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FILMA

Press Release
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23rd Festival of Slovenian Film opens

The 23rd Festival of Slovenian Film opened last night in the Komuna Cinema with [Antigone – How Dare We!](#), a feature-length documentary by Jani Sever. At the opening ceremony, the screening of the film based on Slavoj Žižek's play *The Three Lives of Antigone* was complemented by **Slavoj Žižek's** personal message to the audience via Skype, in which Žižek shared his own directorial vision of Antigone. The festival runs in Ljubljana until Sunday, 11 October.

Last night's ceremony started with the screening of [Inseparable](#), a short documentary made by Marko Naberšnik during lockdown. This is but one in an entire set of films, titled Corona Programme, dedicated to lockdown at this year's festival. The opening event also saw a live music performance by **Janez Dovč**, one of the musicians featured in one of the short films in Official Competition, [Typically Slovenian – Accordion](#) by Urška Žnidaršič.

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected film production and distribution profoundly. However, as the Director of the Slovenian Film Centre, **Nataša Bučar**, said in her address at the opening ceremony, *“despite the difficult situation we have found ourselves in, we remain true to our belief that the festival is a celebration. A celebration of cinema where filmmakers and audiences communicate in a unique way. Films are seeking their ways to audiences, and they deserved to find them.”*

As previously reported, the main Slovenian film event will provide, over a little less than a week, a curated overview of the latest Slovenian cinema, which includes fiction, documentary and animated films of all lengths. The films selected for the Official Competition comprise 7 feature-length films, 9 co-productions, 7 medium-length documentaries, and 19 short films and 9 student films of various categories. A total of **51 films** are in the running for Vesna Awards. Meanwhile, the Panorama Programme includes 4 feature-length films, 8 medium-length films, and 19 short films and 14 student films of various categories.

In the light of the current Covid-19 developments, the festival is being delivered in a hybrid format, with a combination of in-person and virtual events. The films in the Official Competition selection are screened in the **Komuna Cinema**, Ljubljana, while the Panorama Programme and Industry Events are available on an **online platform** set up in collaboration with the public broadcaster RTV Slovenija. The new reality has also impacted the content of

[Industry Events](#), with the main panel discussing the **effects of the Covid-19 crisis on film production and distribution**. The second focus of the events for industry delegates is the **development and international breakthrough of Slovenian documentary cinema**.

Industry Events and Q&As with filmmakers take place in the **conference halls of Hotel Slon**. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, both programmes can be attended in person only by accredited guests and members of the media, but are available to the general audience via online platforms. Industry Events are **streamed live via Zoom and YouTube**, with relevant links available on FSF.si and through FSF's social media channels. The Q&As with filmmakers will be filmed by a team from AKTV, and **streamed live on the festival's Facebook page and AKTV's website <http://www.aktv.si>**. The Q&As will remain available on FSF's Facebook page and the AKTV website also after the broadcast.

The 23rd FSF will close with the **Vesna awards ceremony in the Grand Hall of the Hotel Union** on Sunday, 11 October. The event will also feature the presentation of the Metod Badjura Award for lifetime achievement in cinema to the 2020 laureate, animation filmmaker **Koni Steinbacher**.