can access the video library.

Press & industry screenings

Screenings arranged exclusively for press and industry will include all films in the Tiger Competition, Big Screen Competition, the closing film as well as a selection of films premiering later in the festival. These will be organised in festival theatres in Rotterdam.

Find out more about press and industry screenings [here](#).

Last-minute queues

We will be running last-minute queues at screenings, so if you are unable to secure a ticket from the allocation made for badge-holders, there is still a good likelihood that you will be able to access screenings with your badge via the last-minute queue outside the screening room at the venue of the scheduled screening.

Personal schedule

Find your schedule for Q&As, screenings, interviews, meetings and other events in your IFFR account, updated daily, [here](#). Please make sure to check your schedule regularly in case of any changes. For Q&A related questions you can reach out to q-a@IFFR.com.

IFFR Pro Connect

See who's who at the festival via our IFFR Pro Connect online directory. Log in with your IFFR account to see more details. Find Pro Connect [here](#).

IFFR Pro newsletter

Accredited guests receive a daily email update of festival news, stories, tips and more to the email address associated with their account. Stay tuned! If after the first day of the festival you notice you are not receiving them, make sure to check your spam, then get in touch with the team.

Accessibility

As part of our ongoing commitment to delivering an inclusive festival experience, we have combined all accessibility information on one page. Visit our accessibility page for more info.

Code of Conduct

IFFR attaches great value to respect and safety. IFFR does not tolerate violence or harassment in any form towards staff, contractors, volunteers, visitors at the festival. More information about our Code of Conduct can be found [here](#).

Contact us

- If you have any questions related to your stay, please contact the guest team at guest@IFFR.com.
- For ticketing matters, contact service@IFFR.com.
- Contact the Pro Hub at prohub@IFFR.com.

On behalf of everyone at IFFR, we wish you a wonderful festival!

What is IFFR Pro?

Through CineMart, talent development programmes and the Pro Hub, IFFR Pro presents a full programme connecting filmmakers, industry professionals and creative collaborators from around the world.

CineMart

CineMart kicks off the year in its trademark informal and productive style, presenting a highly curated lineup of projects from every corner of the world. This edition's selection presents 21 feature projects each looking for international financial and creative partners. Project teams will have the opportunity to present delegates with their stories and personally share the urgency and creative vision that drives them.

CineMart x HBF

New for 2026, six Hubert Bals Fund Development Support recipients have been handpicked for the first CineMart x HBF lineup. The strand creates a market platform for the filmmakers championed by the Hubert Bals Fund – those who dare to question, imagine and challenge the status quo, formalising a longstanding connection that brings these projects to the market each year.

Safe Harbour

Safe Harbour is IFFR's new market programme intended to uplift projects in development from emerging filmmakers who have experienced displacement or forced migration and who face limited access to professional networks, funding pathways and development opportunities. The initiative has been developed in collaboration with the International Emerging Film Talent Fund (IEFTF).

Darkroom

Darkroom offers a platform for the international industry to see exclusive previews of recently or nearly completed films seeking completion or gap funding, sales agents and festivals – all supported by the Hubert Bals Fund, formerly presented at CineMart or with a Rotterdam Lab alumni attached. Each project receives expert consultancy and has the chance to present their work to an exclusive audience of international sales agents, festival programmers and buyers on the morning of Monday 2 February at 9.30 during the Darkroom Spotlight.

Lightroom

Lightroom is IFFR's new industry platform for immersive storytelling. Together with a symposium, the programme brings together all XR, VR, interactive and expansive installation projects previously presented as works-in-progress and works-in-development in CineMart and Darkroom, creating one unified market space closely aligned with IFFR's Art Directions programme.

NLWave

A bespoke lineup of three Dutch projects seeking international partners are presented within CineMart x NL Wave, developed in collaboration with the Netherlands Film Fund. The programme offers tailored mentorship, script consultations with international experts and targeted one-to-one meetings to support project development and strengthen international co-production opportunities.

Pro Awards

The IFFR Pro Awards celebrate outstanding projects from the CineMart, Darkroom, Lightroom and Safe Harbour selections, recognising bold artistic vision, innovation and international collaboration at different stages of development. The awards will be presented on the evening of Wednesday 4 February 2026.

Pro Hub

The Pro Hub organises panels, workshops and mentor sessions – creating a meeting place, networking environment and hive of expert knowledge for the whole professional community at the festival. The Pro Hub also provides the First Rights List, showcasing titles from the IFFR 2026 programme that are looking for an international sales agent.

Rotterdam Lab

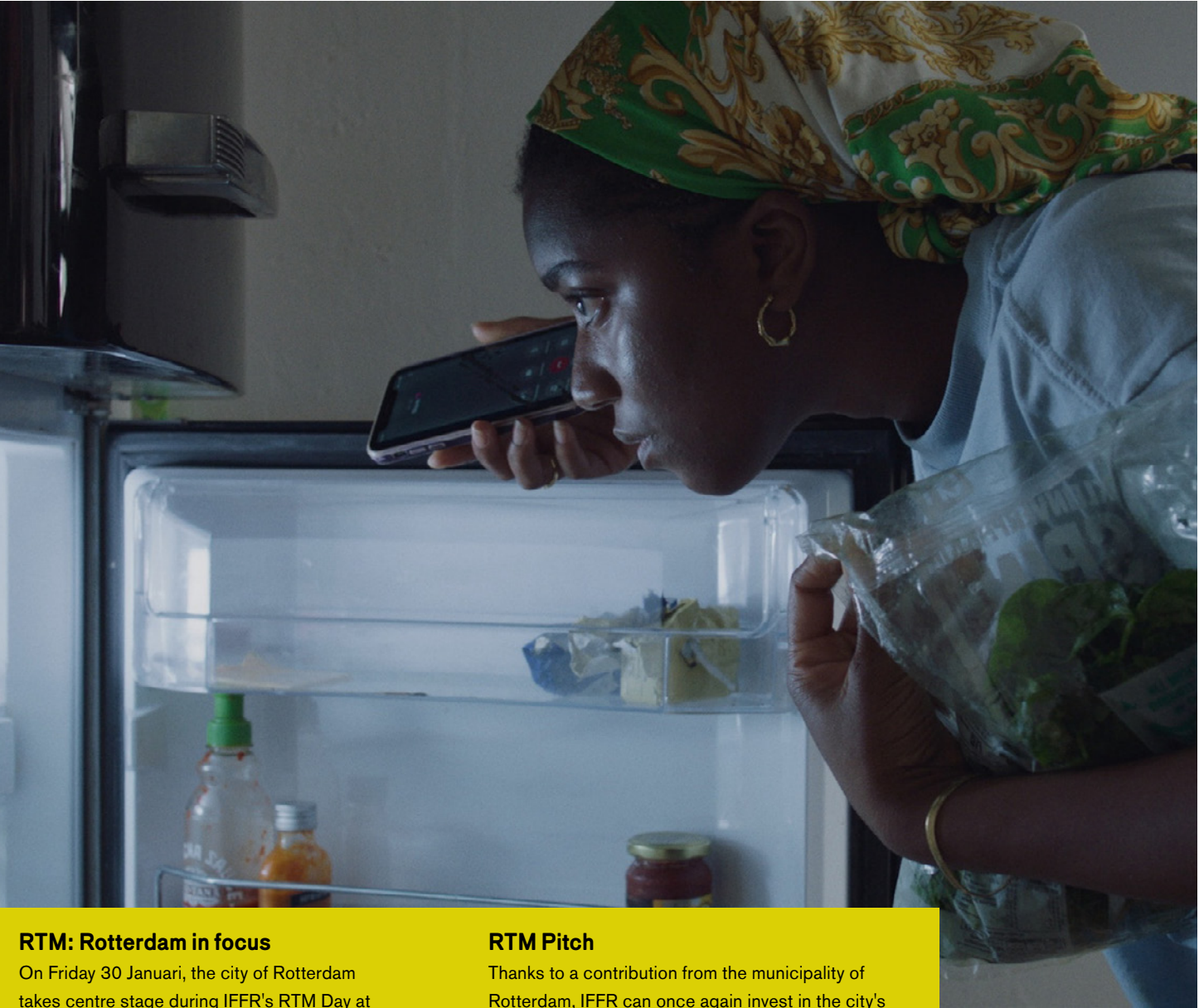
Rotterdam Lab is IFFR Pro's annual training workshop for international film producers, equipping emerging professionals with the tools, skills and connections to navigate international co-production, financing, sales and distribution.

Expanding on the 25-year legacy of the producers' Lab, we're launching the parallel Creators Lab for writers and directors. This strand will support creators to strengthen their production knowledge, hone their entrepreneurial skills and become empowered creative partners when developing and realising their films.

Taking place over five days, the two labs will bring together 84 participants nominated by partner organisations from around the world.

Hubert Bals Fund

IFFR's film fund, the Hubert Bals Fund, remains true to its mission of representing cinema in all its forms, discovering and supporting new talent, and reminding us of the power of human solidarity. During IFFR 2026, you can find HBF across an exceptional lineup of projects, as well as in industry events and panels.



RTM: Rotterdam in focus

On Friday 30 Januari, the city of Rotterdam takes centre stage during IFFR's RTM Day at LantarenVenster, providing local filmmakers with a platform for their stories in the RTM programme. At LantarenVenster, visitors can find striking works presented by their creators from Rotterdam and South Holland, in a programme shaped by guest curators Hasret Emine (writer and researcher), Suzanne Koopstra (filmmaker) and Timaeus (Tim) van Hooft (visual artist and filmmaker), who will also share curatorial insights and host discussions after the screenings.

The RTM Pitch 2025 winning film *Rain in August* by Ashley Röttjers will have its world premiere. This edition expands the programme's scope beyond the city to include two films by filmmakers from the surrounding province of South Holland.

RTM Pitch

Thanks to a contribution from the municipality of Rotterdam, IFFR can once again invest in the city's talent through RTM Pitch. This year, the *RTM Pitch* prize is expanding through a new collaboration with VEVAM, which will grant €5,000 directly to the winning filmmaker. We're also continuing our collaboration with QISSA – together we will offer a development award of €5,000 to a runner-up selected by the jury together with QISSA.

Talenthub Zuid-Holland

Launching this edition, Talenthub Zuid-Holland is a new platform designed to empower filmmakers across the province by centralising opportunities, development programmes, funding and access to the region's best screening venues. Bringing together partners including IFFR, Filmhuis Den Haag, Qissa, Buddy Film Foundation, Rotterdam Writers' Rooms, LantarenVenster and the New Producers Academy, the Hub will provide filmmakers with the space, guidance and connections to grow and bring new stories to life.

Find the IFFR Pro & Hubert Bals Fund teams

If you have any specific questions about your programme or navigating the IFFR Pro Days, or you want to know more about our industry initiatives, here's who to look out for during the festival.

For questions related to your stay at the festival, please contact the guest team via: guest@IFFR.com

Any questions about your accreditation: accreditation@IFFR.com

For ticketing queries: service@IFFR.com



IFFR Pro General Coordination



Marten Rabarts
Head of IFFR Pro



Alessia Acone
IFFR Pro Manager



Larisa Gutmanis
IFFR Pro Coordinator

CineMart Team



Lara González Lobo
CineMart Coordinator



Laura Pinto
Darkroom Officer



Francesca Emiliano
CineMart Officer



Klaas Feij
Safe Harbour Coordinator



Emilie Myrup Vestergaard
Projects Market Intern

Lightroom Team



Eva Langerak
Art Directions Curator &
Coordinator Lightroom



Ellen Kuo
Special Consultant
Lightroom



Jelte Zonneveld
Lightroom Producer

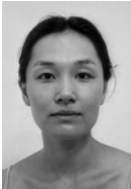
Hubert Bals Fund Team



Tamara Tatishvili
Head of the
Hubert Bals Fund



Jeske van der Slikke
Hubert Bals Fund Manager



Ayumi Filippone
Hubert Bals Fund
Project Manager

Talent Team



Facundo Lema
Talent Manager



Lucila de Arizmendi
Talent Producer

Pro Hub Team



Nikolas Montaldi
Pro Hub Manager



Jiří Pecinovský
Pro Hub Officer



Dominic Reschke
Pro Hub Intern

IFFR Pro Communications



Fraser White
Marketing and
Communications
IFFR Pro & HBF



Paula Estany Hachuel
Communications Intern

Premieres and prizes for IFFR supported films 2025–2026

We are proud to present a list of finished films and immersive media that were presented at CineMart or Darkroom in previous editions, or were supported by one of the schemes of the Hubert Bals Fund. A number have their world premiere or screen at IFFR 2026, next to those that screened at prestigious festivals across the world in 2025.

Anoche conquisté Tebas (Last Night I Conquered the City of Thebes)

Gabriel Azorín

Spain, Portugal
Produced by DVEIN Films, Filmika Galaika, Bando à Parte
World premiere at Venice 2025 (Giornate degli Autori)
Darkroom 2025

Amoeba

Siyou Tan

Singapore, Netherlands, France, Spain, South Korea
Produced by Akanga Film Asia, Volya Films, Les Films d'Antoine, Mararia Films, Widelog Office
World premiere at TIFF 2025 (Discovery)
HBF Development 2022, NFF+HBF 2023, HBF+EU: Minority Co-production 2023

Bayaan

Bikas Ranjan Mishra

India
Produced by Platoon One Films, Summit Studios, Guidant Films
World premiere at TIFF 2025 (Discovery)
HBF Development 2013, Darkroom 2025

Becoming

Zhannat Alshanova

France, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Lithuania, Sweden
Produced by Film de Force Majeure, Voyla Films, M-Films, Kjellson & Wik, Accidental Films
World premiere at Locarno 2025 (Cineasti del Presente)
HBF Development 2021, NFF+HBF 2023, HBF+EU: Post-production 2023
CineMart 2022

O último azul (The Blue Trail)

Gabriel Mascaro

Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Netherlands
Produced by Desvia Filmes, Cinevinay, Quijote Films, and Viking Film
Silver Bear for Best Director at Berlinale 2025 (Official Competition)
HBF Development 2016, NFF+HBF 2020
CineMart 2017

Cotton Queen

Suzannah Mirghani

Germany, France, Palestine, Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan
Produced by Strange Bird, Maneki Films, Philistine Films, Film Clinic
World premiere at Venice 2025 (Settimana Internazionale della Critica)
Winner: Golden Alexander Award Best Feature Film at Thessaloniki
HBF+EU: Minority Co-production 2023

Desire Lines

Dane Komljen

Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Netherlands, Croatia, Germany
Produced by Dart Film, Mak Film, Marletti, SeriousFilm, Piper, Flaneur Films
World premiere at Locarno 2025 (Competition)
HBF Development 2018, NFF+HBF 2022

Dry Leaf

Alexandre Koberidze

Germany, Georgia
Produced by New Matter Films
World premiere at Locarno 2025 (Competition) – Special Mention
Darkroom 2025

Estados generales

Mauricio Freyre

Peru, Spain
Produced by Estudio RIEN, Walden Films, Tasio
World premiere at FID Marseille 2025 (First Film Competition)
HBF+EU: Post-production 2024

The Garden Of Earthly Delights

Morgan Knibbe

Netherlands, Philippines, Belgium
Produced by BALDR Film, Popple Picture, and CZAR Film & TV
World premiere at Movies that Matter 2025
CineMart 2020

The Great Escape

Joren Vandenbroucke

Belgium, Luxembourg
Produced by Animal Tank, a_BAHN
Dutch premiere at IFFR 2026 (Art Directions)
World premiere at Venice 2025 (Venice Immersive)
CineMart 2024

The Great Orator

Daniel Ernst

Netherlands
Produced by The Shoebox Diorama
World premiere at Venice 2025 (Venice Immersive)
Dutch premiere at IFFR 2026 (Art Directions)
CineMart 2020, Darkroom 2025

Hiedra (The Ivy)

Ana Cristina Barragán

Produced by Boton Films, BHD Films, Ciné-Sud Promotion, Guspira Films, Ecuador, Mexico, France, Spain
Winner: Orizzonti Best Screenplay Award at Venice 2025
Winner: Special Mention – Horizontes Latinos at San Sebastián
CineMart 2021, Darkroom 2025

Love on Trial

Koij Fukada

Produced by Toho Co., Ltd., Knockonwood, Survivance, Japan, France
World premiere at Cannes 2025 (Cannes Premiere)
CineMart 2022

Nuestra tierra (Landmarks)

Lucrecia Martel

Argentina, USA, Mexico, France, Netherlands, Denmark
Produced by Rei Pictures, Louverture Films, Piano, Pio & Co, Snowglobe, Lemming Film
World premiere at Venice 2025 (Out of Competition)
Winner: Best Film Award at BFI London
Dutch premiere at IFFR 2026 (Harbour)
HBF Development 2019, NFF+HBF 2020, Dutch Post-production Awards 2020

Olivia

Sofía Petersen

Argentina, United Kingdom, Spain
Produced by Animitas Cine, Vitrine Filmes, Elías Querejeta Zine Eskola
World premiere at Locarno 2025 (Cineasti del Presente)
HBF+EU: Post-production Support 2024

Promised Sky

Erige Sehiri

France, Tunisia, and Qatar
Produced by Maneki Films, Henia Production
World premiere at Cannes 2025 (Un Certain Regard)
Winner: Étoile d'Or for Best Film at the Marrakech
HBF+EU: Minority Co-production 2024

Romería

Carla Simón

Spain, Germany
Produced by Elastica Films, Ventall Cinema, Dos Soles Media, Romería Vigo AIE
World premiere at Cannes 2025 (Competition)
Dutch premiere at IFFR 2026 (Limelight)
CineMart 2021

Sorella di Clausura

Ivana Mladenovic

Romania, Italy, Spain, Serbia
Produced by microFILM, Nightswim, Boogaloo Films, Dunav 84
World premiere at Locarno 2025 (Competition)
Winner: Katia Pascariu – Boccacino d'Oro for Best Actress at Locarno
Winner: Heart of Sarajevo Award for Best Director at Sarajevo
CineMart 2022, Darkroom 2025

Testa o croce? (Heads or Tails?)

Alessio Rigo de Righi and Matteo Zoppis

Italy, France
Produced by Ring Film: Lead producer, Rai Cinema, Cinema Inutile, Andromeda Film, Cinemaundici, Volos Films Italia
World premiere at Cannes 2025 (Un Certain Regard)
CineMart 2023

The Settlement

Mohamed Rashad

Egypt, France, Germany, Qatar
Produced by Hassala Films, Caractères Productions, SEERA Films
World premiere at Berlinale 2025 (Perspectives)
HBF Development 2020, HBF+EU: Minority Co-production 2022
CineMart 2021

Si no ardemos, cómo iluminar la noche (If We Don't Burn, How Do We Light Up the Night)

Kim Torres

Costa Rica, Mexico, France
Produced by Noche Negra Producciones, Tropical Films, Les Films du Clan
World premiere at San Sebastian 2025 (New Directors)
HBF+Europe: Minority Co-production Support 2023

A Useful Ghost

Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke

Thailand, France, Singapore, Germany
Produced by 185 Films, Momo Film Co, Mayana Films, Haut Les Mains Productions
Winner: Grand Prix – Semaine de la Critique at Cannes 2025
Dutch premiere at IFFR 2026 (Harbour)
HBF+EU: Minority Co-production 2023

Variations on a Theme

Jason Jacobs & Devon Delmar

South Africa, Netherlands, Qatar
Produced by Kraal, Meria Productions, Interakt
World premiere at IFFR 2026 (Tiger Competition)
HBF+EU: Post-production 2024

Redoubt (Värn)

John Skoog

Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Poland, Finland, United Kingdom, Switzerland
Produced by Plattform Produktion, Film i Skåne, Film i Väst, Sveriges Television AB - SVT, BCD Film, Oy Bufo Ab., Lemming Film, Paloma Productions, Madants Sp. z o.o.
World premiere at San Sebastián 2025 (New Directors)
CineMart 2023

The Wolf, the Fox & the Leopard

David Verbeek

Netherlands, Ireland, Luxembourg, Croatia, Taiwan, Belgium
Produced by Lemming Film, Deal Productions, Feline Films, Nukleus, Flash Forward Entertainment, Lemming Film Belgium
World premiere at Tribeca 2025 (International Narrative Competition)
Dutch premiere at IFFR 2026 (Limelight)
CineMart 2020

The World Came Flooding In

Isobel Knowles, Van Sowerwine

Australia
Produced by Film Camp
World premiere at the Melbourne International Film Festival
International premiere at IFFR 2026 (Art Directions: immersive media)
CineMart 2024

Displacement Film Fund

Five new short films from Maryna Er Gorbach, Mo Harawe, Hasan Kattan, Mohammad Rasoulof and Shahrbanoo Sadat world premiere at IFFR 2026. The films are backed by the Displacement Film Fund, an initiative spearheaded by actor, producer and UNHCR Global Goodwill Ambassador Cate Blanchett, with IFFR's Hubert Bals Fund as management partner. Find more details later in the publication.

DISPLACEMENT FILM FUND

"BE BOLD; YOU MATTER; YOU'RE THERE"

Madeleine Molyneaux on mentorship and openness at IFFR Pro Hub

By Paula Estany Hachuel

As the festival comes alive across Rotterdam each year, filmmakers and professionals can always find each other in the IFFR Pro Hub, a dedicated meeting ground for the whole industry community at the festival. Through panels, workshops, and one-to-one mentoring, it creates space for dialogue, collaboration, and professional growth.

Among the experienced voices guiding these exchanges is Madeleine Molyneaux, a US-based producer, curator, and long-standing Pro Hub mentor. She sat down with us to explain what makes this a special place to come to advance your career or make important business and creative connections at the festival. She shared thoughtful advice to make the most of IFFR Pro Hub.

With her company, Picture Palace Pictures, founded in 2004, she collaborates with emerging and established filmmakers to develop, produce and represent work ranging from creative documentaries and hybrid fiction to moving-image projects and curatorial initiatives that resist easy categorisation.

Molyneaux's connection to IFFR spans more than two decades and multiple roles. She first came to Rotterdam as a producer seeking projects, then as a festival programmer, later as a member of the Q&A team, a panel moderator and producer and representative of films in the official selection. Her first visit also sparked a career-long collaboration with artist and filmmaker Kevin Jerome Everson, whose debut feature *Spicebush* (2005) "blew (her) away." Since then, she has produced and represented his multiple features and shorts, many of which had their world premiere at IFFR including *Cinnamon* (2006), *Emergency Needs* (2008), *The Island of St. Matthews* (2013), *Park Lanes* (2015) and *Improvement Association* (2017).

Her immersion in different corners of the festival, eventually led her to the Pro Hub mentor programme. What she values most is its participant-driven approach: "It's almost like speed dating – a very immersive moment that exists within that delineated space and time. So make it count!"

|| This mix of intimacy and expansiveness is what makes Rotterdam unique.

For Molyneaux, the spirit of Pro Hub is rooted in openness. "The lovely thing that IFFR provides for all filmmakers is an IFFR Pro accreditation with Pro Hub access. The filmmakers are an integral part of the discussion within this more industry-focused context. This breaks down a lot of barriers. There is this idea of democratisation – a lack of hierarchy."

That sense of accessibility is reflected in the informal nature of encounters. "When I first came to IFFR I was immediately impressed with how easy it was to meet people, to start multi-layered conversations that might begin at 'de Doelen' and continue at a bar, or at WORM, or at breakfast the next morning, or in the queue for a film." For her, this mix of intimacy and expansiveness is what makes Rotterdam unique.

She also stresses the way Pro Hub connects across festival platforms: "A range of topics can be discussed; nothing is off limits. The Hub is in dialogue with CineMart, the Hubert Bals Fund, and other initiatives, encouraging people to think across disciplines and project stages. You may have a finished film at the festival this year, but your nascent project could be a candidate for CineMart or HBF in the near future." For Molyneaux IFFR is uniquely positioned to "offer this hybrid model between presenting your films but also forward-looking about the next work you want to do, and to explore the possibilities of co-production, funding and financing, and especially collective filmmaking and self-distribution endeavors."

|| I always come out of meetings with a renewed sense of optimism and energy, something built into the connection, the activity of encouraging and working to empower others.



Molyneaux frames her mentoring not as a teacher-student dynamic but as a collaboration: "A mentor is not there to judge or lecture or to tell a mentee what to do or make them feel like they've misstepped or made bad decisions. It is to ideally inspire, convey information and guidance when needed, and facilitate connecting the dots."

She describes her role as "a conduit but also as a cheerleader and enthusiast of the work." The exchange, she adds, is reciprocal: "I always come out of meetings with a renewed sense of optimism and energy, something built into the connection, the activity of encouraging and working to empower others."

Most of the questions she hears from filmmakers concern festivals, sales, distribution, and how to build momentum toward the next project. Her advice is to resist the formula: "The marketplace is complex and unpredictable. One size does not fit all. Flip the script, do things differently, and adopt well-worn strategies and processes only when they serve your individual projects and values."

|| In the spirit of IFFR and the Hub, if cross-connection and collaboration seems viable, I'll definitely think of ways to continue the dialogue.

Perhaps her most important guidance is to embrace openness: "Try to strip off the intentionality of what it is you are there for." While questions like "How do I get a sales agent?" are valid, she stresses that "allowing ideas and opportunities to manifest is part of building a sustainable model, one's own design for living" as opposed to: "I want this, how do I get this?"

That philosophy sometimes leads to collaborations that grow out of the mentoring room. She is careful to keep her roles at the festival distinct, but acknowledges that "in the spirit of IFFR and the Hub, if cross-connection and collaboration seems viable, I'll definitely think of ways to continue the dialogue. It has to happen very naturally."

Sometimes it does. One example is Irish filmmaker Frank Sweeney, whose *Few Can See* (2023) won a Tiger Short Award at IFFR. After introducing him to distributor Video Data Bank, Molyneaux later joined as one of the producers on his next project, *Go Ye Afar* (2026). "It's interesting because what is coming up in our discussions about how to diffuse the film across multiple platforms is what we discussed in our initial meeting."

|| The best preparation is to be very receptive and open to the possibilities.

Looking ahead, Molyneaux encourages new participants to approach the Pro Hub with curiosity rather than rigid goals. "The best preparation is to be very receptive and open to the possibilities. Of course, make a list of people you hope to meet or what you hope to accomplish, but don't be beholden to your set intentions. Listen. Observe. And also be kind and patient to yourself."

Above all, she emphasizes embracing the festival as a whole. "The best encounters I've had at IFFR have been a combination of attending panels, Big Talks, after-hours concerts, informal events, and industry drinks. And perhaps my biggest advice for filmmakers attending IFFR is: go see other people's films! Stay for the post-screening Q&A! Don't deprive yourself of the festival experience because you have a film in the festival. Be bold; you matter; you're there."

CHEERS

Drinks, awards and networking for filmmakers, industry and press

Once the sun sets on another busy day in Rotterdam (admittedly quite early in January and February), get together with accredited filmmakers, professionals, press and CineMart delegates at one of our many social and networking events organised especially for you.

Friday 30 January

18.00 – 20.00 IFFR Pro Welcome Drinks

*Co-hosted by the Netherlands Film Fund
de Doelen, Studio 3*

Saturday 31 January

IFFR Pro Drinks

Please note, the IFFR Pro Drinks on Saturday 31 January are closed to Rotterdam Lab and Safe Harbour participants. All delegates are welcome to join us later at the Tiger Lounge.



Tell Me What You Feel



Fuori

Sunday 1 February

18.00 – 19.30 IFFR Pro Drinks

*Co-hosted by Audiovisual from Spain
de Doelen, Feestzaal*

22.00 Filmmakers' Party

*Co-hosted by the Croatian Audiovisual Centre
160K Arcade, Schiekade 201*

Monday 2 February

18.00 – 19.30 IFFR Pro Drinks

*Co-hosted by ECAM
de Doelen, Feestzaal*

21.30 – 22.00 Tiger Short Awards Ceremony

WORM

Tuesday 3 February

18.00 – 19.30

IFFR Pro Drinks

de Doelen, Feestzaal

21.30 – 1.30

IFFR Pro Industry Party

BIRD, Raampoortstraat 24, 3032 AH Rotterdam

Wednesday 4 February

16.30 – 18.30

IFFR Pro Awards

*Co-hosted by the Netherlands Film Fund
de Doelen, Willem Burger Foyer*



Friday 6 February

18.00 – 19.00

IFFR 2026 Awards Ceremony

de Doelen, Willem Burger Zaal

Every night during Pro Days:

22.00 – 1.00

Tiger Lounge

de Doelen, Studio 3

Late-night drinks with IFFR Pro every night of the Pro Days.

Club IFFR

Fridays and Saturdays: 22.00 – 04.00

Theater Rotterdam Schouwburg

Club IFFR is the official after-hours programme of IFFR, on both Fridays and Saturdays of the festival at Theater Rotterdam Schouwburg. Each night is curated as an extension of the film programme, where cinema, music and nightlife come together.

Please note that entry to Club IFFR costs €5, including for badge-holders, and can be pre-booked online.

PRO HUB INDUSTRY PROGRAMME

Pro Dialogues

IFFR Pro presents a series of enlightening industry panel discussions that bring together filmmakers, producers, funders and leading industry professionals to explore timely topics – from solidarity for filmmakers under pressure to Asian genre cinema and putting sex on screen. For full speaker lineups, please visit IFFR.com/ProHub.

Studio 8

Most Pro Dialogues take place in de Doelen Studio 8, accessible from street level on Karel Doormanstraat, except Story Sovereignty – Decolonising Indigenous Filmmaking (de Doelen 4th floor, Rotterdam Lab room) and the sessions listed above.

RTM Talks

On Friday 30 January, the city of Rotterdam takes centre stage during IFFR's RTM Day at LantarenVenster, providing local filmmakers with a platform for their stories in the RTM programme. The day features two industry-focussed RTM Talks. Meanwhile, OPEN Rotterdam and IFFR present the Rotterdam Film Talk at 'de Doelen'.

11.45 – RTM Masterclass: This Is Your Captain Speaking

LantarenVenster 6

After watching the animated short *This Is Your Captain Speaking*, learn more about telling true stories from up close and how to collaborate in the international world of documentary animation, exploring the film's use of fantasy, superpowers and voice-overs.

16.45 – RTM Talk: Film Festival Strategy

LantarenVenster 5

How do you navigate the vast world of film festivals with your film? Edith van der Heijde from Eye Filmmuseum's SEE NL department reveals the do's and don'ts of festival strategy and distribution, offering practical tips and insider insights.

Friday 6 February

14.00 – OPEN Rotterdam Film Talk

Studio 8, de Doelen

OPEN Rotterdam and IFFR present the Rotterdam Film Talk. Together with filmmakers and industry professionals, we reflect on Rotterdam's film sector, what is working well, where challenges lie and what is needed to help Rotterdam continue to grow as a film city. Presented by Zoë Pinto e Neto.

Saturday 31 January 2026

11.00 – Let's Talk About Sex, Baby

Exploring the challenges, opportunities and pleasures of bringing sex to the screen, from funding and production to audience engagement.

14.30 – Are Film Festivals Sustainable?

Festival leaders discuss future-focused strategies, diversified funding and long-term resilience in the global festival landscape.

16.30 – Cuts in Motion – Editors In Conversation

de Doelen Van Cappellen Zaal, ground floor

Editors from around the world reflect on creativity, technology and evolving workflows in contemporary film editing.

Sunday 1 February 2026

11.00 – UK–NL Industry Exchange: Collaboration and Co-production

To strengthen collaboration between the UK and Dutch film sectors, the session highlights creative, financial and production opportunities between the two countries and encourages new co-productions and long-term partnerships.



Let Them Be Seen

14.30 – Artist / Curator / Producer

A conversation on the fluid collaborations shaping moving-image work across festivals, galleries, museums and biennials.

14.30 – Pulling Focus: NL 2026 with Mike van Diem

de Doelen Willem Burger Zaal, pre-booking required

Oscar-winning filmmaker Mike van Diem opens Pulling Focus: NL 2026, a celebration of Dutch cinema's global impact, featuring project pitches and the launch of the Dutch Talent Market, leading into the Big Talk on *Jimpa*.

17.00 – Big Talk: A Queer Family Affair

de Doelen Willem Burger Zaal, pre-booking required

Hanna van Vliet will moderate a conversation on *Jimpa* (IFFR 2026) with renowned actor John Lithgow and the Dutch cast (including Hans Kesting, Romana Vrede and Zoë Love Smith) exploring the film's creative origins, cross-cultural collaboration and themes of identity, legacy and chosen family.

Monday 2 February 2026

11.00 – Arab Cinema In Motion

This panel examines current realities and transformations in the Arab film industries.

14.30 – HBF x Pro: Enabling Filmmakers from Restrictive Contexts

How public funding and international support can sustain filmmakers working in restrictive political contexts.

16.30 – Tomorrow in Sight – Making the Personal Political

This panel explores how filmmakers harness bold storytelling and distinctive aesthetic choices to engage with urgent social realities and proposed social evolutions.

In partnership with Unifrance and with the support of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs



Palestine 36

Tuesday 3 February 2026

11.00 – Collaborators All – Celebrating the Crew

An in-depth look at the creative contributions of production and post-production below the line crews.

14.30 – African Indies – A Continent of New Directions

Examining pathways towards a vibrant, self-sustaining future for African independent cinema.

16.30 – Story Sovereignty – Decolonising Indigenous Filmmaking

de Doelen 4th floor, Rotterdam Lab room

A discussion on reclaiming narrative control and decolonising practices in Indigenous filmmaking.

Wednesday 4 February 2026

11.00 – Southeast Rising – Asian Genre Filmmaking Beyond East Asia

Exploring the global impact, evolution and innovation of contemporary Asian genre cinema.

14.30 – Tiger Talk: Queerness and 21st Century Politics

Pre-booking required, open to general audiences

Rather than framing it as opposition, the discussion explores how queer perspectives open up alternative ways of imagining, making and experiencing cinema.



Fish, Fists and Ambergis



Meet the Experts

Join IFFR Pro's team of veteran industry insiders for a daily programme aimed at giving emerging film professionals practical insights and vital targeted knowledge.

Friday 30 January 2026

17.00 – Film Festival Starter Pack

Seasoned professionals share practical tips and insider advice on how to use your time at IFFR as effectively as possible.

Saturday 31 January 2026

15.00 – Producing on a Shoestring

Priceless insights and advice for making a feature film with limited resources.

17.00 – Why Development Matters

An open conversation on the producer's role in shaping director-driven and auteur projects through development.

Sunday 1 February 2026

17.00 – Impact Producing Meets Audience Design

An expert session on integrating audience design into the creative process, from early script development to positioning, launch and community building.



Access

All Meet the Experts sessions take place in the Pro Hub, 4th floor, de Doelen, and are freely accessible to accredited badge-holders.

For full speaker lineups, please visit IFFR.com/ProHub

Monday 2 February 2026

10.00 – Alternative Distribution – Work It!

Exploring how filmmakers can take an active role in distributing their work and expanding its reach.

17.00 – A Second Pair of Eyes – Working with a Script Editor

What a script editor brings to a film, and why filmmakers benefit from an external creative perspective.

Tuesday 3 February 2026

17.00 – Smarter, Sooner, Better! Marketing & Selling Independent Films

Filmmakers, sales agents and industry organisations share advice on implementing smarter, earlier and more self-generated marketing and sales strategies.

Wednesday 4 February 2026

10.30 – Measuring the Presence of Disabled Above-the-Line Creatives

Producer Samm Haillay presents his research tracking disabled filmmakers' representation at A-list festivals to expose inequity and challenge industry discrimination.

Pro Encounters

The Pro Encounters are casual networking round tables designed to help filmmakers in the IFFR selection connect with industry experts and key festival programmers. These constructive sessions offer a great chance to expand your network, share ideas and discuss any questions or challenges with experienced professionals in a relaxed and supportive setting.

Access

All Pro Encounters take place in the Pro Hub, 4th floor, de Doelen, and are open to accredited badge-holders. Please sign up via the online form.

Pro Encounter with the Hubert Bals Fund

Saturday 31 January, 12.00 – 13.00

Wednesday 4 February, 12.00 – 13.00

These special sessions will be hosted by the Hubert Bals Fund (HBF), the industry fund of IFFR dedicated to supporting groundbreaking filmmakers from regions where film infrastructure is lacking or restrictive. Come and meet the HBF representatives in person to ask questions and exchange ideas on current opportunities for support. Open to all industry guests.

Pro Encounter with Festival Programmers

During informal sessions, attending filmmakers will receive priceless insights from programmers from a broad range of festivals, sharing their expertise on the selection process, the do's and don'ts of festival relations and much sought-after information. It's also a great chance to get to know the programmers in person and gain invaluable connections.

Short film programmers: Saturday 31 January, 10.00 – 11.30

Feature film programmers: Sunday 1 February, 10.00 – 11.30

Details of the attending programmers will be announced shortly.

Pro Encounter with ACE Producers

Monday 2 February, 12.00 – 13.00

This session has a limited capacity and RSVP is required via prohub@IFFR.com

Strengthening independent producers, ACE Producers uses the power of the ACE Network's collective knowledge to tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities in an ever-changing industry. ACE Producers enables profound collaborations through honest dialogue in the safe trusted space of the ACE Network and fosters valuable exchange of high-level knowledge about the independent audio-visual industry in Europe and beyond. It provides top-quality executive education in European creative producing and entrepreneurialism.

Pitch Out! 2026

IFFR Pro gives filmmakers the unique opportunity to pitch to decision makers and professionals from the film industry and to receive constructive feedback on the style of the pitch and the viability of the project.

Both sessions will be held in a collaborative and small-scale environment with a limited number of participants. Don't miss this chance to sharpen your pitch, connect with industry professionals and take your project to the next level.

Places are highly limited. Please RSVP via prohub@IFFR.com

Prep Your Pitch Workshops

Sunday 1 February, 14.30 – 16.30

Monday 2 February, 14.30 – 16.30

Pro Hub, 4th floor, de Doelen

Gain proficiency and learn how to confidently present an idea in an intimate group session with two top coaches. You'll receive personalised guidance to elevate the presentation of your project in a supportive and constructive environment. Please book your spot via the online form.

Pitch Out! Sessions

Tuesday 3 February, 11.30 – 13.00

Tuesday 3 February, 14.30 – 16.00

Pro Hub, 4th floor, de Doelen

Present your completed film or project in development and receive direct feedback from specially invited international professionals. You may also strike useful connections with future collaborators. Please book your spot via the online form.



PULLING FOCUS: NL 2026



Oscar-winning filmmaker Mike van Diem (*Voor de meisjes*) opens Pulling Focus: NL 2026 on Sunday 1 February, an industry day dedicated to spotlighting Dutch talent on the international stage.

Mike van Diem

Van Diem's career exemplifies Dutch cinema's international potential. His graduation film *Alaska* (1989) became the first student film to win a Golden Calf and earned him a Student Academy Award. His feature *Character* (IFFR 1998) won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

His latest work *Voor de meisjes* (*Our Girls*) – a €6.5m Dutch-Austrian-Belgian co-production – opened the 2025 Netherlands Film Festival and won three Golden Calves: Best Feature Film, Best Screenplay and Best Leading Role (Thekla Reuten). The film became the most visited Dutch film of 2025 with 317,000 admissions.

CineMart x NLWave

Three Dutch projects seeking international partners are presented as part of the CineMart x NLWave selection, handpicked from NLWave25, an initiative by the Netherlands Film Fund in collaboration with SEE NL and Eye Filmmuseum.

Near Far Up(side) Down, dir. Esther Rots

pink & green, dir. Rory Pilgrim

Tina Town, dir. David-Jan Bronsgeest

Dutch Talent Market

The Dutch Talent Market is dedicated to below-the-line professionals. This pilot edition offers a platform for guilds representing editors, cinematographers, actors and more – the professionals who form the backbone of successful co-productions.

Participating organisations: Netherlands Association of Cinema Editors (NCE), Netherlands Society of Cinematographers (NSC), Association for Actors (ACT) and Talenthub Zuid-Holland.



Programme Sunday 1 February

14.30 – Pulling Focus:
NL 2026 with Mike van Diem

de Doelen Willem Burger Zaal, pre-booking required

Oscar-winning filmmaker Mike van Diem opens Pulling Focus: NL 2026, a celebration of Dutch cinema's global impact, featuring project pitches and the launch of the Dutch Talent Market, leading into the Big Talk on *Jimpa*.

17.00 – Big Talk:
A Queer Family Affair

de Doelen Willem Burger Zaal, pre-booking required

Hanna van Vliet moderates a conversation on *Jimpa* (IFFR 2026) with renowned actor John Lithgow and the Dutch cast (including Hans Kesting, Romana Vrede and Zoë Love Smith) exploring the film's creative origins, cross-cultural collaboration and themes of identity, legacy and chosen family.

TALKS

IFFR presents two distinct series of conversations that reflect the festival's commitment to offering fresh perspectives on the world of film – and far beyond. Big Talks feature dialogues between world-renowned minds from diverse disciplines, exploring compelling topics and bringing together their visions. Tiger Talks offer concise explorations of film-related themes, addressing relevant issues like feminism, colonialism and queer culture.

For a complete overview of the 2026 Talks programme, visit IFFR.com/talks.

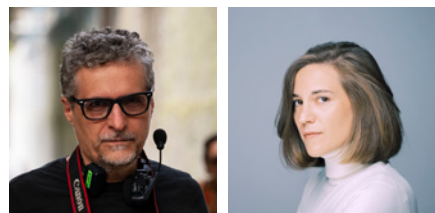
BIG TALKS



Robby Müller Award winner 2026: Yorick Le Saux

Two films in IFFR 2026, *The Wizard of the Kremlin* and *Father Mother Sister Brother*, showcase the remarkably supple and expressive work of cinematographer Yorick Le Saux, winner of this year's Robby Müller Award. Le Saux will discuss his cinematographic approach, his inspirations and highlights from his extensive oeuvre.

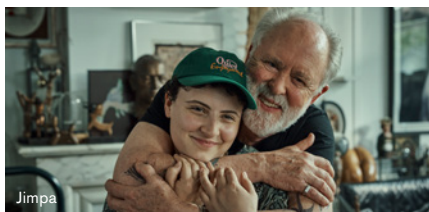
Sat 31 Jan, 14.30, de Doelen
Willem Burger Zaal



Kleber Mendonça Filho & Carla Simón

Kleber Mendonça Filho (*The Secret Agent*, IFFR 2026) and Carla Simón (*Romería*, IFFR 2026) discuss how cinema can shape personal and historical memory, while blending realism with genre on one side and formal experimentation with deeply personal storytelling on the other.

Sat 31 Jan, 18.00, de Doelen
Willem Burger Zaal



A Queer Family Affair

Join a special festival Big Talk with the cast of *Jimpa* (IFFR 2026). Hanna van Vliet will moderate a conversation with renowned actor John Lithgow and the Dutch cast (including Hans Kesting, Romana Vrede and Zoë Love Smith), for a conversation exploring the film's creative origins, cross-cultural collaboration and themes of identity, legacy and chosen family.

Sun 1 Feb, 17.00, de Doelen
Willem Burger Zaal



Hiam Abbass & Valeria Golino

Palestinian actress Hiam Abbass (*Palestine 36*, *The Arab*, IFFR 2026) and Italian actress Valeria Golino (*Fuori*, IFFR 2026) will discuss their longstanding international careers, spanning arthouse cinema and acclaimed television series. Drawing on their experience, they'll reflect on the processes through which they shape their characters.

Sun 1 Feb, 19.30, de Doelen
Willem Burger Zaal



Marwan Hamed & Yousry Nasrallah

Two legends of Egyptian cinema in conversation. Acclaimed Egyptian filmmaker Marwan Hamed – whose works are celebrated in IFFR's 2026 retrospective – sits down with renowned director Yousry Nasrallah for an in-depth talk. The pair will discuss Hamed's major biopic *El Sett* (IFFR 2026), about Umm Kulthum, as well as highlights from their distinguished filmmaking careers.

Mon 2 Feb, 18.00, de Doelen
Willem Burger Zaal



Nicolas Becker & Simon Fisher Turner

We all watch films – but do we truly listen to them? Multifaceted artists Nicolas Becker (*Krakatoa*, IFFR 2026; *Sound of Metal*, IFFR 2019) and Simon Fisher Turner (*Heart of Light – eleven songs for Fiji*, IFFR 2026) will discuss the creative processes behind some of cinema's iconic sound designs and music scores.

Sun 1 Feb, 12.00, de Doelen
Willem Burger Zaal

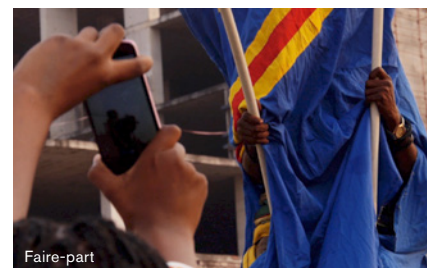
TIGER TALKS



Queerness and 21st century politics

This panel invites a shared reflection on queerness as a creative force that has long shaped cinema from the margins. This discussion, moderated by producer and director Jürgen Brüning, explores how queer perspectives open up alternative ways of imagining, making and experiencing film.

Wed 4 Feb, 14.30, de Doelen Studio 8



The Decolonising Imagination of Collectif Faire-Part

Collectif Faire-Part is an ensemble of Belgian and Congolese artists exploring Belgium's colonial history, contemporary power dynamics and collective resistance rooted in decolonisation. This talk, organised for the collective's first international retrospective, brings together all four members: Paul Shemisi, Anne Reijniers, Rob Jacobs and Nizar Saleh.

Tue 3 Feb, 20.00, de Doelen Studio 8



Tetsuya Maruyama

Dive into the creations of filmmaker in focus Tetsuya Maruyama, a Japanese multidisciplinary artist based in Rio de Janeiro. Hear how he cultivates creativity in emulsion and light, and brings it to life in his own way – through his thinking, his working and ideas.

Mon 2 Feb, 20.00, de Doelen
Van Cappellen Zaal



V-Cinema: The other history of Japanese film

There's a good chance you've never heard of Okawa Toshimichi or Tsuruta Norio, but they are two of the most influential Japanese filmmakers of the past 40 years. In this conversation they get to talk about working in V-Cinema and their unique position in Japanese film history.

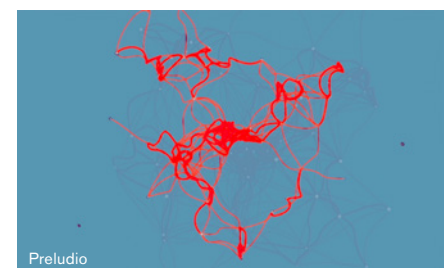
Thu 5 Feb, 18.00, de Doelen Van
Cappellen Zaal



Life Lessons from Women Filmmakers

The founding of the National Organization for Women (NOW) 60 years ago signaled a new era for feminism, and, in turn, for filmmaking by women. What has changed in the decades since? What are the new problems that women who want to make films face?

Sun 1 Feb, 10.30, de Doelen
Van Cappellen Zaal



A Language to Build with

Art Directions artists Silvia Gatti (*Preludio*, installation) and Jacco Gardner (*Alterity*, installation performance), as well as video game pioneer Jeff Minter, will unpack their creative processes and how they incorporate 'machines' into their work. Moderated by Sanneke Huisman, this panel reflects on how technology changes the way we speak, think and remember.

Sat 31 Jan, 17.00, de Doelen Studio 8

ART DIRECTIONS

The IFFR Art Directions programme blurs the boundaries between film and art with an inspiring series of pop-up exhibitions, installations and performances to experience throughout the festival. From a pop-up installation at Rotterdam Central to our partner and immersive hub Katoenhuis in M4H, Rotterdam's creative district, and from audiovisual live-performances to immersive media experiences: this programme invites you to leave the cinema and step into groundbreaking crossover experiences.

For more information, go to IFFR.com/en/art-directions

On display in KATOENHUIS

In Katoenhuis, the hub for immersive experiences, and the home of Art Directions, we present four installations and six immersive media works.

Due to a limited number of slots, regular press and industry badge-holders have been given a specific day on Monday 2 February to view the immersive media programme in Katoenhuis. Outside of this slot, attendance is only possible through last-minute access at the venue should availability permit. Art Directions badges have access for the entire festival. More info [here](#).



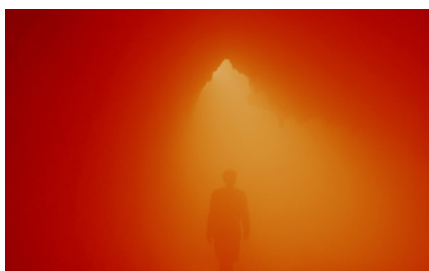
Preludio

Silvia Gatti's *Preludio*, a video and multichannel sound installation, drifts between memory, dream and digital poetry. The work unfolds as a sensory architecture – part room, part cosmic archive – in which the subconscious takes shape.



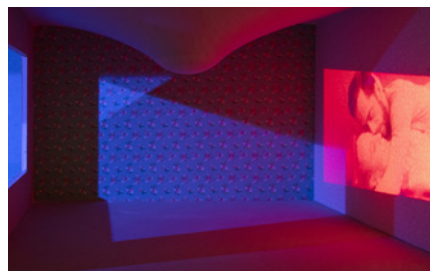
Café Kuba: Who Dared to Awaken the Dead Memory

In this installation by filmmaker, artist and composer David Shongo a mobile coffee cart traverses public space in Kinshasa, where the echoes of traumatic events remain palpable, yet where new forms of resistance and creativity are emerging.



Krakatoa

In the art installation *Krakatoa*, visual artist and filmmaker Carlos Casas takes you on an intense, sensory journey. Through images, sound and vibration, he conjures the echo of "the loudest scream ever": the 1883 eruption of the Indonesian Krakatoa volcano.



3 Scenes from a Marriage

This new installation by Leopold Emmen (Nanouk Leopold and Daan Emmen) invites visitors to experience what cinema might become when time and space unravel. The work is presented in three scenes, in which characters move through spaces that shift between interior and film set. There is no linear narrative; as a visitor, you navigate the scenes yourself.



Immersive Media

The Immersive Media programme invites you to experience the world in a different way. Become a cat, an escaping houseplant or part of a developing future. In six playful and exciting VR and immersive works artists explore themes like climate change, the outer borders of Europe, mental health and technology. Discover more on page 47.

Visit Art Directions at other locations in ROTTERDAM

Experience Art Directions across the city: at Brutus, Rotterdam Central Station, Plein / Fenix, Nieuwe Instituut, de Doelen Studio 2, V2_ Lab for the Unstable Media and WORM.



My Sweet Elora

My Sweet Elora reveals the hidden stories that have lain dormant within a family for generations. Through film and photography, Luuk van Raamsdonk breaks open inherited patterns and makes visible what has long remained unspoken.

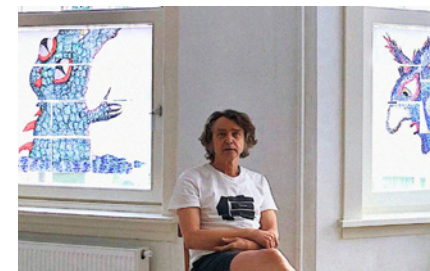
Sat 31 Jan to Sun 8 Feb, 10.00 – 17.00, Plein – Fenix



Brutus x IFFR: Alterity

Alterity marks the return of musician and media-archaeologist Jacco Gardner, and takes us back to the eighties. This is not a vision of a bleak AI-future – rather, it's a playful and optimistic journey into the creativity shared by man and machine.

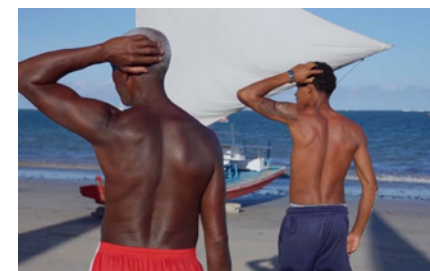
Performance Fri 30 Jan and Sat 31 Jan, 21.30, Installation: Sat 31 Jan to Sun 1 Feb and Thu 5 Feb to Sun 8 Feb, 12.00–18.00, Brutus



One Drawing a Day

Some people write. Others run until their thoughts fall quiet. Gertjan Zuilhof, who worked as a film programmer for IFFR for more than 25 years, drew. "Like a monk," he said: one drawing a day. A simple discipline, a way to stay present in the world.

Fri 30 Jan to Thu 5 Feb, 10.00–18.00, de Doelen Studio 2



Raftsmen and Canoeists

In *Raftsmen and Canoeists*, Jonathas de Andrade follows *jangadeiros* – traditional fishermen – and canoeists in Alagoas, Brazil. Through the vivid colours of sails, boats and stories, he brings their rhythms and labour to life, revealing how tradition, craft and a deep connection to water and wind converge. This work is presented in the Kijkmodule at Rotterdam Central Station, in collaboration with Museum Boijmans van Beuningen.

Thu 29 Jan to Sun 8 Feb, pop-up installation, entrance hall Rotterdam Central Station



Homecoming

With *Homecoming*, artist Mark Dorf reimagines Homer's *Odyssey*. Not so much as a heroic epic, but as a quest for 'home' in a world driven by algorithms, screens and ecological insecurity. Using photography, digital media and sculptures, he explores how people experience the digital, urban and architectural landscape and the natural world – and are part of these domains.

Thu 29 Jan, 10.00–21.00, Fri 30 Jan to Sun 8 Feb, 10.00–17.00, Nieuwe Instituut



sound//vision

The sound//vision programme returns to WORM. Enjoy a series of audiovisual live performances where music merges with film, celluloid and light, transforming the traditional concert experience into a total experience of image and sound. This year's lineup was curated in collaboration with WORM and features performances by Tosca Schiff, Cinzia Nistico and VJ Emmy, among others. Discover the complete sound//vision programme on page 47.

Fri 30 Jan, Sat 31 Jan, Sun 1 Feb, WORM

Reflection 2.0

Rotterdam-based visual artist Elsemarijn Bruys presents a newly developed, site-specific solo presentation. Working with sensory perception, she creates spaces between sculptures and architectural interventions. In this new work, she places the audience at the centre of their own reflective, expanded cinematic experience. Continuous and open to all. This production is a collaboration between V2_ and IFFR.

Thu 29 Jan, 17.00–19.00, Fri 30 Jan to Sun 8 Feb, 12.00–18.00, V2_ Lab for the Unstable Media

ART DIRECTIONS FOR INDUSTRY

Originally named Exploding Cinema, Art Directions celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2026.

The programme blurs the boundaries between film and art through pop-up exhibitions, installations and performances across the city and at Katoenhuis, our partner and immersive hub in M4H, Rotterdam's creative district. From audiovisual live performances to immersive media experiences, Art Directions invites you to step beyond the film theatre and engage with groundbreaking crossover experiences.

Introducing the IFFR Art Directions accreditation

New this year, the IFFR Art Directions accreditation is designed for artists, filmmakers, producers, curators and industry professionals working at the intersection of visual arts, immersive media and cinema.

Visiting Katoenhuis

For the second year running, Katoenhuis is the main venue and partner for Art Directions, hosting installations, immersive media and – for the first time – the industry extension of the programme, Lightroom, which unites projects in development and works-in-progress together with a symposium. Katoenhuis is located in M4H, Rotterdam's creative district.

We'll be running a shuttle bus from 'de Doelen', and you can find plenty more information on getting there moving around the festival on our locations page.

The programme extends across Rotterdam's cultural spaces, with live audiovisual performances at WORM and site-specific installations developed with partners, including Jonathas de Andrade's Raftsmen and Canoeists at Central Station, Alterity by Jacco Gardner at BRUTUS, Homecoming by Mark Dorf at Nieuwe Instituut, My Sweet Elora by Luuk van Raamsdonk at Plein/Fenix, and Elsemarijn Bruys's new site-specific installation Reflection 2.0 at V2_Lab for the Unstable Media.



Homecoming



The World Came Flooding In

ART DIRECTIONS PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME

Art Directions 2026 Opening & Press Welcome Drinks

Friday 30 January, 18.00–21.00, Katoenhuis

The festive opening of Art Directions 2026, featuring speeches by Festival Director Vanja Kaludjercic, Arnold van de Water (Director of Katoenhuis) and Ahmed Shawky (President of FIPRESCI), followed by a performance of Krakatoa by Carlos Casas and Nicholas Becker.

Reality Check: Lightroom. Building the Future of Immersive Storytelling

Saturday 31 January, 11.00–17.30, Katoenhuis

Lightroom is IFFR's new industry platform for immersive storytelling. The Reality Check: Lightroom symposium brings together artists, producers, curators, technologists, funders and policymakers to explore how immersive storytelling can move from experimentation towards sustainable artistic and industry frameworks. Attendance is by invitation only: lightroom@IFFR.com.

Art Directions Speed Dating Breakfast

Sunday 1 February, 9.30–11.00, Nieuwe Café at Nieuwe Instituut

Artists, curators, producers and distributors meet 1:1 in focused 10-minute rounds. Art Directions or IFFR Pro badge-holders only. RSVP: artdirections@IFFR.com (limited places).

IFFR Pro Dialogue: Artist/Curator/Producer

Sunday 1 February, 14.30–16.00, de Doelen Studio 8

Artists, curators and producers explore the fluid relationships that bring moving image work to life across festivals, biennials, galleries and museums.

Panellists: Guilherme Blanc (Batalha Centro de Cinema), Pinky Ghundale (Daya Films), James N. Kienitz Wilkins (director, The Misconceived)

Moderated by Madeleine Molyneaux

Art Directions 30th Anniversary Celebration at the Depot

Sunday 1 February, 17.30–19.30, Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen

Celebrating 30 years of Art Directions and this year's collaboration with Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen with an exclusive visit to Depot Solo #1: Figure, Field, Grid by Mandy El-Sayegh, followed by a festive cocktail hour. Welcoming words by Ina Klaassen (Director, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen) and Melissa van der Schoor (Chief of Content, IFFR).

Lightroom

Thirty years ago, IFFR's Exploding Cinema sparked a dialogue between digital technology and the language of cinema. In 2026, IFFR launches Lightroom: a new industry platform for bold audiovisual experiments. It brings together XR, VR, interactive and large-scale installation projects that were previously presented as works in progress or in development within CineMart and Darkroom, creating a single, unified market space closely aligned with IFFR's Art Directions programme. Find out more [here](#).

THE HUBERT BALS FUND AT IFFR 2026

After a year marked by renewed energy and purpose, the Hubert Bals Fund returns to IFFR 2026 with an array of supported films, projects and activities. You'll encounter the HBF throughout the festival programme, including the first five Displacement Film Fund world premieres. This edition, we're hosting the inaugural HBF Reunion – an informal homecoming for alumni filmmakers to connect and find community in the spirit that only IFFR can bring.



Nuestra Tierra

Supported titles in the selection

Nuestra tierra **Lucrecia Martel**

Argentina, United States, Mexico, France, Netherlands, Denmark
(HBF Development 2019, NFF+HBF 2020, Dutch Post-production Award 2021)

World premiere at Venice Film Festival

Winner: Best Film at BFI London Film Festival 2025

A Useful Ghost **Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke**

Thailand, France, Singapore, Germany
(HBF+Europe: Minority Co-production 2023)

Winner: Grand Prix Cannes Semaine de la critique 2025

Variations on a Theme **Jason Jacobs & Devon Delmar**

South Africa, Netherlands, Qatar

(HBF+Europe: Post-production 2024)

World premiere in the Tiger Competition at IFFR 2026



A Useful Ghost

Displacement Film Fund world premieres

Cate Blanchett, together with IFFR's Hubert Bals Fund, will host the world premiere of the Displacement Film Fund's inaugural slate of films. The five world premieres offer timely and intimate reflections on experiences of displacement.

Friday 30 January | 09.30 | LantarenVenster 5 (Press & Industry)

Friday 30 January | 17.00 | Oude Luxor

Sunday 1 February | 10.00 | de Doelen Jurriaanse Zaal

Friday 6 February | 15.00 | de Doelen Jurriaanse Zaal

Films: *Allies in Exile* (Hasan Kattan), *Rotation* (Maryna Er Gorbach), *Sense of Water* (Mohammad Rasoulof), *Super Afghan Gym* (Shahrbanoo Sadat), *Whispers of a Burning Scent* (Mo Harawe)

HBF Reunion

On 2 February 2026, we're launching the HBF Reunion Day to celebrate the many journeys that began with HBF support. Filmmakers from across the Fund's history are invited to gather for an informal get-together filled with meaningful conversations, familiar faces and new connections.

Opening words from Sandra den Hamer, Director of the Netherlands Film Fund, together with Festival Director Vanja Kaludjercic and Head of the Hubert Bals Fund Tamara Tatishvili.

Sessions include *Beyond Certainty: Film, Power, and Political Meaning* with Dr Natalie Sabanadze from Chatham House, and *Beyond Attention: Film, Audiences and Trust* with Rikke Flodin from Publikum, Denmark.



Variations on a Theme



The Secret Agent

HBF x Pro Dialogue: Against the Current – Enabling Filmmakers from Restrictive Contexts

Monday 2 February | 14.30 | de Doelen Studio 8

At a time when freedom of artistic expression is increasingly under pressure, representatives from the French CNC, the Hubert Bals Fund and ICFR outline their strategic approaches, whilst filmmakers share first-hand perspectives on creating work under political constraint.

IFFR Pro

CineMart x HBF

Six Hubert Bals Fund Development Support recipients have been handpicked for the first CineMart x HBF lineup, creating a market platform for filmmakers from territories where film infrastructure is lacking or restrictive.

Darkroom

Brazilian filmmakers Lais Santos Araújo and Pethrus Tibúrcio co-direct the HBF-supported *Marina*, screening in IFFR Pro's work-in-progress platform.

IFFR Pro Awards

Two HBF awards will be presented on Wednesday 4 February: the *HBF x PUBLIKUM Audience Outreach Award* (€9,000) and the *HBF Empowerment Award* (€10,000).

HBF alumni

Brazilian filmmaker Kleber Mendonça Filho returns to Rotterdam to present *The Secret Agent*, winner of Best Non-English Language Motion Picture at the Golden Globes. He'll join Carla Simón for a Big Talk on Saturday 31 January at 18.00.

Other HBF alumni presenting work include Garin Nugroho (*Siapa Dia*), Lav Diaz (*Magellan*) and Sergei Loznitsa (*Two Prosecutors*).

HBF+Brazil

IFFR 2026 marks a celebration of the first selection for HBF+Brazil: Co-development Support, a collaboration between the Hubert Bals Fund and leading organisations for the promotion of cinema in Brazil.



Super Afghan Gym – Shahrbanoo Sadat



Rotation – Maryna Er Gorbach

DISPLACEMENT FILM FUND

Cate Blanchett, together with the Founding Partners, warmly congratulate the DFF funded filmmakers on the World Premieres of their films at IFFR.

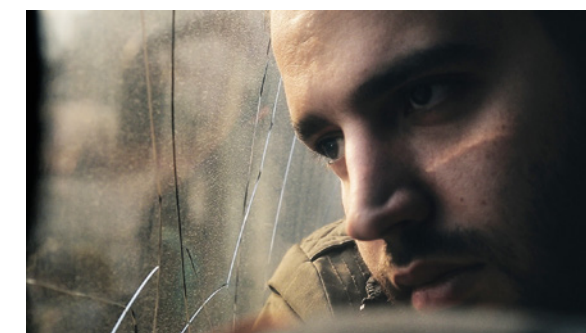


Sense of Water – Mohammad Rasoulof



Whispers of a Burning Scent – Mo Harawe

The Displacement Film Fund was established to champion and fund the work of displaced filmmakers, or filmmakers with a proven track record in creating authentic storytelling on the experiences of displaced people.



Allies in Exile – Hasan Kattan

30 January 2026, Oude Luxor
World Premiere screenings with filmmakers and special guests

1 & 6 February 2026
de Doelen, Jurriaanse Zaal
Repeat screenings

IFFR.com/en/dff

Founding Partners



Management Partner



Strategic Partner



IFFR  PRO