

Press Release November 27, 2023

CALL FOR ENTRIES

53rd international *student*
film festival

The young film world in Potsdam: Sehsüchte starts its 53rd festival edition

Sehsüchte opens the submission phase: Up-and-coming filmmakers from all over the world can submit their works until January 07, 2024. The student films and debut works will be shown next April as part of the 53rd edition of the Sehsüchte International Student Film Festival. In addition to the diverse program, a competition for the best sound in film will be introduced for the first time.

The 53rd edition of the Sehsüchte International Student Film Festival will take place from April 25 to 28, 2024. With a festival campus around the Schiffbauergasse in Potsdam, Europe's largest student film festival offers an important platform for up-and-coming international filmmakers. The tradition-steeped city of Potsdam becomes the setting

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for cinematic works, screenplays, and other forms of media art. Sehsüchte creates a meeting place for industry professionals, newcomers, and the public.

The relocation of the last edition to the heart of Potsdam has led to better accessibility and made the festival more visible in the city. „This enabled Sehsüchte to reach a larger local audience and to attract 5,000 visitors in total,“ explains Moritz Waldvogel, financial director of the 53rd festival edition. In 2024, a concentrated festival campus will once again be set up in Schiffbauergasse. Over the course of four days, a dense network of artistic exchange and constructive encounters will stretch from the Waschhaus Potsdam to the T-Werk, the Theaterschiff, and the Filmmuseum Potsdam.

Sehsüchte is organized by a young and dynamic team of students from the Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF: The aim is to face the challenges of the industry at eye level, to explore new perspectives, and to celebrate artistic diversity.

„It is important to us students at Sehsüchte to make the program as diverse as possible. It should offer local and international artists a screen. Through a variety of cinematic and aesthetic forms of expression we can experience unknown perspectives“ says Olga Putsykina, curatorial director. Thus, the focus will be on different cinematic departments: Instead of awarding the Best Production as before, the Focus: Sound section will be established for the first time. The award honors outstanding conceptual achievements in the interplay of sound design and film music.

Moreover, works can be submitted from November 27, 2023, to January 7, 2024, in the following categories: Feature Film, Documentary Film, Animated Film, Future: Kids (children's films), Unfilmed Screenplay or Pitch, Focus: Sound, VR Film. The student team will curate a program from all submissions, which can then be seen in the Potsdam venues at the end of April 2024.

The Retrospective, Showcase and Specials sections will be presented out of competition. The Showcase section presents current highlights from the Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF and an annually changing university cooperation. The festival is rounded off by an interactive exhibition for creative technologies, a variety of workshops, discussion panels, and live events.

Since the festival's beginnings in 1972 as the „FDJ Student Days“ in the GDR, Sehsüchte has brought the next generation of international filmmakers to Potsdam - the upcoming edition will continue this tradition.