

# Kurzfilmfestival Kufstein



## WHO AM I?

WHEN ALL THE MASKS ARE STRIPPED  
OFF?

## PROGRAM BOOKLET



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BIS 24 JAHRE



# ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

## KURZFILMFESTIVAL KUFSTEIN

The Kurzfilmfestival Kufstein (Short Film Festival Kufstein) is a business project of the University of Applied Sciences Kufstein Tyrol and is organized by students of the international master's program "Sports, Culture & Event Management". On November 24th 2023 the event is taking place for the sixth time. Being conceptualized under a different topic each year, the festival reflects the curiosity, aspirations, and internationality of its constantly evolving teams. In the last years, short films under the topics of "At the edge of a plate – settling in or breaking out" (2018), "Loss and found – of loss and the desire for the new" (2019), "A New Beginning" (2020), "Nature is our playground" (2021) and "Ordinary Heroes" (2022) were presented. The festival is accompanied by a side program before and during the event night.



# THIS YEARS TOPIC

In such a dynamic, rapidly changing world as ours, we live through fugacious trends, changing environments, uncertain times and crises, all whilst being confronted with the stance of our value depending on performance and hence growing expectations of withstanding and adapting to these changes quickly. This makes the question of who we are and what we want increasingly difficult to answer. Who am I, really? Am I the sum of my experiences, the product of my beliefs and values, or something more ephemeral and difficult to define? We believe that everyone at least once in life asks themselves these questions, whilst simultaneously changing or developing character, as if choosing and wearing different disguises.

We live in societies where we often feel forced to wear different masks or showcase specific versions of ourselves, out of pressure, to fit in or simply because we don't know who we really are yet. In our digital world with social media, it's easy to wear and change different masks, people forget how to be real in an unreal world, creating unrealistic expectations and images of people's lives. Other times societies can be so unwelcoming that we feel the need to mask our identities. This game in hide and seek creates social pressure and leads to self-criticism and dissatisfaction. We are so used to living wearing different masks, that we don't know who we really are. It's time to break this vicious circle.



## WHO AM I

... WHEN ALL THE MASKS  
ARE STRIPPED OFF?



# THIS YEARS TOPIC

This year, the Kurzfilmfestival Kufstein is exploring the cinematic visions of the concept of “Who am I?”. The program addresses questions such as: What kind of masks do we wear? Why are we not able to show ourselves without the masks? Are we creating societies full of illusions? Through this program we want to tackle the topics of diversity, social media and social pressure as well as identity, and how these define our thoughts and who we are.

I AM A PEACE KEEPER      A LIAR TRYING TO  
BE HONEST  
I AM ENOUGH      **WHO AM I?**      I AM WHO I  
THE PRODUCT OF      WANT TO BE  
MY MEMORIES      I AM A DAYDREAMER

**Participant answers from Side Program.**

We want to inspire our audience to question what kind of masks they wear in what situations and why. Our festival seeks to remind that we are all unique, that our identities are complex and multifaceted, and that we are all on a journey of self-discovery and self-identification. We want to show that the beauty of humans lies in diversity, and we want to encourage people to show themselves without their mask and accept everyone for who they really are, with their own beliefs, values and experiences.

In order to achieve this, we as a society have to ask ourselves: So, who am I really when all the masks are stripped off?



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Danke, dass wir euch wieder in diesem  
Jahr mit monitorwerbung für das  
Kurzfilmfestival unterstützen dürfen.

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# THE AWARDS



## RAIFFEISEN-AWARD KURZFILMFESTIVAL KUFSTEIN

An appointed jury of experts will review and examine all selected short films to select the one that best represents this year's topic. Critically examining the message and artistic excellence of each short film, the jury will award the "Raiffeisen-Award Kurzfilmfestival Kufstein" and the 350 euros prize money honouring one of the nine filmmakers.

**Raiffeisen Bezirksbank  
Kufstein**



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## AUDIENCE AWARD BY ÖH

The second jury is the audience: the film with the most votes from the audience will win the "Audience Award by ÖH FH Kufstein" along with the 250 euros prize money.



# OUR JURY

Anna Ladinig studied Slavic and Romance Studies at the University of Innsbruck and in the course of her studies spent time in Kazan', Moscow and Tashkent. Her dissertation deals with Central Asian cinema of the 1960s and 70s. Since October 2019 she is the director of IFFI - International Film Festival Innsbruck and since 2022 she is co-spokesperson of the interest group FÖFF - Forum of Austrian Film Festivals.



**Anna Ladinig**

Being born in Innsbruck, the Tyrolean filmmaker and director Emanuel Bachnetzer completed his acting training at the Humiste Theatre Forum in 2003 and fascinated audiences in Tyrolean Theatres for 13 years. He founded his own production company "Sandhill Pictures" in 2008 and only one year later, his first production premiered in the cinema in 2009. This great success was followed by different commissioned works for companies and museums. A completely self-produced TV documentary was already broadcasted on ORF.



**Emanuel Bachnetzer**

For 8 years, Meral Sevencan has been the Integration Commissioner of Kufstein. As a migrant herself, she channels personal experiences into her role. Her mission is to establish an inclusive community, offering equal opportunities regardless of origins or culture.. Sevencan collaborates closely with various groups to design and execute projects fostering city-wide integration and social unity. Through events and intercultural initiatives, she enhances cooperation and understanding among Kufstein's diverse population. Simultaneously, she advocates for citizens' rights while promoting mutual respect and cultural exchange.



**Meral Sevencan**



# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

**18:00**      **Entrance**

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**18:30**      **Begin of Festival**  
Welcome Speech & Introductions

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**The Egg**  
Daniel Banchik (11:34 Min.)

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**Made of Flesh**  
Florence Rochat & Séréna Robin (15:00 Min.)

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**British Passport**  
Mahmood Pouyandeh (14:32 Min.)

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## 15 MINUTES BREAK

Visit our canvas and let your creativity run free

Check our "Wall of Masks" made by Kufstein residents

Enjoy a drink at our bar, powered by "Bau!"



# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



## Beyond the Sea

Hippolyte Leibovici (25:00 Min.)



## A Social Life

Kerith Lemon (8:30 Min.)



## The Beyond

Daniel Maurer (9:42 Min.)

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## 15 MINUTES BREAK

Visit our canvas and let your creativity run free

Check our "Wall of Masks" made by Kufstein residents

Enjoy a drink at our bar, powered by "Bau!"



# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



## Agora

Tolga Evguzel (14:14 Min.)



## Nellys Story

Jonas Steinacker (18:55 Min.)



## Home of the Heart

Sarah Saidan (14:32 Min.)

## AWARD CEREMONY

Presentation of the Raiffeisen-Award Kurzfilmfestival Kufstein  
and the Audience Award by ÖH



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AFTER PARTY @BAU!**







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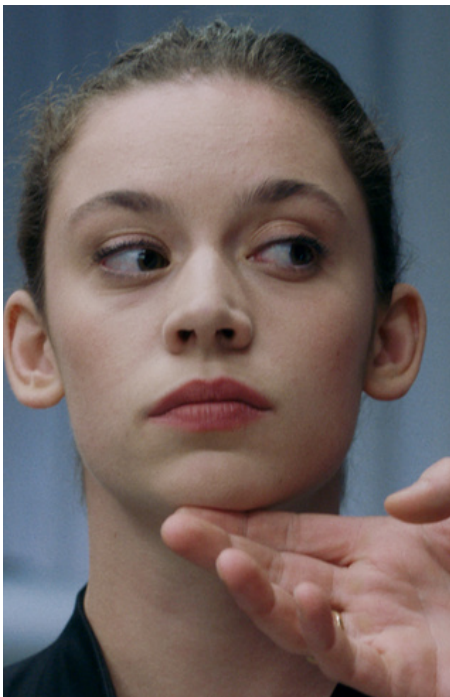
# FILM DESCRIPTIONS

After his death, a man has a conversation with his creator and comprehends the meaning of his existence. The Egg is a science fiction film that revolves around the theory that we are no one and every person who has and will ever be at the same time, giving absolute or no meaning to life. The Egg attempts to answer this "Who am I" question through a conversation with our creator after the death of the protagonist.

United Kingdom, black and white, 12 min, OV (English), English subtitles, 2023. Director: Daniel Banchik



**The Egg**



**Made of Flesh**

With a touch of blush and a few drops of lip gloss, Lucie is getting ready to start her training day to become a hostess at a motor show. A lifelong car enthusiast, she has the secret hope of being noticed by the prestigious EBBE brand. However, she is unaware that the training has only one true goal: to make her and the other 15 girls into premium women. As women, the directors Florence and S er ena often had to fight against injunctions. With their film and through the character of Lucie, they want to deliver a combative message and invite all those who are tired of stereotypes to fight together to deconstruct.

Original Title: Poup ees de chair, France, colour, 15 min, OV (French), English subtitles, 2022. Directors: Florence Rochat & S er ena Robin

# FILM DESCRIPTIONS

A Ph.D. candidate young woman's article has been accepted in an international conference in London. She gets invited to the conference however her husband does not give a permission to her to leave the country. Firstly, she takes this disagreement to the court and since she does not receive any support from legal authorities, she intends to make a bold and risky move. The director voices the pioneer women who do not give in to these obstacles and take the initiative themselves, regardless of any consequences that overshadow them: "Presenting this courageous act in the medium of short film had a human and transnational motivation for me that a woman struggles to achieve her goals despite what society and constitutions dictates."



Original Title: *Passporte Britaniyaae*, Iran, colour, 14 min, OV (Persian), English subtitles, 2022. Director: Mahmood Pouyandeh



**Beyond the Sea**

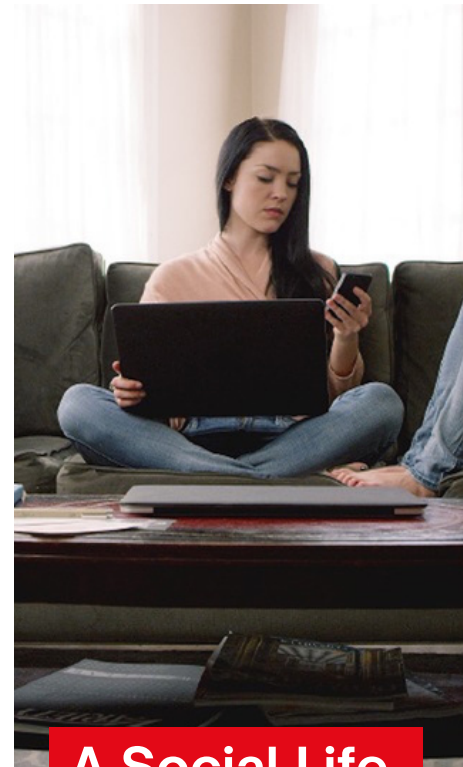
Lady Casca, a drag queen in her sixties, is about to go on stage for the last time at the cabaret that she created. The following day, a retirement by the sea awaits her. But her son Thomas, whom she hasn't seen in a long time, interrupts the festivities. He has some sad news to tell her. The film explores familial relationships within the context of changing sexual and gender identities.

Belgium, colour, 25 min, OV (French), English subtitles, 2023. Director: Hippolyte Leibovici



# FILM DESCRIPTIONS

'A social life' is the story of Meredith, a career focused young woman who understands the importance of keeping up an active social media profile. She strives to live a balanced life: staying fit, working hard and connecting with friends. Sharing these moments online is an important part of her day-to-day; she is creating her "image" within her broader social media friend base. Meredith awakes one day and realises that her reflection is merely the collection of photos that she has shared with others. Is this her life? Or just a carefully curated brand? A social life seeks to ask the question, "are we truly living the life that we post?" Whether we are, or are not, we want to discuss what effect does this have on one's self-esteem and that of our extended community?



**A Social Life**

USA, colour, 9 min, OV (English), English subtitles, 2016. Director: Kerith Lemon



**The Beyond**

The second wave of Covid significantly increased mortality in hospitals. What does this mean for the work of Mathieu, employed in the morgue of a regional hospital center? What happens with ourselves, when we die and our soul leaves our body? Is our body still the same person when there's no life anymore? Has the "Me" left the body immediately after death?

For Matthieu, somebody who died is not complete gone, the person is still there, so he continues to communicate with them.

Original Title: L'au-delà, Switzerland, colour, 10 min, OV (French), English subtitles, 2021. Director: Daniel Maurer

# FILM DESCRIPTIONS

An agoraphobic writer, who is depressed of modern world contradictions, puts a challenge on herself about getting out of her home to prove that she is free. However her depression brings her to a point where she is completely detached from reality.

Turkey, colour, 14 min, OV (Turkish), English subtitles, 2023. Director: Tolga Evguzel



**Agora**



**Nellys Story**

When an influencer mother stages her daughter for an Instagram video for her 9th birthday, she refuses to participate because she wants her father to be back. The girl "Nelly" grabs her mother's cell phone and suddenly starts filming her. The mother tries to grab Nelly. Nelly runs away and locks her out of the house. All the knocking, screaming and threatening does not help. Nelly lowers the burglar-proof shutters of the house and disappears. That's when the influencer discovers disturbing Instagram stories of her daughter. Posted on her own account.

Austria, colour, 19 min, OV (German), English subtitles, 2022. Director: Jonas Steinacker



# FILM DESCRIPTIONS

Omid is an Iranian immigrant who came to France with his family. One evening, in the street, he is attacked and stabbed in the heart. But Omid gets back up! At the hospital, the diagnosis is formal: he has no heart. Has he left it behind in Iran?

Original Title: À cœur perdu, France, colour, 15 min, OV (French, Persian), English subtitles, 2022. Director: Sarah Saidan



Home of the Heart

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PARTICIPATING FILMMAKERS.

# K KUFSTEIN LICHT FESTIVAL

NEUE  
Inhalte

27.12.2023 bis 28.01.2024



## Stimme der Burg



In der audiovisuellen Inszenierung erhebt die Festung erneut ihre Stimme. Dabei nimmt sie das Publikum mit auf einen Streifzug durch Vergangenheit und Gegenwart, mittelalterliche Gemäuer und bewegte Lebensgeschichten.

[www.lichtfestival.kufstein.at](http://www.lichtfestival.kufstein.at)

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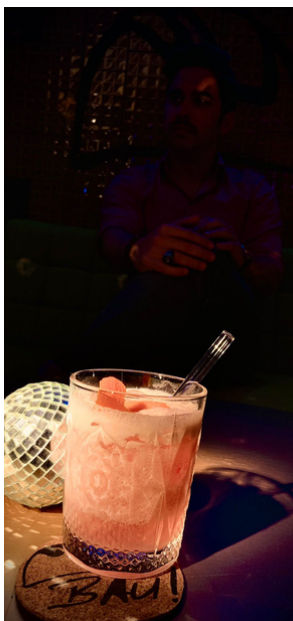
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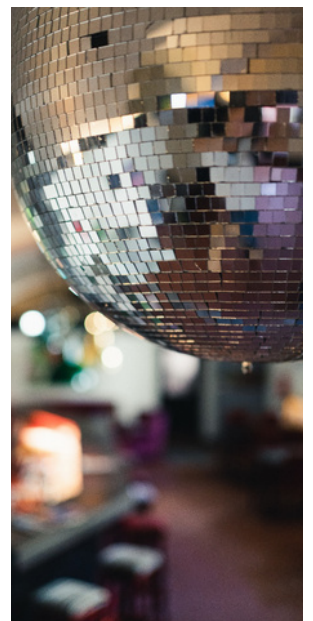
K Kufsteinerland verbindet

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BAU! is for everyone, who wants to be more, than just consumer. Let's form it together! Because we are a place for creativity and culture - we all create it...

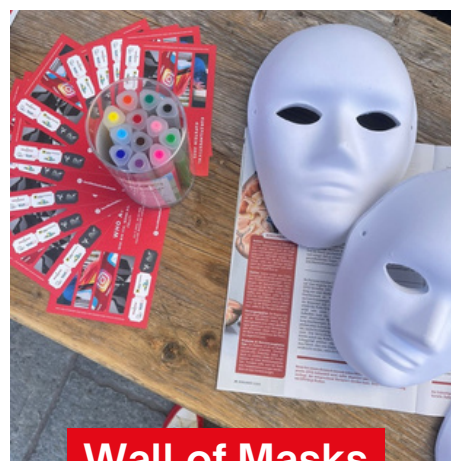


# SIDE PROGRAM

*«Uncover hidden aspects of your identity and reflect on the influences that have shaped who you are today.»*

Our Side Program encouraged participants to delve into their own stories, beliefs, and experiences, fostering a deeper understanding of their own unique identity.

During two prior side events, we asked the residents of Kufstein to explore what kind of masks they feel they wear in society and why. The masks are exhibited, creating the wall of masks. Through this we hope to spark conversation and reflection, as well as encourage the stripping of societal masks, to create a society where everyone can be true to who they really are.



**Wall of Masks**



**The Canvas**

The canvas is a work in progress of Kufstein residents, which allows them to let their creativity run freely. It aims to celebrate the power of storytelling as a means of self-expression and connection. We believe that by sharing personal narratives, we can create empathy and bridge the gaps between individuals, promoting understanding and acceptance of different identities within our society.

*Together, we can create a stronger, more empathetic community.*



# THE FESTIVAL TEAM



**Project Leader:** Tabea Betzler & Eric Burzinski

**Venue Management:** Dona Sedlo & Eric Burzinski

**Program Management:** Blanka Blickle, Maximilian Dotzauer, Anastasiia Rudiak & Benedikt Ueberholz

**Marketing & Communications:** Maximilian Dotzauer, Dona Sedlo & Benedikt Ueberholz

**Finance & Sponsoring:** Benedikt Ueberholz & Tabea Betzler

**Side Program:** Anastasiia Rudiak, Blanka Blickle & Eric Burzinski

**Ticketing:** Tabea Betzler & Dona Sedlo

**Project Coach:** Prof. (FH) Dr. Verena Teissl

## Picture Credits

Cover:

- Top Left: Merrysky
- Top Right: Emma Rahmani
- Bottom Left: Brett Jordan
- Bottom Right: C Technical
- p.2 + 14 + 15: Kurzfilmfestival Kufstein / FH Kufstein Tirol
- p. 5 from Top to Bottom: Anna Ladinig, Emanuel Bachnetzer, Meral Sevcancan



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