

## 37th HAMBURG SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

1 June to 7 June 2021 – ONLINE

[festival.shortfilm.com](http://festival.shortfilm.com)

### PRESS RELEASE APRIL 2021

You can find detailed information regarding our programme, tickets, and films at our website from Mid-May.

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Please contact for access to the Vimeo press album and further press material.

### LINKS

Newsletter <http://eepurl.com/dN5JHw>

Website <https://festival.shortfilm.com>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KurzfilmFestivalHamburg>

Instagram [https://www.instagram.com/kurzfilm\\_hamburg/](https://www.instagram.com/kurzfilm_hamburg/)

Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/kurzfilmagentur>

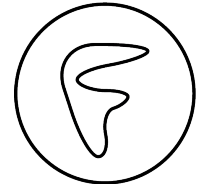
### I AM BECAUSE WE ARE

The Hamburg Short Film Festival will take place from 1 June to 7 June. This year's motto is **I AM BECAUSE WE ARE**, based on Ubuntu, South Africa's philosophy of unity. I can only be, really be, when we all are. We, as a society, must ask ourselves the question of solidarity within the small and the big picture. Culture is one of the decisive motors that keeps us, as a society, together. The collective experience of something that is bigger than its individual constituents.

The trailer for the 37<sup>th</sup> Short Film Festival was animated by the Hungarian artist Flóra Anna and it shines in bright colours and picks up the festival's motto. More and more circles encounter each other, the flickering becomes a light, a shining beacon. Life goes on! This year will be digital and analogue, together, solidary and filled with the thrill of anticipation of things to come.

### SHARED UTOPIAS

The **Contemporary Laboratory** is the festival's space for reflection and discussion, and in 2021, it throws a spotlight on three focal points: The **Hamburg Positions** are dedicated to cultural spaces and urban development. In film programmes and discussion groups, they ask what sort of structures and concepts are needed to create lasting and visionary places of public spirit. The curator Alex Moussa presents a selection of works from the contemporary African short film scene in **Afrotopia – In the Present Sense**. The focus is on characters and films who, intricately linked to African narrative traditions, create new ways of telling stories, develop utopias, question forms of solidarity and show spaces of possibilities unknown in Europe. We are creating a catalogue of gestures (for and according to Vilèm Flusser) in **Gestimmtheiten – Das Kino und die Gesten (Attunement – Cinema and Gestures)**. Wipe, tip, shake – these three gesticulations alone, which we perform every day with our cell phones, show how our stock of gestures is constantly evolving.



The **Open Space**, the festival's exhibition format, will present **Akram Zaatari's** installation **Dance to the End of Love**. The performative works of this contemporary artist, curator and archivist from Lebanon encourage their viewers to keep going on. Let's dance!

## PROGRAMME

Once again, the Hamburg Short Film Festival presents the short form's state of the art. In three great competitions, the **International Competition**, the **German Competition** and the **Triple Axel**, film makers and artists compete for prizes of a combined value of over 19,000€. In the **Contemporary Laboratory**, curated film programmes introduce questions, conditions and commentaries on contemporary issues which are then discussed in the forum with guests. Furthermore, there's the Contemporary Archive, performances, industry events, open airs, and plenty of additional screenings between flicker, horror, and humour.

## COMPETITIONS

We present 92 films in the **International Competition**, the **German Competition**, and the **Triple Axel**. We meet the film makers online, create correlations and raise issues. In the three festival competitions, we show narrative, documentary, animated, 3-D and hybrid films. The **International Competition** shows contemporary aesthetics and new narratives, the **German Competition** presents the best of the national short film and film academy scene, and the **Triple Axel** consists of films of three minutes or less on the subject of "You Are the Catastrophe". You can find out more about the competition films of the International Competition, the German Competition, and the Triple Axel [here](#) or in pure text form [here](#). (link to the homepage).

## CONTEMPORARY LABORATORY

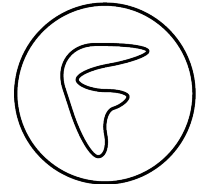
### LAB 1: Attunements – Cinema and Gestures

"Attunements – Cinema and Gestures" intends to trace the richness and shifts of cinema itself as well as its history and its forms. One film programme translates Vilém Flusser's Catalogue of Gestures into a sequence of films which show gestures and deal with the phenomenon of gestures through the cinematic lens. The programme Gestures of Loving collects the titular gestures and visualizes the difficulty of aligning the individuality of love with publicly visible gestures of love. Helga Fanderl presents her own films in an additional programme. First and foremost, the question of the revolutionary potential of physical and technological gestures arises. "Gestures because it is about the tangible phenomenon of our active being within the world: about freedom. And a revolution is always in the end about freedom". (Flusser)

**FORUM:** A talk with the curator Alejandro Bachmann (Vienna) and the author Monique Schwitters (Hamburg) about the explosive power of small, quiet, subtle gestures. Hosted by Isabella Reicher (sixpackfilm, Vienna)

### LAB 2: Afrotopia in the Present Sense

"Conceiving spaces of reality which then have to be brought about by thought and action. Afrotopia



is an active Utopia aimed at discovering and fertilizing the immense possibilities within African reality.” Felwine Sarr.

Everyday life myths: In the past, Africa was devastated, and the western world aided in its further degradation. Today, it is prophesized a golden future, whatever that means. But what about right now? The Senegalese social scientist Felwine Sarr insists on exactly this moment and sees opportunities for not having to wait for tomorrow.

The curator **Alex Moussa Swadogo** conceived three extensive film programmes that address the posed issues and perspectives: »Solidarity is us«, »Future is the New Today« and »Reclaiming Narratives«. The programme is framed by two feature films: »Eyimofe – This Is My Desire« by Chuko Esiri, member of this year’s international jury, and his brother Arie Esiri, as well as the 1979 film »Mueda, Memória e Massacre«. Touching films from Nigeria and Mozambique, which talk about the present with great historical distance.

**FORUM:** Film as a tool to hold the narrative in your own hands. Fiction and essay as a space for design and visionary thought. We talk with the brothers Oghenechuko & Arie Esiri from Nigeria who just brought their first feature film Eymofe to the cinemas, with the curator Alex Moussa Sawadogo as well as the designer and film maker Sally Reba Kane. Hosted by the film maker and professor Jyoti Mystri from South Africa.

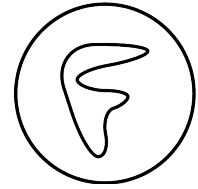
### **LAB 3: Hamburg Positions: Between Utopia and Reality**

The Hamburg Positions present films from Hamburg and the rest of the world on subjects relevant to the city. In this year, we deal with architectural visions and their reality, functional spaces and their repurposing, pro-business city planning and artistic resistance. We look at places which had once been planned as new, humane visions of a city and which at first appearance now seem obsolete and depressing, watch how open spaces and vacant lots are individually reinterpreted and examine where the possibilities for art and culture lie in actively influencing city development and urban politics.

**FORUM:** Exemplified by current projects of Hamburg urban development (Diebsteich, Grasbrook), we discuss the possibilities and demands of cultural large-scale projects. For that, we look at already completed cultural buildings (Eye Film Museum Amsterdam) and talk about the meaning of innovative cultural spaces for the city and its society. Impulses from Sandra den Hamer (Eye Filmmuseum Amsterdam and Arbeitsgruppe ZAK-Zentrum für Audiovisuelle Medien Hamburg). Discussion with Gabu Heindl (architect and city planner, Vienna), Dorothee Halbrock (Hallo: eV, Hamburg), Franz-Josef Höing (Chief Planning Director, Hamburg), hosted by Christoph Twickel (Journalist).

### **CONTEMPORARY ARCHIVE**

In the section Archive of the Presence, we present film archives and their systems of thought. The Canadian Distributors CFMDC and Vtape offer us insight into their film collections. They bear witness to critical perspectives on historically underrepresented narratives. A focus lies on the work of the avantgarde artist Joyce Wieland.



## **EXHIBITION OPEN SPACE**

The work of the Lebanese artist Akram Zaatari is displayed in a major single exhibition at the Open Space. Zaatari's work had a decisive influence on the development of an independent "School of Seeing" in Lebanon in the 1990s. A land in upheaval. Together with Walid Raad he founded the Arab Image Foundation in 1997, one of the most important photo archives in the Near East. In his video productions, installations, and texts, Zaatari entangles the viewing angles of the viewer and the viewed as well as enactments with re-enactments. His works had been on display all over the world, at the Centre Pompidou, the MoMA, the Tate Modern, the Venice Biennale and the documenta13, among others. The exhibition will feature three installative works by Zaatari. In the eponymous four-channel installation **DANCE TO THE END OF LOVE**, young Arabic men on YouTube stage themselves as superheroes with flashes of fire and superpowers. The Arab Spring is in full swing. Zaatari orchestrates a concert full of longing and passion with a selection of these films. The three installative works will be accompanied by the film programme **EARLY WORKS** by Akream Zaatari. The exhibition will be opened by the artistic director of the Haus der Kunst in Munich, Andrea Lissoni. Subsequently, Lissoni and Zaatari will talk about men, fireballs, remakes, and prayers.

## **MO&FRIESE**

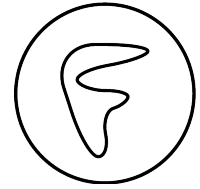
The **Mo&Frieese Children's Short Film Festival** is a part of the Hamburg Short Film Festival and dedicated to young audiences between the age of 4 and 18. The competition programmes (4+, 6+, 9+, 12+, 14+ and 16+) offer an insight into the contemporary international film scene with a special focus on various perspectives and approaches. Films that take children and adolescents as well as their needs and perspectives serious without always being exclusively serious themselves. In the three competition blocks of the young programme Neon (14+ and 16+), the viewers will experience energy, rage, courage, tolerance, retreat, party, protest, effort, friendship, provocation, and Utopia. All competitive programmes are framed with presentations and film talks and linked to pedagogical materials for preparation and follow-up processing. You can find out more about Mo&Frieese [here](#).

## **FESTIVAL**

The Hamburg Short Film Festival is one of the most renowned and important European short film festivals. Since 1986, more than 400 films have been screened each year. The festival brings together cinema, exhibition, performative works, concerts, and discourse. It shows film that react to the world in loud and sparkling, quiet and poetic, wild and calm ways. This way, selected programmes present the whole range of courageous, experimental, and artistic films. Film makers, industry and audiences celebrate the short form together.

## **THE SHORT FORM**

"The short form deals with aesthetic, societal and political questions in a radical and independent manner. It is a societal seismograph and offers a stage for tomorrow's cinematic auteurs. Short films react quickly and freely to everyday life and reality. They are as manifold as the dreams that move the world. The film makers intervene in the public discourse and thus actively take position." – Maike Mia Höhne, artistic director



## **PLACE**

Due to the current situation, the Hamburg Short Film Festival will take place online in 2021. If possible and depending on the current situation of the pandemic, the Open Space might be opened for visitors. Short films, long wind – more info will come when available. Whether it's digital or analogue: We will definitely meet again.

**Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg**, Tuesday, 1 June to Monday, 7 June 2021

**Mo&Friese Children's Short Film Festival**, Sunday, 30 May to Monday, 7 June 2021