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## 6 DAYS, 67 COUNTRIES, 306 FILMS: VIENNA SHORTS DEVOTES ITSELF TO LONGING, WELCOMES TWO SPECIAL GUESTS, AND ATTRACTS A YOUNG AUDIENCE

**21st edition of the international short film festival from May 28 to June 2 – Yann Gonzalez and Jyoti Mistry as honorary guests, special feature on Amos Gitai – MuseumsQuartier as main venue – Free admission for all with nonstop cinema pass and under 18 – Festival passes and tickets available today via Festival-App**

In exactly three weeks (May 28), **the 21st edition of VIENNA SHORTS** will kick off at the Wiener Gartenbaukino. This year, the international short film festival is thematically devoted to **longing as an inner driving force** and presents **a total of 306 films from 67 countries** over six days. More than two-thirds of the films are being shown in Vienna for the first time, with 21 of them celebrating their world premieres. Festival passes and tickets are available today, Tuesday, exclusively in the Festival-App. All people under 18 years of age, with a nonstop cinema pass, or cultural pass can attend the festival for free.

**French cult director Yann Gonzalez** is responsible for the festival trailer – which can be seen in many Viennese cinemas from today – and will be present on site as an honorary guest along with **artist Jyoti Mistry**, with a portrait program. **"For Yann Gonzalez, it is the longing for security and cohesion as protection against the emerging fascism and extreme right-wing movements worldwide that he wants to express with his trailer 'Friends on Fire',"** say Festival Directors Doris Bauer and Daniel Hadenius-Ebner. **"With this attitude, he speaks to us from the bottom of our hearts."**

**In the festival's two international and two national competitions**, 84 films from 33 countries compete, selected from more than 6,000 submissions, for nearly **€30,000 in prize money** and qualifications for **the Oscars, the European Film Award, and the Austrian Film Award**. As in previous years, the winners will also have newly planted trees dedicated to them in Vienna, with the **new tree trophies** located, among other places, on the Kaiserwiese in front of the Ferris wheel or in the Votivpark. The prizes will be awarded on June 2 at the Stadtkino in the Künstlerhaus to conclude the festival.

**Outside of the competition**, Vienna Shorts sets some special focal points: as part of the **Young Cinema**, a **Coming Of Shorts day** for young people aged 13 and over has been introduced. For the first time in a long time, there is also an **Animation Day** including a six-hour live performance. **Late Night** finds a new home late in the evening at the METRO Kinokulturhaus. **Political Cinema** addresses topics such as the climate crisis, migration, and the election year, as well as, with a **special screening of Amos Gitai**, the conflict in the Middle

East. And last but not least, a **cinema concert by Kimyan Law** and **two audiovisual live performances from the Czech Republic** provide special experiences.

## TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM TODAY – MQ AS FESTIVAL CENTER – 2ND TALENT DAYS

After returning to the MuseumsQuartier Wien last year, **the MQ will again be the main venue for the festival** this year. On four evenings, the **main courtyard will be filled with open-air programs**. The **Milieukino**, a mobile cinema truck, will also be located in the main courtyard this year. New this year is the **Ovalhalle** for live performances on Saturday evenings; and the **ASIFakeil** in the Electric Avenue serves as a venue for an animation performance including a subsequent exhibition. Not far from there, in **Raum D**, is **the festival center**, the daily meeting point for accredited guests and industry professionals.

More than 70 individual programs will be shown in Vienna's downtown cinemas such as the **Stadtkino in the Künstlerhaus**, the **METRO Kinokulturhaus**, and the **Austrian Film Museum**, as well as in the MuseumsQuartier. For the second time, the **Talent Days** will take place at the campus of the **Film Academy Vienna** as part of the four-day industry program. This includes public talks in the **Depot – Raum für Kunst und Diskussion** as well as in the **Semperdepot** of the Academy of Fine Arts.

While some events such as the open-air screenings or the parties are already free of charge, this year there is also the possibility to attend the festival for free through other means. For example, all under 18-year-olds can attend all programs, according to age rating, for free (after age verification at the box office); likewise, holders of a nonstop cinema pass can attend the festival for free. **"We are pleased that our efforts, not least to make it easier for a young audience to access the festival, are bearing more and more fruit,"** say Bauer and Hadenius-Ebner.

**The full program is now available on [viennashorts.com](https://viennashorts.com)**, the festival pass (€25) is available via the online shop as well as through the Festival-App (for Android and iOS). The festival pass includes an extended trial access to the online streaming portal THIS IS SHORT. **The app** also offers the opportunity to plan one's own visit and to purchase **single tickets for cinema screenings for €9.50 as of today**; these will be available on the website from May 21. **Single tickets for the Milieukino are available on site for €5 only.**

Press images for the 21st festival edition can be found at [viennashorts.com/presse/pressebilder](https://viennashorts.com/presse/pressebilder). For inquiries and interview requests, please contact Anna Carina Roth at [presse@viennashorts.com](mailto:presse@viennashorts.com) or +43 77 61838707.

You'll find the **Trailer of Yann Gonzalez** [here](#) and the **Showreel** for a glimpse into this year's program [here](#).

