

Press release Ljubljana, 5 October 2021

24th FSF Portorož returns to Coast

The 24th Festival of Slovenian Film runs from **12 to 17 October** in the coastal town of Portorož, Slovenia, opening on Tuesday, 12 October, with Darko Sinko's <u>Inventory</u>. To highlight the return of the festival to Portorož after a one-year move to Slovenia's capital Ljubljana, it has been officially renamed the **24th FSF Portorož**. Before the opening gala, an exhibition celebrating the 2021 Badjura Award recipient, Ms <u>Emilija Soklič</u>, will be launched in Avditorij Portorž, one of the two main festival venues. The highlights of this year's edition were presented at the press conference before kick-off by the Director of the Slovenian Film Centre, Nataša Bučar, the Festival Director, Bojan Labović, the Head of Industry Events, Jelka Stergel, and the 24th FSF Project Manager, Tjaša Smrekar.

The <u>festival line-up</u> consists of films in competition, panorama, and special screenings, said **Bojan Labović**, the new Festival Director, adding that the schedule of screenings is organised in strands. **87 films** were selected for the official programme, of which **54 are in competition** for festival awards. The festival takes place in **two main venues**, **Avditorij Portorož and Monfort Exhibition Space**, and in the **Tartini Theatre**, **Piran**, as an additional venue for two complimentary matinees for seniors and juniors, and one of the industry events.

The awards of the FSF Potrorož films in competition will be decided by <u>two juries</u>. After screenings, visitors can enjoy live music in <u>concerts</u> with a strong line-up curated by the music authority **Brane Rončel**. The festival is also starting a new tradition by celebrating 'friends of Slovenian cinema'. The first one to wear the title is the 2021 guest of honour **Slobodan Šijan**, a Serbian director known for films such as *Who's Singin' Over There?* (Ko to tamo peva) and The Marathon Family (Maratonci trče počasni krug). The honorary patron of the festival is the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr Borut Pahor.

Other new features include the so-called "cinema euro for film students" and a gradual greening of the festival (by phasing out single use plastic and offering bikes to accredited guests to travel between the two venues).

Jelka Stergel, the Head of 24th FSF Portorož Industry Events, briefly outlined the <u>events for industry</u> <u>delegates</u>.

For more information about the festival, please see the <u>FSF website</u> and <u>festival materials</u>.