



FESTIVAL PROGRAM



September 3-6, 2025

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www.pillusion.com • [@pillusionfilmfestival](https://twitter.com/pillusionfilmfestival)

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Pillusion Film Festival!

All Festival Events will take place at the Pillusion Barn at Heiligkreuz 10, Pill, Tirol, Austria.

The ***Opening Reception & Ceremony*** will take place at **18:00 on September 3rd**, followed by two screening blocks.

This year's theme is "Contradictions"

All films (which have dialogue) will have English and German subtitles.

Our film screenings are organized into blocks. Each block is roughly between 1 and 2 hours long. The blocks are color-coded and numbered consecutively throughout the duration of the festival. Special screenings are noted in **green**.

Jury awards will be given out in five categories:

- **Best Narrative Feature**
- **Best Documentary Feature**
- **Best Narrative Short**
- **Best Documentary Short**
- **Best Experimental Film**

Audience awards will also be given out for the above categories.

At the beginning of each screening block, you will receive voting cards with the names of the films in that block, and a pen. Please, rate the films, and return the voting card before you leave. The voting card collection box is located at the entrance to the barn cinema.

The winners will be announced during the *Awards Ceremony on September 6, directly following the special screening at 21:30.*

This year, the Winning Films will be screened on September 7th at the BRUX Theater in Innsbruck. The screening will take place in 3 blocks, starting at 17:00.

We sincerely hope you enjoy your time at Pillusion!

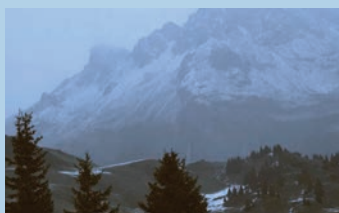
Leo & Marina Decristoforo, festival organizers.

SEPTEMBER 3

Block 1 : 19:00 - 20:00 (Short films)

The Quadratschädel

Rachel Katstaller | Austria
2025 | Experimental,
2 mins



Deep in the Austrian Alps, the elusive Quadratschädel wanders alone. Known for its square head and even squarer opinions, the creature rarely shows itself, and when it does, it is only to impose its rigid views on anyone in its path. When an outsider stumbles into its territory, a tense encounter forces them both to confront their differences.



Ker

Sajad Soleymani | Iran
2024 | Fiction, 19 mins

A young man must hide his lover, a woman who has fled her conservative,

religious family. With a mosque nearby, even the slightest discovery of her presence could lead to a catastrophe.

ghosting mother

Bernard Mescherowsky
Germany 2025
Experimental, 16 mins

In ghosting mother, personal mourning rituals and processes of scanning and development intertwine to create a search for the manifestations of memory on the threshold between presence and absence.



Cats

Danilo Stanimirović
Serbia/Switzerland 2025
Fiction, 10 mins

When eight-year-old Miša finds an abandoned

kitten on the street, he tries to provoke the affection his parents are not providing.

Q & A for the block will follow

Block 2 : 20:15 - 22:00

Rosinante

Baran Gündüzalp
Türkiye 2023
Fiction, 103 mins

In bustling Istanbul, Salih and Ayşe's world teeters on the edge with their mute son. Salih's job loss throws them into turmoil. In a bold twist, Ayşe secretly takes the helm of their motorcycle taxi, Rosinante, under Salih's guise. As they weave through the city's vibrant chaos, seeking a new, affordable haven, their journey takes a dramatic turn when Rosinante vanishes.



Q & A will follow

SEPTEMBER 4

Workshop & Special Screening 17:00-17:45

Caucasus Cinema x Pillusion with Sopho Chkheidzé.



Jury member and Caucasus Cinema co-director Sopho Chkheidzé will speak about film residencies and "guerill" filmmaking and present several short films from the Caucasus Cinema program.

Block 3 : 18:00 - 19:15 (Short films)

Coruscant

Jean-Marie Marçais France 2024 | Fiction, 2 mins

In the 1950's in Los Angeles. A barber thinks he saw Alfred Hitchcock in front of his hair salon. His clients doubt that, except a mysterious woman ...



Beige

Paula Leitenberger
Germany 2024
Fiction, 19 mins

After being physically abused by her boyfriend, L. loses all confidence in herself and the relationship she has with him. A dangerous system of violent sequences and patterns is revealed. In performative elements that give the unspeakable a form of expression, L. begins her uncoupling process and tries to save herself from the violent relationship.

Game Over

Saeed Mayahy, Miriam Carlsen | Türkiye 2023
Documentary, 28 mins

In a basement in Istanbul a group of illegal Afghan teenage boys are determined to smuggle themselves into Europe – a utopia far away. Caught in the no-man's land between childhood and adulthood they fearlessly play a dangerous game of destiny over and over again. But at what cost?



Pit-Pool

Ana Vučićević | Serbia
2025 | Fiction, 17 mins

Jana, a twelve-year-old, is on her summer holiday in a small place by the dusty and noisy road, where her grandparents live. In front of a local shop, Jana and her BFF Tea eat ice cream, watching the cars, trucks, and boys pass by. The boredom is shattered by charming and sun-tanned Miki, who invites them to the swimming pool.

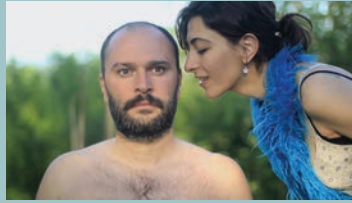
Q & A for the block will follow

Block 4 : 19:30 - 20:45 (Short films)

Came and Left, on the Breeze

Peter Vadocz | Georgia 2025 | Experimental, 9 mins

Edge of the woods: as I
drew near, / in the thick I
spotted a deer, /I chased
it, didn't stray, /stroked its
back, it ran away.



The Shadow of Dawn

Olga Stalev | Estonia 2024 | Fiction, 15 mins



The beautiful Dawn is
gathering medicinal
herbs in the forest.
A Woodcutter, who is in
love with her, appears,
offering her his hand
and his heart. But the girl

only laughs at him, and this wounds Woodcutter deeply.
In the evening of the same day Dawn is attacked and
kidnapped by Servants of a mysterious Beast ...

A Mountain with Two Faces

Shujun He | China 2025|
Fiction, 28 mins

During the rainy season
in Dali, within a small
bookstore, two women
and a man encountered
each other in pairs over
three days, awakening a secret and the past. The
first two days might have been real events, the third a
fiction—or perhaps it was the reverse. Perhaps all three
dissolve into the narrator's fabrication: a single raindrop
unmoored from time's river.



Q & A for the block will follow

Block 5 : 21:00 - 22:30



Curious Friend

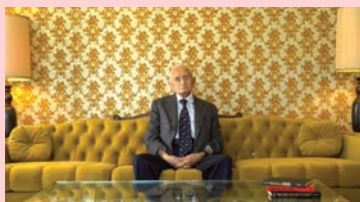
Erik Sémarshkin | France
2025 | Fiction, 7 mins

A hedgehog meets a child
who has lost a loved one.

Coroner to the Stars

Ben Hethcoat, Keita Ideno
USA 2024
Documentary, 83 mins

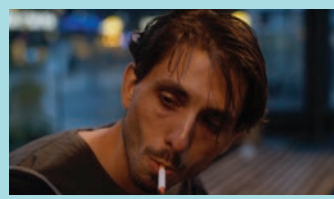
A chronicle of the
extraordinary journey
of Dr. Thomas Noguchi, the former LA County Chief
Medical Examiner-Coroner whose groundbreaking
autopsies forever shaped American culture. From
Marilyn Monroe to Robert Kennedy to Natalie Wood,
Noguchi's outspoken expertise pushed forensic science
into the spotlight—even as Hollywood elites and
political adversaries sought to silence him. A Japanese
immigrant who unwittingly rose to fame in a city driven
by stardom, Noguchi's fearless pursuit of truth often
placed him in the crosshairs of controversy.



Q & A for the block will follow

SEPTEMBER 5

Block 6 : 18:00 - 19:15 (Short films)



Dreams in the Starry Vault

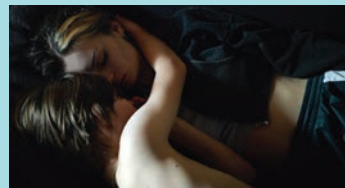
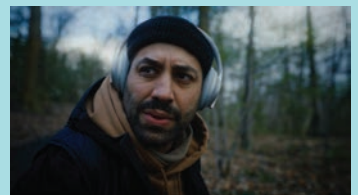
Leon Moses Fasthuber
Austria 2024 | Fiction,
12 mins

A poignant exploration
of homelessness and
friendship, the film follows Aleksander and Wenzel, two
unhoused individuals, as they navigate the challenges
of survival, finding solace in small acts of camaraderie
amid the harsh realities of their lives. Together they
search for shelter and support, but repeatedly encounter
the limits of their possibilities and the challenges of a
dehumanizing system.

The Sound Man

Alexander Griffith | Germany 2024 | Fiction, 10 mins

A sound designer is
recording in a forest when
he hears a child scream
in pain. He finds a father
and son in a restaurant at
the edge of the woods and
tries to find out if the son
is in danger.



Violet

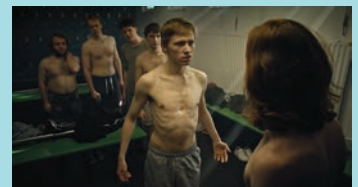
Laura Engelhardt
Germany 2024
Fiction, 21 mins

After an argument with
his mother, 12-year-old Dan looks for love and intimacy
with Anna. When his mother leaves for the night shift,
Dan and Anna cross set boundaries.

Little Wieners

Vincent Jost | Germany
2023 | Fiction, 13 mins

Tim is the new one in the
team. During training,
he introduces himself to
Klemme, Arlo and the other boys. But the longer he
spends time with them, the more he realizes what he's
actually dealing with - little wieners.

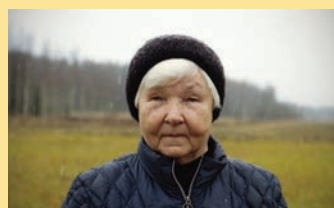


Q & A for the block will follow

Block 7 : 19:30 - 20:45 (Short films)

Eila Babushka

Matti Elo | Finland 2024 | Documentary, 41 mins

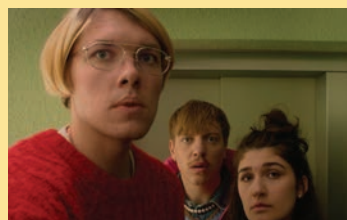


At the age of five, Kim
moved to Finland. Now
he is about to hear his
family's story for the first
time, at the table of his
grandmother, Eila.
Could grandma's life story
provide answers to his
rootlessness?

Set Sail

Jo-Ti Lee | Taiwan 2023 | Fiction, 8 mins

At Grandpa's funeral, the granddaughter is overwhelmed by her memories of the old days with him. We take a glimpse, from her viewpoint, into the past when a young man goes to Taipei struggling for a living under the changes in the early era in Taiwan as well as the sacrifice he made for the family as the eldest son, and his true wishes for life.



Inheritance

Boris Maximov | Germany 2025 | Fiction, 42 mins

2032. Putin is dead. Russia has lost the war against Ukraine. Alex, the son of Russian political

refugees, returns to the land of collective amnesia with his German pal, having inherited his late grandmother's apartment. However, the neighbors have their sights set on the property. While the unsuspecting Alex waits for the police, Russia's recent past—our present—resurfaces in everyday conflicts. Only the neighbor's daughter remembers her childhood friend.

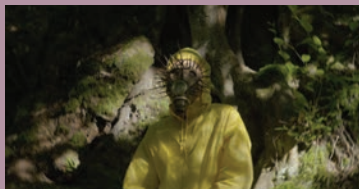
Q & A for the block will follow

Block 8 : 21:00 - 22:30

This is not a horror movie

Beatrice Perego
Georgia/Italy 2025
Documentary, 7 mins

Badri is a 13-year-old boy who lives in a remote village in the countryside of the Samtredia region of Georgia. His home, the places where he grew up become the set of a film. In the loneliness of the village, destined to become more and more depopulated, Badri's movie is a horror movie.



Flotacija

Eluned Zoe Aiano, Alesandra Tatić
Serbia 2023 | Documentary, 77 mins



In Eastern Serbia, in a town with a dual identity divided between magic and industry, a family whose destiny is extrinsically linked with both does their best to

ensure the survival of their traditions and their future generations. Lifelong miner Dragan Markovic is the last in a line of dragon hunters, while his sister Desa is the widow of the union leader who is trying to continue his legacy by fighting for the rights of fellow mine-worker families.

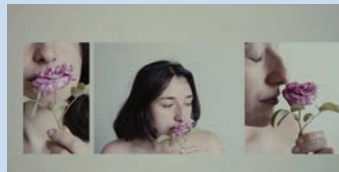
Q & A for the block will follow

SEPTEMBER 6

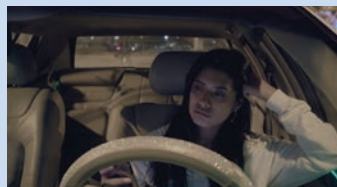
Block 9 : 18:00 - 19:00 (Short films)

Introduction to Aliens

Thea Spector, Elene Tsetsckhladze | Georgia 2025 | Experimental, 6 mins



In this experimental short, humans attempt to describe themselves to unseen extraterrestrial visitors. Through a blend of vulnerability, curiosity, and humor, the film explores what it means to inhabit a human body and how strange that might seem from the outside.



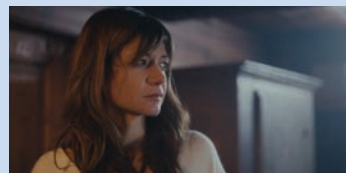
Napoli Beach

Clara Jäschke, Daria Pantyukhova
USA/Germany 2024
Fiction, 15 mins

Alejandra has a dream: to become an actress. To get closer to that goal, she secretly borrows her dad's car and starts earning money as a driver on the streets of Miami. But when she receives a shady request late at night, the carefully constructed dream world she built begins to crumble.

Bluatstilln

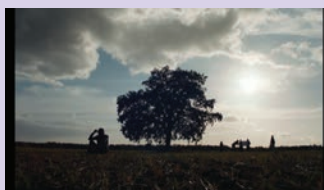
Julia Rosa Peer, Roland Silbernagl | Austria 2024
Fiction, 20 mins



After the death of her grandmother, a young doctor returns to her family home and finds herself thrown back into an old world full of tradition, faith and mysticism, in which she is to be entrusted with the practice of bloodstopping, her family's legacy, and confronted with her roots and the contradictions within herself.

Q & A for the block will follow

Block 10 : 19:15 - 21:15



A Blackbird Sat on a Branch

Marvin Gräter | Germany 2024 | Fiction, 13 mins

In a wide open field, Michel watches people working hard to find something in this wasteland. A memory of an emotional day with his father floods his mind. It begins to suffocate him, and his younger self determines to escape, eventually landing at the familiar wide open field.

Biscuit Tin Blues

Jack Rath | Germany 2024 | Fiction, 96 mins



The once passionate Australian musician, Kell lives in Berlin with his partner Amelie. Facing the demise of his music studio and fretting about a large mole on his thigh, life takes an unexpected turn when ex-band-mate Joe turns up and convinces Kell to join him on a road trip to honor the final wish of their late lead singer, Viv, at the mystical banks of the Rhein.

Q & A for the block will follow

Special Screening + Award Ceremony: 21:30

A selection of short films by members of the Jury, Festival Staff, and Festival Organizers

followed by

The Award ceremony & closing reception.

This year's Workshops:

Pillusion x Caucasus Cinema Workshop & Screening on Guerilla Filmmaking
with Sopho Chkheidzé

Sept 4, 17:00 (no additional cost; see page 2 of this program for description)



16 mm filmmaking (2-part workshop)

Instructors: Leo Decristoforo,
Tom Pinnegar

Sept 5, 12:00

Sept 6, 12:00

Cost: 5€ | Free with Festival Pass
(all materials provided)



Large format Film Photography (2-part workshop)

Instructor: Tom Pinnegar

Sept 5, 12:00

Sept 6, 12:00

Cost: 5€ | Free with Festival Pass
(all materials provided)

Our Jury



Sofia Afonasina

is a director and editor based in Vienna. She grew up in the U.S., Austria and Russia, and studied International Relations before turning her attention towards filmmaking.

In her work, she aims to explore female-centric stories revolving around generational divides, coming of age, migration and ghosts of the past and future. She has directed a number of fictional short films that have been screened internationally and is currently working on her debut feature film

Sopho Chkheidzé

is a filmmaker and documentary director from Georgia. She studied Audio-Visual and Media Arts at GIPA in Tbilisi. She worked for Indigo magazine and collaborated with the NGO StudioMobile – Accent on Action on documentary projects centered on women's rights and underrepresented communities, organizing screenings and workshops across Georgia.



She is currently the Program Director of Caucasus Cinema, an international filmmaking intensive, and the producer of the long-form narrative podcast Taxi Taxi.



Lukas Ladner was born in Innsbruck. From 2013 to 2017, he studied film and TV directing at the film university Babelsberg Konrad Wolf and graduated

there with the short film Treibgut. He works in the sections of scriptwriting, directing and video arts. His first feature documentary va-Maria had its world premiere at DOK.fest Munich and won several prizes. His focus is on character studies with occasional tendencies towards experimental film or a hybrid of both. Today, Lukas is the Co-Director of the independent BRUX Theater in Innsbruck.

We would like to thank:

*Our illustrator **Michaela (Studio Mishu)** for the wonderful work with this year's illustration; **Otto Kreidl** for the hand-carved trophies; our staff members: **Jakob Gebrmann** and **Johanna Hinterholzer** for their assistance in making this event run as smoothly as possible; our visiting instructor **Tom Pinnegar** for his knowledge and willingness to share it, and our family, friends, and donors: **Clara Decristoforo, Josef Gänsluckner, Sonja Christine Wechselberger, Maria Decristoforo, Thomas Gasser, Thomas & Elisabeth Decristoforo** for their unwavering encouragement and support.*

*A huge thank you to our jury members: **Sofia Afonasina, Lucas Ladner, and Sopho Chkheidzé** for their wonderful work and good judgement.*

*And of course, we thank our sponsors: **TYROLIT, SILBERREGION KARWENDEL, HOTEL PLANKENHOF, GEMEINDE PILL, DENGK Krapfen & Knödel, PRIVATQUELLE GRUBER** and **LAND TIROL**. for helping make this event possible.*





SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!