

[NEWS & EVENTS](#) > 26th Fribourg International Film Festival starts to roll

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26th Fribourg International Film Festival starts to roll



The 26th edition of the [Fribourg International Film Festival](#) starts to roll from **24 to 31 March 2012**.

Twelve films vie for the festival's top award, the **Regard d'Or**, which includes a prize of CHF 30,000. In the 2012 competition, new productions were culled FIFF's target points, namely Latin America, Asia and Africa. In addition, the Near East and Middle East are also represented, with films from Jordan, Egypt and Iran.

Opening and closing film

This year's opening ceremony is on Saturday, March 24, with Swiss Federal Councilor **Alain Berset** in attendance. The opening film, *Sal* by **Diego Rougier** (Chile, Argentina, 2011), offers a foretaste of the section *Genre cinema: Once Upon a Time in the South*. Diego Rougier shall attend the Swiss premiere of his film.

This year's closing ceremony takes place on Saturday, March 31, 2012 where directors of works in the International Competition are expected to be present. The closing film, *Miss Bala* by **Gerardo Naranjo** (Mexico, USA, 2010), is screened as a Swiss premiere.

Five luminaries of world cinema will determine who shall win this year's *Regard d'or*. They include Bangladeshi director **Golam Rabbany Biblop**, Iranian director **Sepideh Farsi**, French producer **Jacky Goldberg**, Iranian director **Mohammad Rasoulof** and Swiss musician **Franz Treichler**.

Carte blanche to the Festival del film Locarno and a Masterclass with Ivan Passer

The FIFF's **Carte Blanche** is a regular invitation to a Swiss festival to present a selected film at the festival. This year, **Olivier Père**, artistic director of the **Festival del Film Locarno**, has selected *Cutter's Way* (1981). This American masterpiece by **Ivan Passer**, a filmmaker of Czech origin, is a "whodunit" set in the midst of the Vietnam War. Director Passer will be present to about his films and his remarkable trajectory.

Spotlight on Bangladesh

This year the festival's Forum will center on Bangladesh and its lively film scene. In spite of political

unrest, poverty and natural disasters – and despite the dearth of production infrastructures, film schools and public cinemas – an independent filmmaking tradition continues to stubbornly persist, blurring the boundaries between popular entertainment and *auteur* cinema.

FIFF showcase in Bern

As part of the festival's tradition, Bern locals had their taste of FIFF last Tuesday, March 13, 2012. *This Is Not a Film* by **Jafar Panahi** and **Mojtaba Mirtahmasb** (Iran, 2011) was the highlight of this year's pre-event.

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