

Shortlist for the 20th Innsbruck Nature Film Festival

Around 50 films will be running in competition from 19-22 October 2021, including productions from all over the world and starring Nature and The Environment! Catch yourself a fine flick at the Metropol Kino in Innsbruck, the urban-alpine capital of Tyrol, embedded in the International Nature Festival.

340 films from 60 countries in every corner of the world were submitted for the anniversary edition. The 15-member preliminary jury were pressed hard to choose 51 works that will now compete in five categories in the international film competition and are eligible for prize money, worth €18,000.

In our now-time of video chats and conferences, home office and home schooling, the value of having films presented on the big screen is irrefutable and apparent in the gratitude of our esteemed audiences, as well as in the nominated filmmakers themselves. So from 19-22 October 2021, get your eyeballs rolling at the Film-Off in the Metropol Kino, down at the foot of the Nordkette mountain chain, next to the river Inn, in Innsbruck's Old Town.

Striking nature films

In addition to the Short Films and the Young Talents sections, the nature film selections at the INFF hold their own with their beautiful, endlessly wide imagery and precise, honest close-ups. "The Wild Forest" (Der wilde Wald) by Lisa Eder belongs right here with the best of them; a refuge of biodiversity in the Bavarian Forest National Park. From the mainland we go into and under the water, "The Loneliest Whale", directed by Joshua Zeman takes us on a quest for the world's only 52-hertz whale. In "Cephalopods: Conquest of the seas", world-renowned French science filmmaker, Bertrand Loyer, takes the whole family to the mesmerising and astonishing underwater world of the octopus and the cuttlefish.

Evocative environmental documentaries

Documented by Canadian Slater Jewell-Lemker from 2007 to 2020, "Youth Unstoppable – The Rise of the Global Youth Climate Movement", shows the powerful vision of the younger generation for the future of our planet. The US production "Kiss the Ground" by Rebecca and Josh Tickell also sets a tone of positivity and finds the missing piece in a climate puzzle in the soil. Hollywood actor Woody Harrelson is convincing as the narrator, you can listen to him and hear him.

Hosting country Austria represented by four films in main categories

Two great Austrian co-production nature documentaries from Terra Mater are in the programme: snow leopards, bears, a yak and a wolf captivate us in their home in Tibet

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at over 4,000 metres in “Snow Leopards and Friends”. Diving below sea level “Witness is a Whale”, is a thrilling documentary about the giants of the seas, with a touch of thriller, thanks to the KGB.

Two independent films also enter the running for the Grand Prix: “What Fishes want” (Was Fische wollen) by Christoph Walder about the silent disappearance of fish shoals from the largest river in the Alps, the Inn – rushing right by the INFF Metropol Kino venue – it doesn’t get closer to home than this, folks, while “Shamane’s Nightmare” (Der Albtraum der Shamanen) by Natalie Halla moves us with a solemn promise from further afield and around the globe.

Festival curator Katja Trippel and festival director and founder, Johannes Kostenzer are eagerly awaiting a **rainbow 20th anniversary edition of the Innsbruck Nature Film Festival** in Tyrol’s capital – with an astounding array of hopeful, critical, illuminating, animated, electrifying, loud and quiet films.