

# Press release

## Geneva, February 6, 2018

### SWISS FILMMAKERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT THE 16TH EDITION, FIFDH

The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH) brings together renowned artists in both Swiss and international cinema, through the presentation of Swiss and world premieres of fiction and documentary films, debates with invited guests, conferences, workshops, meetings, exhibitions and events in dialogue with prison detainees. This year, the Festival will take place in more than sixty venues throughout Geneva and in French-speaking Switzerland, and will offer a new program for young audiences.



*Fortuna*, by Germinal Roaux

### **Fortuna**, directed by Germinal Roaux, will open the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the FIFDH with our guest, Alain Berset

For the opening night of the Festival on Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, the festival will welcome **Germinal Roaux**, director of *Left Foot Right Foot* (2013), who will present his latest film *Fortuna*, following its world premiere at the Berlinale. **Alain Berset**, President of the Swiss Confederation, and **Pascal Crittin**, Director of the RTS, as well as the entire film team will address 500 guests representing Greater and International Geneva.

### Groundbreaking Documentaries at the Festival

Investigative journalist **Anne-Frédérique Widmann**, co-author of the 2016 *Windows on Death Row* exhibition, presents the world premiere of *Free Men*, a documentary about **Kenneth Reams**, the youngest man sentenced to death in Arkansas. From the small, 6-by-7 foot cell in which he is locked since 1993, he will testify by telephone on March 10<sup>th</sup> during a discussion on the film, with the presence of his wife, **Isabelle Watson Reams**, and the director, as well as **Ndume Olatushani**, former death row inmate released after twenty-eight years of detention and **Costanza Francavilla**, former artistic collaborator of English rapper Tricky and who composed the music for the film. A campaign for the release of Kenneth Reams will be launched during this event.

**Fernand Melgar** will also present *At the Philosophers' School* in the international competition, on Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup>, followed by a discussion with the filmmaker and film protagonists, as well as **Cédric Blanc**, Director of the Verdeil Foundation. A second screening / discussion, will take place in the framework of the **FIFDH for Kids**, launched for the first time this year. This event will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup>, for children and their parents, in the presence of **Daniel Tammet**, writer, poet and hyperpolyglot, known for having recited from memory the 22,514 first decimals of the number Pi at the Museum of the History of Science in Oxford.

### A bridge with the world of detention

«Our interventions in places of detention are a bridge between the outside and the inside, a human adventure where borders and differences no longer exist. Cinema has the particularity of bringing people together and pushing walls.» For the fifth consecutive year, Claudia Dessolis, project manager at the FIFDH, is assembling juries comprised of incarcerated people, who will award the prize of their respective institutions. This year, there are three juries, made up of male prisoners serving their sentence at La Brenaz prison, female detainees in Champ-Dollon, as well as young men and women from La Clairière. Screenings will take place, followed by meetings with the directors and protagonists of the films. Exciting discussions, both for filmmakers and for detainees who often display a keen eye for critiquing the presented works.

The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the FIFDH will take place in Geneva and throughout French-speaking Switzerland from March 9<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**PRESS CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20<sup>ST</sup>**  
at 11 am at the Fonction:Cinéma, 16, rue du Général Dufour (Geneva).

## CONTACTS

**Pierre-Yves Walder**  
Media Development Manager  
[py.walder@fifdh.org](mailto:py.walder@fifdh.org)  
+41 78 836 72 39

**Luisa Ballin**  
Media Relations  
[l.ballin@fifdh.org](mailto:l.ballin@fifdh.org)  
+41 79 649 71 45