75th IFFMH: Successful seventh edition of the Cutting Edge Talent Camp concluded

Press release – Mannheim, 20 November 2026

The Cutting Edge Talent Camp (CETC), the prestigious programme for emerging talent organized by the International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg (IFFMH), concluded on Sunday, 15 November. Following a week-long online phase, the 15 selected talents – graduates of German film schools and art academies – came together for four intense days at the 75th IFFMH in Mannheim. Face-to-face discussions with international mentors and industry experts expanded their professional skills and perspectives.

“Several intense and inspiring days are now behind us. The CETC provides a supportive environment where our talented participants and experts can not only come together, but above all forge valuable connections. This open and trusting dialogue forms the basis for a vibrant network that extends far beyond the ten days of the Talent Camp. It fosters contact with like-minded filmmakers, new creative partnerships and important conversations with key figures in the international film industry. The CETC opens up new prospects for these talents, creates opportunities and lays the essential groundwork for sustainable careers. This year, four films which our alumni and alumnae had a hand in making were screened in the festival programme of the 75th IFFMH. That’s further proof that this work is bearing fruit,” said the three directors of the CETC, Tina Haagmann, Cécile Tollu-Polonowski and Titus Kreyenberg.



The 2026 Cutting Edge Talent Camp at the 75th IFFMH © Alexander Rozmann

The ten-day coaching programme, carried out in close collaboration with the film industry and with a strong practical focus, provides content relevant to film funding, production, sales and distribution. In the online part of this year’s programme, the participants gained valuable insights through various workshops and talks on the topics of EVERYTHING ABOUT PITCHING with

Kathi Bildhauer (Berlinale), LEGAL ASPECTS with Norbert Klingner (SKW Schwarz), LANDSCAPE OF MARKETS AND LABS with Amra Bakšić Čamo (SCCA/pro.ba; formerly CineLink), MUSIC SUPERVISION with Milena Fessmann (Cinesong), HOW TO WORK WITH SALES with Hédi Zardi (Atlas Workshops), HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT FESTIVAL with Valentina Bronzini (The Match Factory), AUDIENCE DESIGN with Clara Miranda Scherffig (Audience Design Collective) and DISTRIBUTION with Aranka Matits (Featurette). At the subsequent in-person sessions during the 75th IFFMH in Mannheim, the pool of experts was expanded to include: Marjorie Bendeck (Connecting Cottbus, Filmakademie BW), Rémi Bigot (Semaine de la Critique), Irati Crespo (San Sebastian FF), Lea Gamula (ZDF, arte), Daniil Goroshko (A One Films), Wouter Jansen (Square Eyes), Lena Kettner (Pandora Filmverleih), Oliver Krause (MFG), Joachim Kühn (Real Fiction Filmverleih), Claire Lasolle (Independent Festival Programmer), Nikolas Montaldi (IFFR), Michela Pini (8horses, Cinedokke), Julien Razafindranaly (Films Boutique), Mariana Schneider (Hessen Film) and Pauline Tran Van Lieu (Hutong Productions).

Long-standing partnerships with the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) and the San Sebastián International Film Festival (SSIFF) enable the CETC to offer selected talents valuable opportunities for networking internationally beyond the programme itself. Thus, some members of this year's group will subsequently receive an invitation to the IFFR, which will be held in late January 2027. The accreditation they will receive for this will also allow them to attend the IFFR Pro industry event. Somewhat later, the SSIFF will name further talents who will be given the opportunity to attend that festival.

Images

You can download images via the "press material" section of our website:
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/fwvm1c69mfxwe5k2tmnq8/AD-XBPm7MahyKeNIe8HH5hQ?rlkey=3vmgbtsyboj9gxmplpq7zf5cu&st=4f7g8ryo&dl=0

About the CETC

The Cutting Edge Talent Camp is a hybrid coaching programme for young filmmakers who have attended a German film or art school and who are currently in various phases of developing, financing or post-production of their first or second feature film. The Talent Camp offers participants the opportunity to meet key professionals from the international film industry and to learn about pitching, festival, co-production and marketing strategies. The programme also includes master classes and film screenings. Programming directors at film festivals, international distributors and producers from around the world are among the experts who mentor the talents and offer them initial feedback on their projects. The Talent Camp receives funding from the MFG Baden-Württemberg, the Federal Commission of Culture and Media (BKM), and the

Schwiete Stiftung. It is held in collaboration with the San Sebastián Film Festival and the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

About the IFFMH

With “New Film Experience” as its credo, the IFFMH has been venturing new, interdisciplinary perspectives on and through the art of film since 1952. This makes it the longest-running film festival in Germany after the Berlinale, and it continues to be a major platform for cultural, social and political dialogue. With each subsequent edition, the IFFMH, as a festival for the public in cinemas, invites festivalgoers to discover the rising stars of the international film scene as well as to follow the careers of established filmmakers and to become more familiar with film in the context of other art forms.

Media inquiries:
Rebecca Raab
Head of Communications
e-mail: rebecca.raab@iffmh.de
Tel. +49 621 489262 22

The Cutting Edge Talent Camp wishes to thank its sponsors and partners.