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FESTIVAL ACCESS FROM €4: VIENNA SHORTS PRESENTS 370 FILMS AND FOCUSES ON RADICAL INTIMACY – FAREWELL TO FESTIVAL CO-FOUNDER HADENIUS-EBNER

22nd edition of the international short film festival from May 27 to June 1 – Portraits of Kurdwin Ayub and Christopher Harris – mumok kino joins as new venue – Guest program from The New York Times and thematic spotlights at MuseumsQuartier – Tickets available now via website and festival app

In just under three weeks, Vienna will once again become a magnet for short film fans as **VIENNA SHORTS** returns from **May 27 to June 1**. Over six days, the festival will screen **374 films from 60 countries**, offering a dazzling mix of emerging talent and renowned filmmakers. This year, the 22nd edition becomes even more accessible thanks to a [pay-what-you-can model](#), with regular screening tickets available for **€4, €7, €10, or €13**, and passes granting access to all **143 events** priced at **€20, €30, €50, or €100**.

The [full festival program](#) was released today (May 8 at noon) via the website and the official app. The 2025 theme centers on **Radical Intimacy as a Political Space** and **Solidarity as an Act of Resistance**. Programs explore topics like **normative constructs of sexuality and relationships**, **digital intimacy**, and **the personal as a political refuge** – including the opening night on **May 27** at the **Gartenbaukino**. The festival trailer, directed by **Hilke Rönnfeldt** (DE/DK), winner at Locarno 2023, challenges viewers with the question: "Are we ready – or are we afraid?"

MUSEUMSQUARTIER AS FESTIVAL HUB – FROM KATE BUSH TO THE NEW YORK TIMES

Once again, the **MuseumsQuartier** will serve as the central venue: the **Milieu kino** – a converted truck-turned-cinema by **Max Kaufmann** – and the open-air screen in the main courtyard will jointly present daily themed programs. Wednesday (May 28) will spotlight **Youth Cinema**, Friday (May 30) is dedicated to **Animation**, and Sunday (June 1) marks the beginning of **Pride Month** with a full day of queer programming. A special highlight takes place on **Thursday evening** with a **documentary guest program by The New York Times**, followed by a public discussion featuring **NYT editor Alexandra Garcia**, curator/film historian/filmmaker **Alexander Horwath**, and others.

Additional highlights include works by British artist **Kate Bush**, featured with both an animation in competition and a music video in the *80s Ballads Sing Along* program. Films by legendary directors such as **William Friedkin**, **Norman McLaren**, **Barbara Hammer**, and **Maya Deren** are also part of the lineup. The **Current Comments** section, which explores urgent social themes like **pacifism**, **motherhood**, and **environmental exploitation**, includes works ranging from **Walt Disney** to **Heinz Emigholz**.

The audiovisual section will feature a **cinema concert by Kenji Araki** and **live performances by Sophie Watzlawick and Billy Roisz**, creating unforgettable in-theater moments. Fans of **Bibiza**, **Cari Cari**, **Soap&Skin**,

Klangkarussell, as well as **Charli XCX**, **FKA Twigs**, **Thom Yorke**, **Bad Bunny**, **Jamie xx**, and **Little Simz** can look forward to two packed **music video programs**. Night owls can enjoy genre-focused **Late Night screenings at METRO Kinokulturhaus** and **parties at Celeste and Funkhaus** on the festival weekend.

This year's festival also includes portrait programs dedicated to **Kurdwin Ayub**, **Christopher Harris**, and the former US documentary duo **Rhody Streeter and Tony Ganz**. Further information [here](#).

COMPETITIONS: FILM AWARDS WITH STRAUSS & TREE TROPHIES WITH A GAME TWIST

In celebration of the **200th birthday of Johann Strauss** in 2025, the festival has launched a special competition titled **Danube So Blue**, inviting modern cinematic interpretations of the famous **Blue Danube Waltz**. From around 200 submissions worldwide, 9 films were selected to be premiered and awarded at a **gala screening on Wednesday (May 28) at METRO Kinokulturhaus**.

In the main competitions – **International Fiction & Documentary**, **Animation Avantgarde**, **Austrian Competition**, and **Austrian Music Video Award** – 90 films from **26 countries**, selected from over **6,000 submissions**, will compete for **€30,000 in prize money** and prestigious qualifications for the **Oscars®**, **European Film Awards**, and **Austrian Film Awards**. The **award ceremony** will take place on **Saturday (June 1)** at **Stadtkino im Künstlerhaus**.

As in previous years, winners will also be honored with **newly planted trees** in Vienna – the festival's signature **tree trophies**, now located at **Schottenring** and **Oberes Alte Donau**. An **app-based geocaching game**, titled *Tree Trophy: Catch 'Em If You Can*, merges cinema with urban exploration and augmented reality. Supported by the **Vienna Business Agency**, it will launch in **fall 2025** via the **Vienna Shorts app** for iOS and Android.

FAREWELL & NEW BEGINNINGS: HADENIUS-EBNER STEPS DOWN, MUMOK KINO JOINS

This year's edition marks a turning point for the festival. On the one hand, the new **"A Festival for Everyone"** ticketing system has made access significantly more inclusive. On the other, a new partner venue – **mumok kino**, located in the heart of the MuseumsQuartier – joins the festival. All Vienna Shorts tickets during the festival period grant **free entry to mumok**, while **mumok tickets purchased between May 27 and June 1** can be redeemed for a **free festival cinema ticket**.

At the same time, long-standing festival director **Daniel Hadenius-Ebner** has announced that this will be his **final edition at the helm of VIENNA SHORTS**. Co-founder of the festival in 2004 and director for the past 15 years, Hadenius-Ebner helped transform it from a student initiative into one of Austria's most important film festivals. Today, it is an **EU-funded Green Event**, a **qualifying festival for the Academy Awards, BAFTAs, and European Film Awards**, and a recognized leader in the global short film scene.

Starting in fall 2025, Hadenius-Ebner will shift his focus to European projects and ensure a smooth transition. “I truly couldn’t have imagined a more meaningful and fulfilling task than building and shaping this festival for 22 years,” he stated. “Now it’s time for new challenges and to pass the torch to the next generation. I’m deeply grateful to all the amazing collaborators who believed in this project over the years. I wish the team and my successor all the best – may they usher in a powerful new era!”

His successor will be introduced at the start of the festival. VIENNA SHORTS 2025 will feature **143 individual events** at key downtown venues like **Stadtkino im Künstlerhaus**, **METRO Kinokulturhaus**, and **Austrian Film Museum**, as well as throughout the **MuseumsQuartier**. The **ASIFakeil space** in Electric Avenue will once again host an exhibition, and the **Talent Days** will return for the third time at the Film Academy campus as part of the four-day industry program.

The full program is now available at viennashorts.com, and tickets (starting at €4) and festival passes (starting at €20) can be purchased via the [online shop](#) or the **Vienna Shorts app** ([Android](#)/[iOS](#)). All **Milieukino programs (except Sunday)** will also be available via [THIS IS SHORT](#), and the **festival pass includes extended test access** to the streaming platform.

Press images for the 22nd edition of the festival can be found at viennashorts.com/en/press/pressimages.

For inquiries or interview requests, please contact Anna Carina Roth at presse@viennashorts.com or +43 664 5131257.

You can find the **festival trailer by Hilke Rönnfeldt** [here](#) as well as the **showreel** offering a glimpse into this year’s program [here](#).

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