

Filmfest lounge Industry programme

Thursday to Sunday Theater am Goetheplatz Filmfest Lounge

Networking, celebrating, taking a break from the movie theatre: The Filmfest Lounge is where industry professionals meet to discuss films they've seen and plan new ones. In the rooms reserved for the industry, you can work, get free coffee, and get to know interesting colleagues from around the world.

This year's workshops, panel discussions, networking events and pitches offer a glimpse behind the scenes of filmmaking, provide opportunities to exchange ideas and show hands-on what it takes to make movies nowadays.

An industry accreditation allows access to the lounge and all events that are not explicitly by registration only.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 1–2 pm / Theatre, NOON Filmmakers Lunch

While the NOON offers small dishes and snacks all day, there will be a discounted lunch (vegetarian/vegan) for accredited guests at the "big table" from Thursday to Sunday, 1 - 2 pm for fueling up and networking. During this hour, our photo wall in the lounge will also be manned by our Filmfest photographer, who will capture your shared festival memories.

Industry accreditations can be applied for via our homepage and grant access to all events.

Thursday, March 20th

12–1 pm / Theatre, Kleines Haus Talk with Stephen Frears

In conversation with Stephen Frears: a talk about film, humour and difficult times. The interview will be conducted by Jenni Zylka.

1–2 pm / Theatre, NOON Filmmakers Lunch at the "big table"

Discounted lunch for accredited guests

2–4 pm / Theatre, Brauhauskeller BAB-Workshop: Business start-up and crowdfunding

Attention filmmakers! The start-up consultants from Starthaus Bremen & Bremerhaven will give you the information you need to start your own business in the film industry - from preparation to business plan and financing. Then there will be time for your questions.

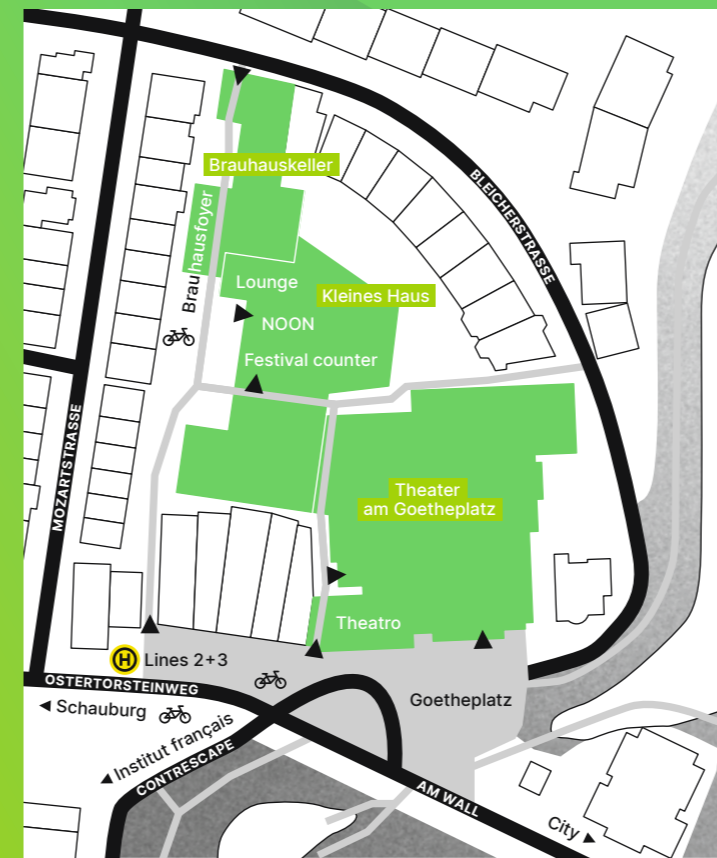
The second part of the session will focus on crowdfunding:

- What to look out for when creating a project?
- How do you reach your supporters?
- What are thank you gifts?

All these questions and more will be answered by the Starthaus team Andreas Mündl, Leslie Schoßmeier-Prigge and Sabine Fröhlich.

	THURSDAY, March 20 th	FRIDAY, March 21 st		
	see below for locations	Brauhauskeller	Brauhausfoyer	Kleines Haus
10 am				NOON
11 am		11 am Case Study "In my parents' house"		11 am Meeting in front of the town hall City tour
12 pm	12 pm Kleines Haus Talk with Stephen Frears			
1 pm				1 pm Filmmakers Lunch
2 pm	2 pm Brauhauskeller BAB-Workshop Business start-up and crowdfunding	2 pm Hands-On nordmedia Workshop	2 pm Panel: Yes, we can! Successful women in the film industry	
3 pm		3 pm Brauhausfoyer Speed Dating		
4 pm	4 pm Institut français French Film Reception	4 pm Panel: Male Nightmares, Female Nightmares. Gender in genre films	4 pm Women Networking	
5 pm				
6 pm				
7 pm			7 pm nordmedia CLOSE-UP Presentation	
8 pm				
9 pm				from 9 pm nordmedia Party
10 pm				

	SATURDAY, March 22 nd			SUNDAY, March 23 rd
	Brauhauskeller	Brauhausfoyer	NOON	see below
10 am				10 am NOON Filmfest breakfast
11 am	11.30 am Panel: Sounds good, doesn't fit though. Music in film			11 am Kleines Haus Film festival matinée with awards ceremony
12 pm		12 pm Speed Dating		
1 pm			1 pm Filmmakers Lunch	
2 pm	2 pm Meet the Locals #1		2 pm Institut français Meet the Jury	2 pm Kleines Haus and NOON PITCH&PIE by Filmbüro Bremen
3 pm				
4 pm			4 pm Meet the Locals #2	4 pm Brauhauskeller Lecture: Interactive Storytelling
5 pm	5 pm Panel: Mental Health in film			5 pm Zentrum für Kunst (Centre of the Arts) Guided tour & performance
6 pm				6 pm Institut français Get-Together
7 pm				
8 pm			7.30 pm Pub-Quiz	
9 pm				
10 pm			from 9.30 pm Filmfest Party	



Festival counter at NOON / Theatre Bremen

Opening hours:
Wed. March 19 | 12 pm – 7 pm
Thur. March 20 | 11 am – 6 pm
Fri. March 21 | 11 am – 7 pm
Sat. March 22 | 10 am – 7 pm
Sun. March 23 | 10 am – 5 pm

Supported by



KARIN UND
UWE HOLLWEG
STIFTUNG

Filmfest lounge / Industry programme

3–4.30 pm / Theatre, Brauhausfoyer

Speed Dating for filmmakers

In short meetings of 3 minutes, you will have the opportunity to get to know other filmmakers of Filmfest Bremen. It's not about bringing along finished projects or putting together your next cast, but above all it's about a first exchange with new people and about leaving your own bubble – and expanding it. The event will be hosted by Christian Bergmann.

Please register with your branch and the subject “speed dating” at event@filmfestbremen.com.

4–6 pm / Institut français, Contrescarpe 19

French Film Reception

At the French reception held in cooperation with the Institut Français Bremen, francophile guests will have the opportunity to meet filmmakers from France and other francophone countries, watch first trailers and movie clips and then discover the short film block “Francophonie Dilemmas” – four shorts in Avant-Première!

Rendez-vous on March 20th at 4 pm in Bremen's most beautiful building (Contrescarpe 19)!

Friday, March 21st

11–1 pm / City tour

Guided tour of Bremen city

Registration required at: sifrin@filmfestbremen.com

The number of participants is limited to 25. The tour will be held in German and English. (Meeting: 11 am in front of the town hall)

11–12.30 pm / Theatre, Brauhauskeller

Case Study

A background discussion on the – unique and symptomatic – path of a film from idea to cinema release. With film clips.

Film by director Tim Ellrich: 'In My Parents' House', (with Jenny Schily, Jens Brock, Ursula Werner, Manfred Zapatka) – Special Jury Award FF Rotterdam 2025, WBW FF Bremen 2025.

With director Tim Ellrich and curator and film journalist Jenni Zylka.

1–2 pm / Theatre, NOON

Filmmakers lunch at the “big table”

Discounted lunch for accredited guests

2–3.30 pm / Theatre, Brauhauskeller

Hands-On nordmedia Workshop

The workshop, organised by nordmedia and Filmbüro Bremen, will give filmmakers and applicants the opportunity to familiarise themselves with nordmedia's digital application portal and the application process. Producer Jan Philip Lange from Bremedia Produktion and Petra Schleuning, Head of Funding at nordmedia, will be on hand to answer questions about the application process.

Registration via

nordmediamailing@nordmedia.de with the subject 'Workshop Filmfest Bremen'. This workshop is relevant to anyone who plans to apply for funding in Lower Saxony/Bremen.

It is also possible to attend a personal advisory meeting on site.

Please register with the person responsible:

March 20th 2025 | Thomas Starte | TV/streaming fiction, cinema documentary | t.starte@nordmedia.de

March 21st 2025 | Michal Honnens | Newcomer film, short film, scholarships | m.honnens@nordmedia.de

2–4 pm / Theatre, Brauhausfoyer

Panel: Yes, we can!

Why do women often struggle to take on new or big challenges with the same confidence as men? In conversation with successful women from the film industry, we explore the inner hurdles that hold us back — and how to overcome them.

Guests: Sophya Frohberg (Producer Letterbox and Sensitivity-Reader), Meike Götz (CEO nordmedia), Sophie Linnenbaum (director “The Ordinaries”), Laura González (writer, producer, director of “Milonga”) (tbc)

Hosted by Corinna Gerhards

4–5 pm / Theatre, Brauhausfoyer

Women Networking

FLINTA film professionals from all fields, countries and levels of experience are warmly invited to connect through small speed-dating sessions and large gatherings, strengthen existing relationships, and make exciting new connections.

4–5.30 pm / Theatre, Brauhauskeller

Panel: Male Nightmares, Female Nightmares. What role does gender play in genre films?

Whether arthouse or mainstream – genre is everywhere, especially horror. With 'The Substance', 'Titane', 'Blink Twice', 'Nightbitch' or 'Love lies bleeding', more and more women are finally staging (female) abysses, while 'Nosferatu' or 'The Monkey' recapitulate classic horror. But what are the differences between female and male nightmares – and how can genre contribute to equality? Hosted by curator and film journalist Jenni Zylka.

Guests:

Jörg Buttgerit, splatter and horror director, film critic and author (“Nekromantik”, “Schramm”, “The Death King”) and Fahrah Bouamar, creative director, co-CEO Lost Film (crossover between genre film, society and politics)

7 pm / Theatre, Kleines Haus

Close-Up Presentation

The CLOSEUP Bremen scholarship programme of nordmedia Film- und Mediengesellschaft Nds/HB and the Senator for Economics, Ports and Transportation supported two innovative film and media projects in 2024 with EUR 25,000 each and professional coaching. nordmedia invites you to the final presentations of the CLOSEUP Bremen Teams 2024, and the new CLOSEUP Bremen Teams 2025 will also introduce themselves and their projects. Filmfest Bremen presenter Felix Krömer will lead through the programme and the short talks.

Please register via nordmedia:

[nordmedia Startseite](#) > [Veranstaltungen](#) > [CLOSEUP Bremen](#)

from 9 pm / Theatre, NOON

nordmedia Party

The event will be followed by a reception and party for all industry players with drinks, “Handbrot” (finger food) and good music at NOON/the foyer of the theatre from 9 pm.

Saturday, March 22nd

11.30–1 pm / Theatre, Brauhauskeller

Panel: Sounds good, doesn't fit though. How do you know what music works for a film?

Music and/or sound can accompany, enhance and bring a film to life. The success of film music shows how strongly this important work is perceived by the audience. But how do you know what music will fit and work? And what do you need to consider when thinking about a soundtrack with existing songs? Hosted by curator and film journalist Jenni Zylka.

Guests:

Lorenz Dangel, composer (i.a. German Film Award for “Dying”); Milena Fessmann, producer, lecturer, music-supervisor (i.a. “Maria”, “Perfect Days”, “Two to One”, “All Quiet on the Western Front”); Sophie Linnenbaum, director (i.a. “The Ordinaries”) (tbc)

12–1.30 pm / Theatre, Brauhausfoyer

Speed Dating for filmmakers

In short meetings of 3 minutes, you will have the opportunity to get to know other filmmakers of Filmfest Bremen. It's not about bringing along finished projects or putting together your next cast, but above all it's about a first exchange with new people and about leaving your own bubble – and expanding it. The event will be hosted by Christian Bergmann.

Please register with your branch and the subject “speed dating” at event@filmfestbremen.com.

1–2 pm / Theatre, NOON

Filmmakers lunch at the “big table”

Discounted lunch for accredited guests

2–3.30 pm / Theatre, Brauhauskeller

Meet the Locals #1

Meet the Locals – Cast and crew from Bremen invite: “From Bremen into the world of film”

How do filmmakers and actors live and work in Bremen? A little reality check with colleagues and representatives from the industry. Come and talk to us about your experiences and ask the professionals questions.

2–3.30 pm / Institut Français, Contrescarpe 19

Meet the Jury

For days on end, our jury members watch and discuss the programme and all the films in competition and then select the winners. At “Meet the Jury” at the Institut français, they look forward to meeting the filmmakers and other accredited professionals for an open exchange.

Hosted by Jenni Zylka

3.30–5.30 pm / Institut Français, Contrescarpe 19
Pitch, Please!

In the elevator, at breakfast, at a festival – where and how to best pitch a film/project? The ‘elevator pitch’ is not a myth: pitching the idea of your film or project to the right people in a quick and impressive way is the first step towards finding interested parties, supporters and allies. But what is important in this pitch, how and to whom should it be addressed? What belongs in a tagline and logline, and when do longer descriptions make sense?

A workshop with producer, lecturer and film and screenplay consultant Marjorie Bendeck (Head of Connecting Cottbus East-West Co-production Market)

4–5.30 pm / Theatre, NOON

Meet the Locals #2

We invite you to a relaxed coffee session with donuts at the “Hörbar” at NOON. With filmmakers and actors and actresses from Bremen. We look forward to seeing you!

5–7.15 pm / Zentrum für Kunst (Centre of the Arts)

Filmfest exhibition:

Guided tour & performance

Shuttle at 4.15 pm from NOON (with prior registration at peters@filmfestbremen.com)

Experience the works from the Innovation section, which do not only take place in the cinema, but also in the exhibition space and live on stage! Installations, Super-8 and Expanded Cinema await you.

5–6.30 pm / Theatre, Brauhauskeller

Panel: Mental Health in film

How are mental health issues portrayed in films? How can the subject be approached and shown? In the panel discussion, moderated by Tobias Dietrich, filmmakers talk about their motivation, difficulties and solutions for dealing with the subject in front of and behind the camera.

Guests:

Sebastian Fritzsich, director “Forest Within Me” additional guests (tba)

7.30–9.30 pm / Theatre, NOON

Pub Quiz

The quiz night for movie nerds. Which group will manage to answer the most questions about films and actors and actresses correctly? Moderated by Sören Gäting.

from 9.30 pm / Theatre, NOON

Filmfest Party

Celebrate the film festival, the filmmakers and the wonderful world of cinema with us when DJ HNO once again shines with daring transitions from Whitney Houston to Slayer to Sirtaki.

Sunday, March 23rd

10–11 am / Theatre, NOON

Filmfest breakfast

We welcome you with coffee, sparkling wine and German breakfast before the Filmfest matinée and awards ceremony starts.

11–1 pm / Theatre, Kleines Haus

Film festival matinée with awards ceremony

All the winners of audience and jury awards will be announced at a festive matinée from 11am this morning. The juries will announce the winners in all competitions.

Accredited guests and film pass holders will receive their tickets for the awards ceremony at Theatre Bremen. Non-accredited guests can buy a ticket for 9 EUR.

2–3.30 pm / Theatre, Kleines Haus and NOON

PITCH & PIE Filmbüro Bremen

Filmmakers from Bremen pitch their projects. These range from documentaries to thrillers, coming-of-age to adventure films, from drama

to comedy. Each project will be presented in a 5-minute pitch. At the end, the jury awards a prize of 300 EUR for the best pitch and the Filmbüro invites you to a get-together with coffee and pie in the foyer.

4–5.30 pm / Theatre, Brauhauskeller

Lecture: Interactive Storytelling

In his 90-minute lecture performance, media artist Gordon Endt talks about his experiences with media artworks focusing on interaction. This will provide a look behind the scenes of his work, exploring together the extent to which modern media such as AI, game engines and machine vision models enable a new approach to storytelling. Participants are invited to try out the works for themselves and engage in dialogue with the artist after the talk.

4–6 pm / Schauburg, Vor dem Steintor 114

WFB short film competition

A jury will select the best cinematic contributions to this year's short film challenge with the theme “My Bremen is real”.

6–10 pm / Institut Français, Contrescarpe 19

Get-Together

A cosy gathering in the rooms of the Institut Français with some snacks. Let's get together one more time, talk about our favourite films, exchange contacts and toast to a successful festival! Stop by when you find the time!

filmfestbremen.com

#filmfestbremen

#ffhb25