

59TH KARLOVY VARY INTERNATIONAL



FILM FESTIVAL JULY 4-12 2025

WWW.KVIFF.COM

Press Release
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Organizers of the 59th Karlovy Vary IFF thank to all partners which help to organize the festival.

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FINAL PRESS RELEASE

July 12th 2025

The 59th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, a non-specialized festival with two competitive categories, took place from July 4th to July 12th 2025. It was organized by Film Servis Festival Karlovy Vary, a.s., with Kryštof Mucha as the executive director, Karel Och as its artistic director and Petr Lintimer as the head of production. The 60th Karlovy Vary IFF will be held from July 3rd to July 11th 2026. On July 12th 2025, the festival's juries presented awards for the best films at the closing ceremony of the 59th Karlovy Vary IFF.

CRYSTAL GLOBE COMPETITION

CRYSTAL GLOBE JURY

Nicolas Celis

Babak Jalali

Jessica Kiang

Jiří Mádl

Tuva Novotny

GRAND PRIX – CRYSTAL GLOBE (25 000 USD)

The financial award is shared equally by the director and producers of the award-winning film.

Better Go Mad in the Wild / Raději zešítet v divočině

Directed by: Miro Remo

Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, 2025

Jury Statement:

A funny valentine to the fading art of being true to yourself, Miro Remo's delightfully inventive documentary is a portrait of bickering twin brothers who may live a weird, off-grid life on their dilapidated farm but who, in a world as mad as ours, actually might be the sanest people on earth. In the lifestyle it portrays but also in the filmmaking risks it takes and the raucously loving brotherhood it admires, *Better Go Mad in the Wild* feels like a gulp of fresh, woody



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air, or a quick dip in an outdoor pond, or a moment of contemplation as a cow chews on your beard. In short, it feels like being free.

SPECIAL JURY PRIZE (15 000 USD)

The financial award is shared equally by the director and producer of the award-winning film.

Bidad

Directed by: Soheil Beiraghi
Iran, 2025

Jury Statement:

Mirroring the bravery it takes to make such a film in Iran, writer-director Soheil Beiraghi's *Bidad* is just as courageous in its constantly unexpected narrative turns, as it careens through different genre terrains as energetically as it rolls through the different suburbs of Tehran. Morphing from social-injustice thriller into family melodrama into a triumph-over-adversity arc, it is most striking as a gonzo lovers-on-the-run romance, shot through with punk energy and spiky personality that ends on an ambivalent yet optimistic note — because where there's this much life, there's hope.

BEST DIRECTOR AWARD – EX-AEQUO

Vytautas Katkus for the film **The Visitor** / Svečias
Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, 2025

Nathan Ambrosioni for the film **Out of Love** / Les Enfants vont bien
France, 2025

Jury Statement:

By awarding two films that represent opposite ends of the spectrum in approach yet are each, individually, deeply impressive directorial statements, we deliver our ex-aequo Best Director decision as gesture of a faith in cinema's diversity: There are so many ways to be a great director.

Nathan Ambrosioni demonstrates a maturity, compassion and polish far beyond his years in the moving and beautifully crafted *Out of Love* in which a rich yet understated presentation



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that allows the terrific all-ages acting ensemble to deliver intensely felt, empathetic performances.

In his feature debut, Vytautas Katkus truly exploits the creative freedom that a director perhaps only ever properly enjoys with their first film, displaying an uncompromised, idiosyncratic vision that is both dazzlingly precise in its detail and dreamily peculiar as whole.

BEST ACTRESS AWARD

Pia Tjelta for the role in the film **Don't Call Me Mama** / Se meg

Directed by: Nina Knag

Norway, 2025

Jury Statement:

Pia gives a riveting and unsettling turn as a woman whose true nature is revealed to herself and to us only gradually, in this searing portrait of ego, fragility and the lies we tell ourselves about the kind of people we are, which is carried so lightly and yet so convincingly, on her shoulders.

BEST ACTOR AWARD

Àlex Brendemühl for the role in the film **When a River Becomes the Sea** / Quan un riu esdevé el mar

Directed by: Pere Vilà Barceló

Spain, 2025

Jury Statement:

As the father of a young woman who has been sexually assaulted, Àlex lends such grace and dignity to a man who knows he's helpless to heal his daughter's pain, but instead does the much harder and more heroic work of steadily, constantly loving her through the process of healing herself.

SPECIAL JURY MENTION

Kateřina Falbrov for the role in the film **Broken Voices** / Sbormistr

Directed by: Ondřej Provazník

Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, 2025



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Jury Statement:

Newcomer Kateřina gives a delicate, subtle performance that, appropriately, sings a lovely, clear song of brokenhearted sympathy for the many preyed-upon young girls that her character represents.

PRÁVO AUDIENCE AWARD

We've Got to Frame It! (a conversation with Jiří Bartoška in July 2021) / Musíme to zarámovat! (rozhovor s Jiřím Bartoškou v červenci 2021)

Directed by: Milan Kuchynka, Jakub Jurásek

Czech Republic, 2025



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PROXIMA COMPETITION

PROXIMA JURY

Yulia Evina Bhara

Noaz Deshe

Nelson Carlos De Los Santos Arias

Marissa Frobos

PROXIMA GRAND PRIX (15 000 USD)

The financial award is shared equally by the director and producers of the award-winning film.

Sand City / Balur Nogorite

Directed by: Mahde Hasan

Bangladesh, 2025

Jury Statement:

A realm unknown, where architecture breathes and silence screams. Time drips sideways in this fractured hourglass, and color spills like memory. In *Sand City*, cinema becomes a trembling map of the strange, abandoned, and intimate at the edge of sense.

PROXIMA SPECIAL JURY PRIZE (10 000 USD)

The financial award is shared equally by the director and producer of the award-winning film.

Forensics / Forenses

Directed by: Federico Atehortúa Arteaga

Colombia, 2025

Jury Statement:

For years, streaming giants have commodified Latin American stories of violence and have transformed them into consumable drama. Colombia and Mexico have become epicenters in a cynical economy built on pain, death, and disappearance.



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That's why we honor cinema that resists—small, imperfect, but brave. Films that decolonize the gaze and propose new paradigms, because the old ones justify colonial narratives and systems of exclusion, whose consequences are bodies silenced, erased, and disappeared into the void of war—never to return.

This award goes to a film that carries forward the tradition of swimming against the current of globalized violence—with truth, with ethics, and above all, with poetry.

SPECIAL MENTION

Before / After / Avant / Après

Directed by: Manoël Dupont

Belgium, 2025

Jury Statement:

Sometimes a film comes along that surprises you—not with spectacle, but with honesty. *Before / After* is one of those rare stories: simple, odd, and deeply human.

What begins the dream of a hair transplant in Turkey becomes a tender road movie and a fleeting love story without labels.

We celebrate its warmth, its humility with a voice that makes us laugh and feel.



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**CRYSTAL GLOBE FOR OUTSTANDING ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTION
TO WORLD CINEMA**

Stellan Skarsgård, Sweden

**FESTIVAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION TO CZECH
CINEMATOGRAPHY**

Jiří Brožek, Czech Republic

FESTIVAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Vicky Krieps, Luxembourg / Germany

Dakota Johnson, United States of America

Peter Sarsgaard, United States of America



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NON-STATUTORY AWARDS

THE ECUMENICAL JURY AWARD

Since 1994 the Ecumenical Jury has awarded films from the Crystal Globe Competition that display high artistic quality while questioning social, political ethical, and spiritual values. It promotes directors who emphasize the search for truth, justice, and hope in accordance with Christian Gospels.

THE ECUMENICAL JURY

Achim Forst

Rose Pacatte

Ida Tenglerová

GRAND PRIZE OF THE ECUMENICAL JURY

Rebuilding

Directed by: Max Walker-Silverman

USA, 2025

Jury Statement:

A quiet, divorced Colorado rancher who lost everything in a wildfire is relocated to an emergency relief camp with other displaced survivors. As these strangers come to know one another, each rediscovers hope through the creation of friendships, family bonds, and community connections.

With a delicate touch, the director explores themes of community, the blended family, profound human generosity, selflessness, mutuality and cooperation. This austere and visually striking film is a beautiful, life-affirming story that offers hope in the face of hardship, both personal and environmental.

COMMENDATION OF THE ECUMENICAL JURY

Cinema Jazireh

Directed by: Gözde Kural

Turkey, Iran, Bulgaria, Romania, 2025

Jury Statement:



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A woman, having survived her family's massacre under Taliban rule in Afghanistan, disguises herself as a man to locate her missing son.

The film, with its gritty cinematography and nuanced editing, deftly places contemporary global issues within the context of Leila's journey, such as war, oppression of women and the marginalized, religious fanaticism, gender, sex trafficking, and child abuse. The film is a testament to hope, resistance to tyranny, and the power of profoundly human networks working together. *Cinema Jazireh* has the exceptional potential to make the audience care about what is happening in the world.

EUROPA CINEMAS LABEL AWARD

Since 2003, the Europa Cinemas Label has been awarded to a European film by a jury of Europa Cinemas network exhibitors at five European festivals. It aims to increase the promotion, circulation and exhibition lifespan of winning films. The Europa Cinemas Label awards the best European film among those selected for the Crystal Globe Competition and the Proxima Competition.

EUROPA CINEMAS LABEL JURY

Daniel Krátký

Slavomíra Macáková

Wouter Timmermans

Sbormistr / Broken Voices

Directed by: Ondřej Provozník

Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, 2025

Jury Statement:

This was not an easy choice for us. We were impressed by the diverse field of powerful contenders in this year's competitions, but we finally agreed unanimously on a very strong film: Broken Voices.

The film's universal topic shows a very complex power structure within a competitive all-girl choir. Broken Voices illustrates very sensitively how the safe spaces for a girl can get poisoned.



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The young leading actress Kateřina Falbrová is so impressively nuanced in her debut as a spellbound young girl.

Shot on grainy 16mm, the director Ondřej Provasník lures the spectator into a comfortable nostalgic nineties setting only to slowly reveal a very sinister abuse of authority.

FIPRESCI AWARD

The International Federation of Film Critics Jury awards two FIPRESCI Prizes: to a film from the Crystal Globe Competition and a film from the Proxima Competition, for works that best promote film art and encourage new and young cinema.

FIPRESCI JURY

Helen Barlow

Ela Bittencourt

Bitopan Borborah

Patrick Fey

Lukáš Jirsa

Christos Skylakos

The FIPRESCI award for the best film in the Crystal Globe Competition

Out of Love / Les Enfants vont bien

Directed by: Nathan Ambrosioni

France, 2025

Jury Statement:

FIPRESCI is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and at the 59th Karlovy Vary Film Festival our jury has unanimously decided to award our prize in the Crystal Globe competition to the French film *Les Enfants vont bien (Out of Love)* directed by Nathan Ambrosioni. The 25-year-old writer-director shows his remarkable skill in working not only with adult actors but with children in examining fragile family relationships.

The FIPRESCI award for the best film in the Proxima Competition

Before / After / Avant / Après

Directed by: Manoël Dupont

Belgium, 2025



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Jury Statement:

We award the FIPRESCI prize for Proxima Competition to Manoël Dupont's *Before / After* for its unfeigned exploration of a relationship as fractured and ambiguous as the cinematic travelogue that captures it. Through its hybrid aesthetics, the filmmaker grants the narrative an openness to question how the real interferes with fiction, and to prod the notion of character in cinema as knowable. The film depicts the homoerotic bond with humor and tenderness, while also placing its Western protagonists in the context of orientalism and socioeconomic privilege.



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KVIFF EASTERN PROMISES WINNERS

**KVIFF CENTRAL STAGE, WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT – FEATURE LAUNCH &
FOCUS QUEER, WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT – KVIFF TALENTS AT KV IFF 2025**

KVIFF Eastern Promises, the festival film market, showcased 40 film and series projects across 5 programmes this year.

KVIFF & MIDPOINT DEVELOPMENT AWARD (10,000 EUR)

JURY

Danijel Hočevar

Martin Horyna

Egle Vertelyte

History of Illness / Povijest bolesti

Director: David Gašo

Croatia

EURIMAGES CO-PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT AWARD (20,000 EUR)

JURY

Josef Kullengård

Ilse Ronteltap

Zuzana Mistríková

Battalion Records / Măinile Sus!

Director: Ștefan Bîtu-Tudoran

Romania

EURIMAGES SPECIAL CO-PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT AWARD (20,000 EUR)

In Vacuo / Vacuum

Director: Yelizaveta Smith

Ukraine, Germany



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CONNECTING COTTBUS AWARD

JURY

Marjorie Bendeck

Katharina Stumm

RadioAmateur / RadioAmator

Director: Tomasz Habowski

Poland

ROTTERDAM LAB AWARD

JURY

Facundo Lema

Ondřej Lukeš, producer of **Restless** / Neklid, Czech Republic

MARCHÉ DU FILM PRODUCERS NETWORK AWARD

JURY

Yago Mateo

Michelle Brøndum Hauerbach, producer of **Soyboy**, Great Britain

Genová Petrovits, producer of **Democracy: Work In Progress** / Hajtúkanyar

Autósiskola, Hungary, Czech Republic, Germany

WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT – KVIFF TALENTS

[KVIFF Talents](http://www.kviff.com) is the festival's year-long programme created with the purpose of seeking out and supporting talented Czech and Slovak filmmakers and innovative audiovisual genres. It consists of two distinct sections – Feature Pool, dedicated to feature films, and Creative Pool, which supports other audiovisual genres from series through videoclips, gaming etc.



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This year, from over 200 submitted projects, the KVIFF curators chose 6 – three feature film concepts and three series concepts. The selected creators and creative teams presented their projects to local and international film professionals during the Industry Days. They will also receive financial support for scriptwriting, mentoring, the opportunity to create a proof-of-concept video, consultations with experts, and for feature film authors also creative residency in Karlovy Vary this fall.

Feature Pool (120,000 CZK for further development):

Nameless / Nepojmenovaná

Director and animator: Daria Kascheeva

Czech Republic

Spirit Moose / Spirit Moose

Director: Tomáš Klein

Slovakia, Czech Republic

Burnout / Vyhoření

Director: Greta Stocklassa

Czech Republic

Creative Pool (50,000 CZK for further development):

Mould / Plíseň

Director and animator: Phillippe Kastner

Czech Republic

Lost Boys / Lost Boys

Director: Dužan Duong

Czech Republic

Remake / Rymek

Director: Kateřina Letáková

Czech Republic

This year's KVIFF Talents showcase also offered the presentation opportunity to one guest project from a Hungarian program that serves as the counterpart to KVIFF Talents: Cine-Collegium Budapest, an independent film funding initiative launched under the umbrella of the Budapest International Film Festival:



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A Siege / Ostrom

Director: István Kovács

Hungary

INDUSTRY DAYS PARTNERS

KVIFF Industry Days are supported by the PPF Foundation and CME

Media partner of KVIFF Eastern Promises: Deadline

Partners of KVIFF Central Stage: Czech Film Center, German Films, Polish Film Institute, Slovenian Film Centre, Slovak Film Institute, Soundsquare, Ukrainian Institute, UPP

Partners of KVIFF Talents: The ČEZ Foundation, Oneplay. Media partner: Forbes

Partners:

ACE Producers

Audiovisual Producers' Association

ARAS – Association of Czech Film Directors, Screenwriters and Script Editors

Barrandov Studio

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Czechia Frankfurt Book Fair Guest of Honour 2026

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MIDPOINT Institute

Ministry of Culture Czech Republic

Marché du Film Producers Network

Slovak Audiovisual Fund

Slovak Film Institute



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Czech Audiovisual Fund
Tatino Films



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STATISTICS OF THE 59th KARLOVY VARY IFF 2025

The 59th Karlovy Vary IFF 2025 was attended by 9 949 accredited visitors. Of that number 7 926 had Festival Passes, 411 were filmmakers, 1 055 accredited film professionals, and 557 journalists.

There were a total of 465 film screenings and total of 128 133 tickets were sold. A total of 175 films were screened, including 108 feature fiction films, 23 feature documentaries and 44 short films. 36 films received their world premiere, while 5 had their international premiere and 5 their European premiere. 156 screenings were personally presented by delegations of filmmakers. 89 Press & Industry screenings were held.

A total of 1055 film producers, film buyers, film sellers, distributors, film festival programmers, representatives of film institutions, and other film professionals were accredited. 494 accredited film professionals came to the festival from abroad.

A total of 40 films and projects in development or production across 5 platforms were showcased to a total of 103 buyers and distributors and 115 film festival programmers.

FESTIVAL PARTNERSHIP CONTRACTS EXTENDED

During the 59th edition of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, contracts were signed to extend cooperation with several festival partners, securing support for the coming years. Prior to the start of the festival, a memorandum of support was signed with **the Ministry of Culture Czech Republic**, which increased its contribution for this year's edition as well as for future ones. The Karlovy Vary festival is also made possible thanks to the support of the **City of Karlovy Vary** and the **Karlovy Vary Region**, both of which are major partners of the festival. These two institutions have also increased their financial contributions.



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ORGANIZER OF THE 59TH KARLOVY VARY IFF 2025

Film Servis Festival Karlovy Vary, a.s.

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Karel Och

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Petr Lintimer

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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TRAILERS DIRECTORS

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DESIGN

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