

22nd Festival of Slovenian Film Is On

The [22nd Festival of Slovenian Film](#) opened last night in Portorož, where it will close with the awards ceremony on **Sunday, 22 September**. During the ceremony, the **Badjura Award** was presented to the **2019 laureate Andrej Zdravič**, whose short film *Sand's Journey* was screened before the opening film of the festival, **Metod Pevec**' new feature *I Am Frank* featuring Janez Škof, Valter Dragan and Katarina Čas. The host of the opening, which also featured an appearance by the popular local singer-songwriter **Rudi Bučar**, was **Jure Longyka**. The ceremony was followed by a **reception** in the Avditorij foyer.

In her opening address, the **Director of the Slovenian Film Centre, Nataša Bučar**, drew attention to the important progress achieved after years of efforts for adequate funding of the Slovenian cinema: *"In November 2018, members of the Slovenian Parliament's Committee on Culture unanimously voted in favour of the decision to raise the funding for Slovenian cinema to 11 million euros by 2022."* As a result, in 2019 the Slovenian Film Centre *"can work with a budget that is bigger than any time in the last decade, although still at just over half of the envisaged 11 million."* At the same time, the creative potential of filmmakers thrives: *"The latest call for feature films yielded a very high number of projects of very high quality; however, due to the lack of funds as many as 11 feature films had to be placed on a reserve list and only six projects could receive support. This proves that the creative potential of Slovenian cinema is growing. I expect that so will the budget for cinema, as it was agreed,"* added Nataša Bučar in the hope of a brighter future for Slovenian cinema.

As previously announced, 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. A total of **157 films were submitted** to the festival for consideration by the Programming Board, with **106 films** making it into the official selection. Of this, the Official Competition includes 57 films: 11 feature-length films, 10 minority co-productions (8 feature-length and 2 short), 5 medium-length films, 19 short films, and 13 student films.

The screenings take place in two venues, **Avditorij** and **Monfort Cinema**, the latter also being the venue for daily **post-screening socialising** with a varied DJ and live music line-up. For films in the Official Competition, **Q&As with filmmakers** take place the day after their screening and are broadcast by the **AKTV** film academy TV live on its website or available from its archive with a one-day delay.

The main new feature of this year's festival is a **live broadcast of the awards ceremony** on TV Slovenia on Sunday, 22 September. After the festival, **between Tuesday, 24 September, and Saturday, 28 September, the award-winning films will also be screened in the Komuna Cinema, Ljubljana**. The line-up will be announced on the festival website after the awards ceremony.

The **industry programme** is focused on facilitating and promoting **co-productions with Italy**. The diverse range of events also encompasses round table discussions, workshops, and lectures, including a **round table on book adaptations** chaired by the film critic **Marcel Štefančič Jr.**, and an event in which editors and publishers will pitch Slovenian literary works to an audience of film producers.