

Youth Cinema Network: International conference on film and media education

March 23-24, 2023, Zurich

Organized by
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ABOUT THE YOUTH CINEMA NETWORK

Film and media educators and youth film festivals from around the world have joined together to form the YCN network to share knowledge, best practices and information. The YCN maintains a database of film and media educators and youth film festivals, hosts an annual conference for members, and facilitates partnerships and collaborations.

The YCN advocates for young filmmaking internationally by encouraging intercultural dialogue, developing international strategies, and showcasing local best practices. The YCN also supports the distribution of young people's films by presenting the YCN Award and providing opportunities for member festivals and organizations to establish partnerships and share films. The members meet annually for the YCN conference, which is held in a different location each year. The conference is usually attached to a festival event and the present members of the meeting decide on the main lines of the network. The report of the meeting is sent to all members and finally published online. (youthcinemanetwork.org)

THE YCN CONFERENCE IN ZÜRICH

The 2023 conference took place during the 47th Schweizer Jugendfilmtage (March 22-26, 2023) in Zurich and was open to film education and outreach professionals from the Swiss industry.

There were contributions on "Youth Film Festivals of the Future" and "Media Education", where institutions from the national and international youth film industry could present themselves. In addition, the conference attendees received a festival pass and had access to the screenings and the supporting program of the festival. There was also the possibility to attend the conference online.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH – ARRIVAL

TIME	PROGRAMME	WHERE
18:00	Welcome aperitif (with Talent Camp participants)	GLEIS Bar
19:00	Festival opening	blue Cinema Abaton

THURSDAY 23 MARCH – CONFERENCE DAY 1

9:30 -10:30	Introduction / Welcome Spaceship – Youth Film Festivals of the Future	Zollhaus Flex A
11:00-11:45	Input & Discussion 1 (20' input, 25' discussion) „Greener Film Festivals“: How can film festivals be more sustainable in the future? - Philip Aubel (Junge Filmszene BFJ)	
12:00-12:45	Input & Discussion 2 (20' input, 25' discussion) Audience Accessibility - How can film festivals be made accessible and inclusive for more people? - Ksenija Sankovic (Four River Film Festival and Cinema Club Karlovac and Sanja Zanki Pejić (Croatian Film Association and Four River Film Festival)	
13:00-14:00	Lunch with Talent Camp Participants	Restaurant Osso
14:15-16:30	Developing YCN Group work on current topics: Media Education in different countries e.g. presentation and discussion of the results	Zollhaus Flex A
ca. 18:30	Dinner	Zentralwäscherei
20:00	Festival program: National Competition Category C (16-19 years)	blue Cinema Abaton

FRIDAY 24 MARCH – CONFERENCE DAY 2

TIME	PROGRAMME	WHERE
10:00-10:30	Media Education: Inputs & Discussions Input 1 (30' tour, input & questions) Filmkids: Film school for children and young people between 10 and 18 years, leisure and vacation offers, courses for schools - including tour of the location	Filmkids
10:30-11:00	Input 2 (15' input, 15' questions) Roadmovie / Zoomz : Switzerland's mobile cinema brings films to communities without a cinema	
11:00-11:15	Break	
11:15-11:45	Input 3 (15' input, 15' questions) Filmhaus Basel: studios for filmmakers, cinema, artists residency, space for events and workshops	
11:45-12:15	Input 4 (15' input, 15' questions) How is Media Education built into the school systems and what role does YCN play? Presentation of results - Robert Hinterleitner (YAAAS! Youth program Crossing Europe Filmfestival Linz)	
12:30	Lunch	ZHdK
14:00-16:00	Media Education: Potential of VR in Media Education Visit and tour of the VR Labs and the Museum of Design at the Zurich University of the Arts.	ZHdK
16:30-17:30	Wrap-up of the Conference 2023	
18:00	Festival program: Talent Camp Screening & YCN Book Presentation	blue Cinema Abaton
20:00	Dinner	Zentralwäscherei

SATURDAY 25 MARCH – INDIVIDUAL DEPARTURE OR FURTHER VISIT OF THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMS

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

SPACESHIP – YOUTH FILM FESTIVALS OF THE FUTURE

Input 1

Greener Film Festivals: How can film festivals be more sustainable in the future?

– Philip Aibel (*Junge Filmszene BFJ*)

Film festivals as cultural events are playing an increasingly important role in public life. Over the years, they have experienced an increase in the number of viewers and promote interest in the films presented there. In addition to the content of film festivals, their organizational realization also plays an important role in public perception regarding sustainability. Festival teams themselves, funders and sponsors, and the audience expect and demand events that are organized and run in a sustainable manner.

Newcomer film festivals have been working sustainably on a socio-political level for decades. They promote the personal development of young filmmakers, expand the cinematic competences of their participants through qualitative workshop programs, create and maintain network structures and provide orientation and paths into the film industry.

How can green (up-and-coming) film festivals be organized nowadays and in the future? Obviously, the main elements of sustainability "ecology", "economy" and "social affairs" will continue to be valid.

An important quality feature and measuring point regarding organization and implementation is the carbon footprint. The aim is to keep this as low as possible with the known possibilities of "avoidance", "reduction" and "compensation".

When talking about green film festivals, climate neutrality is the desired goal. In the following areas of the festival organization there are different possibilities to strive for or realize this goal:

Accommodation and catering, cinemas and venues, mobility, marketing, office organization.

Among other things, the panel will give an overview of the different methods of CO₂ avoidance and reduction.

The following aspects can be discussed afterwards:

- How sustainable are film festivals already working and what further potentials are there? Best practices of the participating festivals
- What are the limits? Up-and-coming film festivals in the area of tension between flying shame, streaming, online Q&As and personal meetings on location
- Funding situation of the festivals: more ecological, economic and social sustainability demands more funding - exchange on current needs
- The Swiss Youth Film Festival and the YCN Conference: How sustainable are we actually?
- What do our working methods have in common/standards?

Points of Discussion:

- The topic of "sustainability" is incorporated into the festival by many through thematic programs. Thematic programs lead to more awareness among the filmmakers and the audience.
- Not everything can be controlled and not everything is in the power of the organizing teams, e.g. sustainability of locations, energy used.
- There are small points of improvement that also save costs: Avoiding waste (e.g. leftover food, printed materials, merchandise, etc.). These points can be controlled by each festival itself and are a small but important step towards more sustainability.
- No plastic, no meat and possibly no dairy products are also simple measures, but partly associated with additional costs.
- Other contexts have to be taken into account, sometimes the seemingly sustainable option is not the option that is actually sustainable: for example, at NUFF in not only vegetarian food is served, because it is more expensive and, since it often has to be imported, does not necessarily have a smaller footprint than local food, which may not only be vegetarian (reindeer, fish).
- Transportation: encourage public and guests to travel by train and reimburse only those. Other travel is compensated. At FiSH, for example, a local energy company sponsors CO₂ offsets.
- How is the CO₂ footprint calculated in the first place, are there tools for this? There is an online calculator, but most don't calculate it accurately until now.

Input 2

Audience Accessibility: How can film festivals be made accessible and inclusive for more people? – *Ksenija Sankovic (Four River Film Festival and Cinema Club Karlovac) and Sanja Zanki Pejić (Croatian Film Association and Four River Film Festival)*

In order for children with sensory integration disorders to be included in everyday life from an early age, it is necessary to sensitize the public and enable events where they feel comfortable and welcome. There are many difficulties faced by children with sensory integration disorder and there are no rules - some children react to a loud sound, some to a bright light, some children can't stand someone being around them, some can't sit still for more than a few minutes, some may not be able to follow the rapid change of images, scenes, sequences. The world is full of stimuli which children do not know how to handle properly. Sensory disorders are present in most children with an autistic spectrum disorder, but they are increasingly common in children with regular development and manifest through attention and concentration disorders, lack of social communication, slow psychomotoric development, learning difficulties and alike. In order to make our programs more accessible and inclusive for all participants, we conduct two types of activities - sensory screenings and inclusive workshops, primarily stopmotion.

Workshop concept is to use all the senses in making a film occupational therapy approach by animating substances of different construction and composition, such as objects they find themselves (leaves, twigs), paper collage, etc. (materials aimed at a tactile experience), drawing and using coffee or sand, which in addition to pleasant fragrances require the work fingers' fine motor skills and the handling of auxiliary brushes and sticks. With these

techniques, the participants' development of cognitive skills is stimulated which benefits people with intellectual challenges through application of causally - consequent connections in the workshop, sorting elements, work on fine motor skills, tactile and olfactory stimuli, etc.

Results of enabling and facilitating family members and children with disabilities sensory integration and other difficulties in development to go to a public place together without condemnations (without apprehension, fear, guilt to disrupt for example regular screenings) are:

- socialization and learning;
- integration and inclusion;
- learning tolerance and acceptable behavior;
- creating friendships;
- introducing the public to disorders of sensory integration and in general
- making society aware of the problems and difficulties faced by families and children with developmental difficulties.

Points of Discussion:

- Create more open spaces for film education. This doesn't necessarily have to be in a movie theater context, but perhaps a more open form of screening with shorter film programs so that children don't have to sit still for too long. Providing opportunities to move around during the program.
- Discussion and interaction with children before and after screenings so that they know what to expect and can classify what they have seen afterwards.
- Workshop of the Young Film Scene tells of picture book cinema. Here, stories are told using pictures to get children used to the cinema and screening situation, so that they slowly get to know the cinema.
- Contact with the target group: through schools, organizations, or Facebook groups with parents, specific websites. Over time, you can also build a database of contacts.
- Cost is also an important accessibility issue: offer everything for free, if possible, because the budget may not be that big.
- The idea is to bring children to the cinema so that they get to know it, since they already know other forms of films and media content anyway. But here the problem often arises that cinemas are not well accessible (accessibility).
- It is not necessary to have different programs for different age groups, often the audience consists of mixed age groups

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023

MEDIA EDUCATION

Input 1

Filmkids: Film school for children and young people between 10 and 18 years, leisure and vacation offers, courses for schools – Simone Häberling and Christof Oswald (filmkids.ch)

filmkids.ch is a film school for children and teenagers between the ages of 8 and 18. It was founded as a non-profit association in 2007 by film producer and arts manager Simone Häberling. Over the past 15 years, filmkids.ch has developed from a small association into a well-connected "institution" operating in various locations in German-speaking Switzerland.

Today filmkids.ch offers courses, workshops, holiday camps and school projects in all areas of acting and filmmaking. The team soon consists of 80 filmmakers and actors and continues to grow. In addition to the city of Zurich, filmkids.ch coaches from the corresponding regions are setting up initial courses in Basel, Chur, Winterthur, Lucerne, Bern, Solothurn, Olten, Frauenfeld, Arbon and Aargau. filmkids.ch cooperates with many film festivals, theatres, and other cultural institutions for workshops.

The association runs weekly courses in Zurich, Winterthur and Basel. The children and young people attend two-hour lessons in filming, animation or acting every week. In Zurich, in addition to the filmkids.ch courses, advanced courses are organised under the label Swiss Film School SFS.

filmkids.ch is closely linked to the professional sector, not only through the filmmakers and actors, whom all work full-time in film, but also through the professional coaching of children on film sets.

filmkids.ch continues to inspire young people for film and cinema, encouraging them to believe in their creativity and teaching them to read, interpret and create images and learn by doing and in a fun yet challenging way.

Input 2

Roadmovie: Switzerland's mobile cinema brings films to communities without a cinema / Cinemini Europe – John Wäfler & Claudia Schmid (roadmovie.ch)

Have you ever considered implementing a film education activity for children of a very early age (3-6 years)? Film is particularly attractive and accessible to young children. They not only enjoy moving images and easily engage with audiovisual media, but also actively respond to abstract and experimental films, which leave a lot of room for imagination.

The Europe-wide project "Cinemini Europe" offers film festivals and film education organizations a practical way of working on film with young children, including a specially curated film catalogue, adapted activities and teaching materials. For "Cinemini Europe", film education is not primarily about understanding or making film, but rather about the

experience. Watching films and engaging with them playfully gives children the opportunity to discover the world of moving images in a meaningful and fun way.

"Cinemini Europe" is a joint project by several European film education institutions. In Switzerland the project is born by the Roadmovie mobile cinema association together with the youth film festival Festival de Cinéma Jeune Public in Lausanne. In our talk we will present the project and show how films as well as the activities and materials provided by "Cinemini Europe" can be used with little effort by film festivals and film education organizations for developing their young audiences.

Input 3

Filmhaus Basel: Studios for filmmakers, cinema, artists residency, space for events and workshops – *Lavinia Besuchet, Christoph Herbert, Lukas Waldvogel, David Gion Müller* (vfbbb.clubdesk.com)

The Filmhaus Basel is a unique cultural space in the middle of the old town and hosts the association "Verein für die Förderung der Begeisterung am bewegten Bild (VFBB)" which means "Encouraging enthusiasm for the moving image". The project was initiated by actors of the Gässli Film Festival as a result of many years of commitment to the promotion of the Basel film scene and offers creative studios for filmmakers, workshops, a small cinema and space for exhibitions and events. These events, which are spread throughout the year, are open to visitors with a ticket. As a thank you for their active support, members and volunteers benefit from a discount.

Parallel to the annual program, the Filmhaus itself is a temporary stopover for young filmmakers from all over the world: every three months, selected filmmakers are guests in our Filmmaker Residence in the Tower Room and are given the opportunity to work on their own projects and network with the local film scene.

The lighthouse project Gässli Film Festival, which takes place annually, shows national and international short films by emerging talents who are about to start their professional film careers or are just about to break through. As a non-profit event in the Basel region, the festival conveys cinematic fascination and backgrounds on filmmaking.

Seven prizes are awarded each year with a "Basil-Trophy" in various categories - with the targeted promotion of up-and-coming filmmakers on the agenda. In addition to the heart of the festival, the newcomer competitions, visitors also get the opportunity to get in touch with an inspiring personality from the film business.

In a familiar atmosphere, the Gässli Film Festival offers a culture of coming together without any pomp. Between films, between audiences and between Basel's old town alleys, the Gässli Film Festival becomes a lively meeting place every late summer.

Input 4

Media Education: How is Media Education built into the school systems and what role does YCN play? Presentation of results – *Robert Hinterleitner (YAAAS! Youth program Crossing Europe Filmfestival Linz)*

Online surveys have become an important tool for gathering information about different aspects of education, including media education. This short study, the results of which will be presented at the YCN meeting in March 2023, aims to examine the status quo of media education for 10-18 year old people in different European school systems, as well as the challenges and opportunities facing educators in this field.

The survey asks a range of questions, including: How much time is dedicated to media education in the curriculum? What are the main challenges faced by educators in teaching media education? What opportunities are there for students to learn about media? What types of media are being used in the classroom?

As a next step the results of the survey will be analyzed to identify trends and patterns in media education across different European school systems. The findings will be used to raise relevant questions for educators, such as: How can we improve media education in our schools? How can we ensure that students are equipped with the necessary skills to navigate the digital world? How can we ensure that media education is inclusive and accessible for all students? And in particular: what role can the YCN play in media education?

Overall, the online survey aims to provide insights into the current state of media education in Europe and to highlight the need for further research in this area.

Period of the online survey: January to March 2023

MEDIA EDUCATION: POTENTIAL OF VR IN MEDIA

Visit to the ZHdK and guided tour of the exhibition "Game Design Today" at the Museum für Gestaltung.

"Video games have swiftly gone from a niche product to a mass phenomenon. No longer serving merely for entertainment, games are now used across a variety of fields – from art to education to therapy. There are even video games that address pressing social issues such as diversity, climate change, migration, or the human/machine interface. The exhibition Game Design Today presents an overview of contemporary video game culture and a peek behind the scenes at the design processes involved in international productions. Visitors have the chance to try out various games and become inspired by the incredible array of characters, stories, and approaches." (Exhibition text on the website of the Museum für Gestaltung Zürich, musem-gestaltung.ch).



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

YCN Members:

Organization	Country
Media Education Centre – Danube Peace Boat E.U.R.O.P.E.	Serbia
Enimation	Slovenia
Croatian Film Association	Croatia
Four River Film Festival	Croatia
Cinema Club Karlovac	Croatia
Camera Zizanio	Greece
Film Factory	Slovenia
Werkstatt der Jungen Filmszene	Germany
YAAAS! (Youth program Crossing Europe Filmfestival Linz)	Austria
FiSH Filmfestival	Germany
Freelancer for BFI and Board of Directors for Fresh Film Festival	Ireland
NUFF	Norway
Novemberfestivalen	Sweden
Anim!Arte - International Student Animation Festival of Brazil	Brazil
Up-and-coming – Internationales Film Festival Hannover	Germany
Wicked Wales International Youth Film Festival	Wales
Emerging Limerick Filmmakers	Ireland
Film literacy department in Croatian Audiovisual Centre	Croatia
One Minute Film Festival	Poland
A-FilmTeensFest	Czech Republic
Schweizer Jugendfilmtage	Switzerland

Other participants:

Organization	Country
YOUKI	Austria
Zurich Film Festival	Switzerland
Filmkids	Switzerland
Gässli Film Festival	Switzerland
VFBbB	Switzerland

Festival Cinéma Jeune Public	Switzerland
Dachverein Die Zauberlaterne	Switzerland
Film, Form & Communication	Switzerland
ZHdK Film	Switzerland
Zuger Filmtage	Switzerland
Schule + Kultur, Bildungsdirektion Kanton Zürich	Switzerland
Roadmovie	Switzerland

