

"SWISS CHEESE FONDUE OF SHORTS" IS ON THE NEW OPEN CINEMA MENU

The IX International short & animation film festival OPEN CINEMA proudly presents a SWISS FILMS mutual project: "Swiss Cheese Fondue of Shorts" – a selection of Swiss fiction and animation short films, released within the past five years, along with the retrospective of experimental works by OPEN CINEMA-2012 award winning filmmaker Max Philipp Schmid.

Including films in the competition, a total of 41 Swiss works hit this year's festival program. A unique chance to fully enjoy the best of modern Swiss short cinema has been gifted to the Russian spectators by courtesy of collaboration with SWISS FILMS foundation, the promotion agency for Swiss filmmaking.

"Swiss Cheese Fondue of Shorts: Animation", composed of 18 cartoons from 2008-2012, including two music videos, is a fine selection of hand-drawn, computer, puppet animation by both acknowledged and young promising Swiss filmmakers. Each work has been presented at many international festivals, the latest ones continue to tour the world.

"Swiss Cheese Fondue of Shorts: Fiction", consisting of six films produced between 2008-2012, starts with "Ich bin's Helmut" (It's me Helmut) by Nicolas Steiner – the film is playing upon the whole project's title, given after one of the most favorite meals in Switzerland. The program is curated by Marcel Müller, the 9th OPEN CINEMA Jury member, SWISS FILMS representative. Two filmmakers: Maria Sigrist ("Girl and Boy on the Rocks!") and Désirée Haupts ("The Crononaut") will be present at the screening.

The Retrospective of experimental works by Swiss filmmaker Max Philipp Schmid, whose latest "Das Gespenst des Glücks" (The Ghost of Happiness) was announced OPEN CINEMA-2012 "Best Experimental Short Film", is promising to be an important event for the video-art admirers. Within the upcoming edition the director will present his seven works, starting from 2002: "Sad Song", «Das Gespenst des Glücks» (The Ghost of Happiness), «Combo», «Black Milk», «Der Imitator» (The Imitator), «Der Wanderer» (The Wanderer), «Aufnahmen» (Recordings). Max Philipp Schmid is also on the Main competition Jury board of the IX OPEN CINEMA.

Ten films by Swiss directors are in this year competition. Along with France and the UK, Switzerland is festival's one of the most actively participating countries. The Selecting committee annually receives quite a number of applications from both filmmakers individually and from the film schools of Lucerne, Zurich, Lausanne, Geneva. Not only the films get successfully selected, but also they often become laureates: besides the aforementioned "Das Gespenst des Glücks", Sarah Horst's "Familiensache" (Family Matters) was announced the "Best non-fiction short" in 2011; the same year Pao Paixao's "Premices" (First Fruits) won in the Parallel Competition "No Anesthesia" category. The number of Swiss films in this year competition is considered a set up record.

OPEN CINEMA INVITES TO TASTE "FONDUE" AT "HELVETIA"

A meeting with young Swiss filmmakers, whose works are participating in the 9th OPEN CINEMA, will take place at "Helvetia" hotel on August, 5, at 2 pm.

A significant OPEN CINEMA-SWISS FILMS mutual project "Swiss Cheese Fondue of Shorts", consisting of three non-competition programs, will be presented in a concise version during a special event at Helvetia Hotel, which is the official hotel for the 9th festival edition. Four Swiss films of each category (fiction, animation, non-fiction, experiment) are to be screened. Guests of the event will have a unique chance to meet the authors - young filmmakers from Switzerland. Also the curator of "Swiss Cheese Fondue of Shorts: Fiction" program Marcel Müller, member of the IX OPEN CINEMA Jury, will take part in the talk.