

FESTIVAL PROGRAM



August 26-29, 2026

PILL • TYROL • AUSTRIA

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

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Pillusion Film Festival!

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

The ***Opening Reception*** will take place at **18:00 on August 26th**, followed by two screening blocks.

This year's theme is "Parallels."

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.

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 *August 29, followed by a special screening.*

We sincerely hope you enjoy your time at Pillusion!

Leo & Marina Decristoforo, festival organizers.

AUGUST 26

Block 1 : 18:30 - 19:45 (Short Films)

The Courier

Levan Birkadze | Georgia/Italy
2026 | Narrative, 6 min

Levan, a hopeful immigrant, arrives in Italy and begins a new life happily delivering newspapers. However, the theft of his bicycle shatters his optimism, triggering a frantic search across the city that leaves him bitter and exhausted.



The Weight We Carry

Christoph Kaar
Austria 2026
Experimental, 16 min

With a wooden chair strapped on his back, a father leaves his family in search of something he cannot name. As guilt and fear creep in, he climbs faster and faster, reaching for the summit, where rest will finally be deserved. Up there, at the top of the world, he's sitting and waiting.

Tarik

Adem Tutić | Serbia 2025
Narrative, 25 min

After being expelled from school in his hometown, Tarik is forced to leave his single mother, Marija, and move to Novi Pazar to live with his father, Safet, and his family.

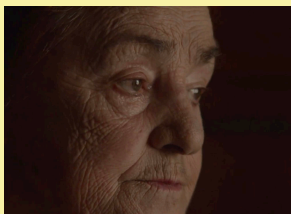


Q & A for the block will follow

Block 2 : 20:00 - 21:45

I Want to Be Standing Like an Oak Tree

Nina Khutsishvili, Falcke Penso, Elene Tsetskhladze
Georgia 2025 | Documentary, 6 min



A quiet, meditative portrait of the Tsova Tush language, now on the edge of extinction. Through moments of learning, landscapes, and the voices of different generations, the film reflects on memory, loss, and the fear of cultural erasure.

Saravá Shalom

Alexander Minkin
Brazil 2026
Documentary, 81 min

Following the artist André Feitosa as he reconstructs his family tree for dozens of generations, the film travels from the sacred mountains in the south of Brazil to the backlands of Northeast, from the spiritist Jewish center in Rio de Janeiro to the Inquisition squares in Portugal weaving together worlds and diasporas in a single enchanted temple of the "Synagogue of Ancestral Commitments."



Q & A for the block will follow

AUGUST 27

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

For Deer Life

Yaz Ellis | Austria 2025
Documentary, 17 min

Beneath the beauty of spring lies a brutal tragedy: the birth of roe deer fawns coincides with the mowing season in Austria's meadows, leading to a brutal struggle between nature and modern agriculture. "For Deer Life" tells the story of the dedicated drone operators, who put their heart and soul into rescuing the lives of as many fawns as possible.



Waiting for the Train

Armin Čulić | Slovenia
2025 | Narrative, 9 min

At the railway station in Jesenice, Samir waits for the international train that

might bring his father back from the Bosnian battlefield. It's 1992, and the Yugoslav war is raging. Samir's mother discovers that her usually well-behaved son has damaged a train. Meanwhile, Samir plays basketball with his friend Zoran. A simple lunch invitation from Zoran's father stirs painful memories of Samir's absent father. At home, his mother insists they confront the accusations at the station, leading to deeper conversations about Samir's actions and the truth about his father.

Attock

Awais Gohar | Pakistan
2025 | Narrative, 16 min

In Attock, a small town in Pakistan, a 10-year-old boy returns home from school only to discover that his beloved pet pigeon has been eaten by his father, who believed it would help treat his illness, Bell's palsy. Heartbroken and feeling betrayed, the boy wanders outside, climbs to the rooftop, and drifts into sleep. When he awakens, he encounters a magical moment of love descending from the sky, an unexpected gift that transforms his sorrow into wonder.



The Distance

Pandeli Ceko
Albania 2026
Documentary, 15 min

Gersi, a Special Olympics gold medalist living with

Down syndrome, stands at a turning point between dependence and self-determination. Raised by a devoted mother who has guided every step of his journey, he begins to question the boundaries placed around him—social, emotional, and physical. While society celebrates his achievements, it continues to keep him at a distance. The Distance explores the tension between care and control, and the universal human need for closeness, dignity, and agency.

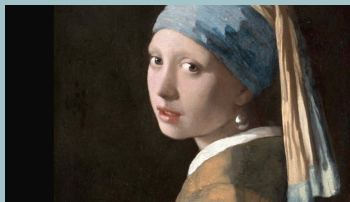
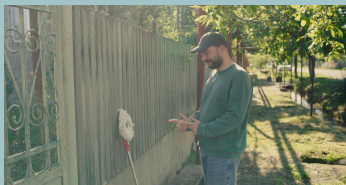
Q & A for the block will follow

Block 4 : 19:30 - 20:30 (Short Films)

The Mop

Paul Ploberger | Austria/Georgia 2025 | Narrative, 8 min

A lonely man falls in love with a mop. As their relationship deepens, society watches with disbelief and mockery – but the two of them don't care. Still, every love story must face its final sweep.



The Rough Skin of Angels

Emma Fridé | France 2022
Experimental, 12 min

Once upon a time, all thirty two of Johannes Vermeer's mysterious paintings told

a story. Everyone forgot it. That story is entirely true, since I imagined it from one end to the other.

IUS of Time

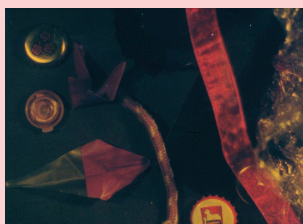
Roberto F. Canuto,
Xiaoxi Xu | Spain 2025
Narrative, 25 min

Luca, a young photographer, arrives in an Asturian village in search of inspiration and his roots. He stays at the home of Xuan, a cheesemaker and former teacher, a reclusive man living in isolation and socially shunned under the shadow of old sexual rumors. Despite the initial tension between them, distrust gives way to an unexpected connection.



Q & A for the block will follow

Block 5 : 20:45 - 22:30



Detritus

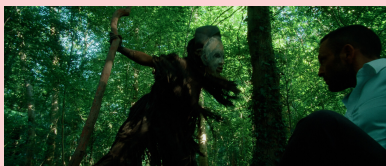
Deborah S Phillips, Zuzanna Marzcak | Germany 2025
Experimental, 5 min

What happens when 2 artists of different generations decide to look for the poetry in the rubbish all around them.

Travels Inside Foreign Heads

Antonio Amaral | France 2023 | Sci-Fi, 108 min

Three extraterrestrial beings, YEDEL, GULH, and KADATH live inside human bodies (their grafts) on Earth. They are summoned back to their planet and given exactly one week to return. YEDEL and GULH are ready to go, but KADATH, who inhabits the body of a Malian activist organizing a massive demonstration in support of immigrant rights, refuses to leave.



Q & A for the block will follow

AUGUST 28

Block 6 : 18:00 - 19:00 (Short Films)



Apartments

Nick Yang Ungerböck
Austria 2025
Experimental, 4 min

After a long day at work, a frog wants to relax in his apartment. The clumsy giant who moves in below him is renovating and is disturbing him with loud hammering and repeatedly banging his head against the ceiling.

Print

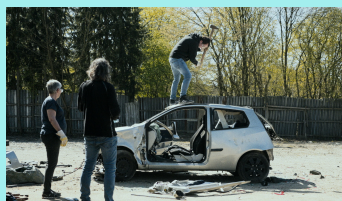
Em Vaughn | USA 2026
Documentary, 10 min

Molly creates art out of roadkill. Using paper and ink, Molly shares how communing with the dead can revitalize one's sense of humanity.



Demontage

Leonard Mann | Germany 2026 | Documentary, 29 min



On the outskirts of Lüdenscheid in Germany, Sandra runs her late father's car recycling business. It is a place where discarded car parts find new owners, and

where people find work, structure and a sense of belonging. Together with her employees Holger, Markus and Kevin, who would struggle to find work elsewhere, Sandra has created a fragile utopia. However, a growing chain of external pressures threatens not only the business, but also the lives that are intertwined with it.

Q & A for the block will follow

Block 7 : 19:15 - 20:45 (Short films)



Future Of

Scott Coello
United Kingdom 2026
Experimental, 5 min

The end is near as the animal world is in revolt.

Original Night

Alasdair Asmussen Doyle
United Kingdom 2025
Experimental/Doc, 25 min

Original Night is a 16mm film portraying Scotland's fading wallaby colony on Inchconnachan Island, Loch Lomond. Introduced in the 1940s by the Countess of Arran, these marsupials now face possible culling amid ecological controversy. Told through three semi-fictional acts, the film serves as an elegy for Europe's last wallabies while reflecting on humanity's enduring urge to record animals—from prehistoric cave art to early cinema—by linking the extinction of species with the evolution of image-making.





Ici, Pointe-Noire
Emilia Brazy-Nancy
France 2025
Documentary, 26 min
Pointe-Noire, Congo's oil capital, saw black gold reshape the country's

political landscape and fuel the tensions that led to the 1997-1998 civil war. But this film begins in Paris, in a Congolese restaurant, where Fred, the owner, brings together people from Pointe-Noire. As they share memories of the city they left behind, their stories stir my own: those of a childhood spent there, inside an ELF expatriate oil compound.

Prayer

Sofia Geweiler | Portugal
2025 | Narrative, 14 min



In a techno club in Lisbon, immigrant worker Abdul is on a video call with his wife, Aliyah, who is going into labor and begs him to be present, at least over the phone. At the same time, his colleague Maria desperately needs his help. Caught between work's demands and his son's birth, Abdul grapples with the fear of losing his job and the challenge of becoming a father from afar. On top of all that, he fights with his strict father-in-law for his right to perform the sacred tradition of reciting the Adhan for his newborn son.

Q & A for the block will follow

Block 8: 21:00 - 22:45



Hell
Parker Croft | USA 2025
Sci-Fi, 5 min

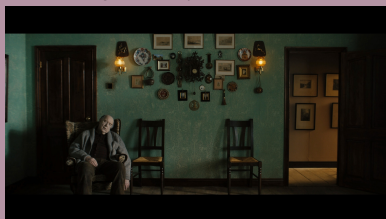
A place where dreams are real, wishes come true, and everything is always awful for everyone. "Hell" follows the

patriarch of a dying farm on the outskirts of Ash Harbor as he is methodically ground down by the machinery of despair. What begins as endurance curdles into something far more existential, a portrait of collapse told through dust, labor, and silence...

One of Us

Stefan van de Graaff
United Kingdom 2025 | Narrative/Horror, 87 min

Grandmother died. And the family has reunited for her funeral. YOUNGEST, broken by the loss, searches for closure at her wake but instead receives a grave warning: a stranger hidden in their midst seeks to destroy the family. As the night wanes on and people begin dying one by one, Youngest must confront family demons.



Q & A for the block will follow

AUGUST 29

Block 9 : 18:00 - 19:15 (Short Films)



LÍTO

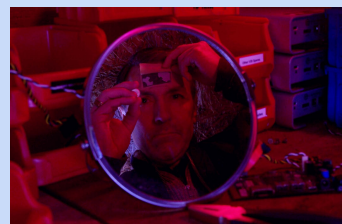
Eliška Plechatová | Czechia 2025
Experimental, 9 min

LÍTO unfolds as a seemingly empty ritual—a gentle attempt to restore something long lost. It is a gesture, which a girl carries

through the forest as she searches for the story of her lost mother. The film reveals the quiet power to continue telling stories, even as the past fades away along with the memory that carries it...

I Think My Dad's a Cyborg and I Think He Killed My Mum

Felix Lagers
United Kingdom 2025
Narrative, 14 min



A lonely year after his mother's death, Peter is still no closer to his father, and he thinks he knows the reason why; a reason which he must confront at the family gathering before the secret spirals out of control...his dad MUST be a murderous cyborg.



Some Things Can't Wait
Vincent Jost | Germany
2025 | Narrative, 14 min

Moments before getting on the train with their mom, 12-year-old Felix is

asked by his dad to do something really hard: explain to his little brother that their parents are splitting up.

Field Queens

Áine Ryan | Ireland 2026
Narrative, 15 min

In rural Ireland, two fifteen-year-old girls clean vomit from a minibus after a drunken mishap the previous night. When they encounter the bus driver's elderly wife and spend the day with her drinking in a field, their friendship is put to the test unexpectedly.



Q & A for the block will follow

Block 10 : 19:30 - 20:30 (Short Films)



Placekeepers

Robert B Hope
Georgia/USA 2024
Documentary, 25 min

As the only road leading to the Caucasus mountain region of Tusheti, Georgia, closes for 7 months of winter, a handful of holdouts remain. Experiencing time outside the flow of state regulation and consumer exchange, this smattering of people form a tight, interdependent group — navigating intergenerational friction, the remnants of the Soviet Union, and uncertainty over their community's future.

Olgas Boris and the quest for the hidden Niches

David Sommeregger | Austria 2025 | Documentary, 20 min

Tyrol (Austria) 2024:
Olgas Boris sets out on a journey into hidden niches — and along the way encounters Singacross, the choir of the State Music School Schwaz. Together, they bring music to unusual locations. Will they discover the hidden niches?



Q & A for the block will follow

Block 11 : 20:45 - 22:15



Hydra

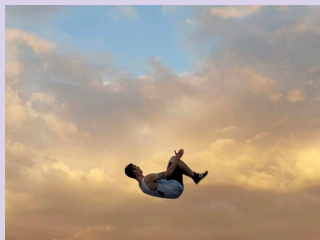
Tobias Berghaus
Germany 2025
Documentary, 21 min

Bodies coated in clay squeeze through narrow rock passages, merging with the dimly lit cave walls. The film observes a group of cavers and their varying motivations for embarking on an uncomfortable journey into the depths. In the furthest corners of the cave lies a chamber filled with bizarre, delicate aragonite crystals. The most extraordinary of them is named "Hydra" by its discoverers.

Unspoken

Maciej Adamek | Poland, 2024 | Documentary, 52 min

A portrait of 26-year-old Matthew - a young man who stutters and wants to realize his childhood dream. He wants to become the Polish champion in acrobatics.



Q & A for the block will follow

Award Ceremony + Special Screening: 22:30

Award Ceremony

followed by

A special screening featuring a selection of short films by members of the Jury, Festival Staff, and Festival Organizers.

This year's Workshops:



16 mm filmmaking

Instructors: Leo Decristoforo, Tom Pinnegar

August 29, 1-4 pm

Cost: 10 €/ 5 € with Festival Pass/ free for members. All materials provided.



Large Format Film Photography

Instructor: Tom Pinnegar

August 29, 1-4 pm

Cost: 10 €/ 5 € with Festival Pass/ free for members. All materials provided.

Register on our website at pillusion.com

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.

Brigitte Egger is an independent curator, cultural journalist, and researcher. She studied Comparative Literature and Philosophy and is currently pursuing a PhD in the field of aesthetics. In 2022, she founded GRUND1535, a cultural association in Rietz, Tyrol, where she develops transdisciplinary artist-in-residence programs and cultural events. Since 2013, she has been coordinating the independent publishing project komplex KULTURMAGAZIN.



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 Eva-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: **Clara Decristoforo, Jakob Gebrmann, and Laura Wegscheider** 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: **Josef Gänsluckner, Sonja Christine Wechselberger, Maria Decristoforo, Thomas Gasser, and Thomas & Elisabeth Decristoforo** for their unwavering encouragement and support.

A huge thank you to our jury members: **Sofia Afonasina, Lukas Ladner, and Brigitte Egger** for their wonderful work and good judgement.

And of course, we thank our sponsors:

TYROLIT, GEMEINDE PILL, LAND TIROL, VDFS, SILBERREGION KARWENDEL, HOTEL PLANKENHOF, DENGK Krapfen & Knödel, and PRIVATQUELLE GRUBER for helping make this event possible.





SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!