



**5<sup>TH</sup> FILM FESTIVAL** **MAGIC**

**9-11 SEP.** **BERN**  
CINEMATTE

**12-14 SEP.** **MEIRINGEN**  
KINO MEIRINGEN

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# ETHNOKINO

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## FESTIVAL COMMITTEE:

**Eda Elif Tibet** (Global Curator & Director), **Kai Matthiesen** (Visual Identity & Graphic Design),

**Senol Sen** (Audio-Visual Documentation), **Muziwanele Ngwenya** (Website),

**Aashish Xaxa** (Curator India), **Jorge Grez** (Curator UMAG TV)

# MAGIC

## 5TH FILM FESTIVAL

### 5th EthnoKino Film Festival “Magic”: A Cinematic Pluriverse into the Extraordinary

This year, the 5th edition of the EthnoKino Film Festival embarks on a cinematic journey into the theme of “Magic”, opening its portals in Bern and Meiringen, two Swiss locales steeped in myth, memory, and alpine mystique. Nestled between the heart of the capital and the dramatic landscapes of the Hasli Valley; home to legends of dragons, wild women, and elemental spirit, the festival invites audiences to explore the invisible threads that connect worlds seen and unseen.

With films arriving from across the globe from the Tundras, the Amazon, and the Australian deserts to the cosmic realms and the Ladakhi Himalayas to India, this year also features a special focus: **“An Inquiry into the Pluriverse.”** Supported by the Swiss Leading House South Asia, this curatorial thread highlights indigenous filmmakers and visionary works from India, inviting audiences to engage with diverse cosmologies and ways of knowing.

Previously, from May to August, EthnoKino spread its wings to the caves of Cappadocia, where filmmakers from around the world gathered to rediscover the meaning of heritage, magic and mythology. It busked through the bohemian streets of Cluj-Napoca, Romania’s cultural capital, and offered a unique opportunity to a select group of filmmakers during an inspiring retreat held in Ascona alongside the Locarno Film Festival. Their works were celebrated during a red-carpet award ceremony in partnership with the 2291 Foundation.

Through the lens of ethnographic cinema, the festival explores how the magical manifests across cultures in ancestral rituals, sacred landscapes, ecological imaginations, and acts of spiritual resistance. From remote shamanic ceremonies to everyday enchantments hidden in urban life, EthnoKino curates a powerful lineup of films and discussions that reveal the symbolic, the surreal, and the sacred woven into the human experience.

EthnoKino’s Bern and Meiringen edition carries us to become more than a film festival it is a portal for storytelling that bridges mythmaking, magic and meaning, offering a space for wonder, dialogue, and deep reflection in times of transformation.

# BERN

## TU 9 SEPT

19:00 **Opening:**

**Nature Attack** (5')  
**Ngurrawana** (3')

**Introductory Welcome** by  
Dr. Eda Elif Tibet

**Vision Talk** (15')  
The Future of Indigenous  
Peoples Cinema  
by Prof. Aashish Xaxa

20:00 **Ningwasum** (45')

21:00 **Vision Talk** by Dinero Ash  
with Musical Performance

21:30 **Cosmographies** (93')  
Q&A with Juan Francisco Salazar

## 9-11 SEPT

Venue Bern:

**Cinematte**  
Wasserwerksgasse 7,  
3011 Bern, Switzerland  
cinematte.ch

## WE 10 SEPT

18:00 **Home Sick** (8')

**Exist** (3)  
**Radhika** (5)  
**Guardians of Water** (5)

**Masters in Bern** with  
Prof. Ton Otto

19:00 **ADE** (17')  
Q&A with Theja Rio

**Only if the Baby Cries** (16')  
Q&A with Shadab Farooq  
& Sahib Goni

20:00 **Aabua Paika Kabu Bageya** (26')  
Q&A with Sneha Mundari

**Guru Padmasambhava**-The  
Second Buddha (30')  
Q&A with Aparna Sanyal

22:00 **EthnoKino Special Party**

## 12-14 SEPT

Venue Meiringen:

**Kino Meiringen**  
Kirchgasse 7  
Meiringen  
kino-meiringen.ch

## TH 11 SEPT

19:00 **Tapajós Ameaçado** (26')  
followed by a Q&A with Julia  
Büsser / Society for  
Threatened Peoples (gfbv)

20:00 **Eskawata Kayawai** (45'),

21:00 **Oslo : A Tale of Promise** (90')

## FR 12 SEPT

14:00 **DOC IMPACT LAB**

Mov(i)ement Fellows  
Recognizing the Pluriverse  
Workshop 1  
(with registration)

20:00 **ALBIN BRUN QUARTETT**  
KINO MEIRINGEN 80<sup>TH</sup>  
BIRTHDAY SPECIAL CONCERT

## SA 13 SEPT

09:00 **EXCURSION**

Trekking Magic Glacier  
Meiringen  
(with registration)

18:00 **APERÓ**

19:00 **Hang Drum Recital**  
by Dinero Ash

**Vision Talk**  
Glaciers: Water Reservoirs  
or Sacred Ancestors?  
by Dr. Natalie Caperley

**The Glacier Wedding** (26')

20:30 **Made in Paradise** (45')  
Q&A with Aniruddha Das

## SO 14 SEPT

14:00 **DOC IMPACT LAB**

Mov(i)ement Fellows  
Future of Indigenous Cinema  
Workshop 2  
(with registration)

18:00 **Tundra within Me**  
Roundtable with  
EthnoKino

For all other country screenings  
and venues, refer to our website:  
[www.ethnokino.com](http://www.ethnokino.com)

Ticketing and reservations:  
**Cinematte** and **Kino Meiringen**



MADE IN PARADISE



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## The Territory of Puloui

A documentary film that explores the deep and complex relationship between the indigenous Wayuu community and water.

**Director(s):** Carmela Daza, Maik Gleitsmann-Frohriep

**Running Time:** 1hr 22min 7sec

**Genre(s):** Non-Fiction / Documentary

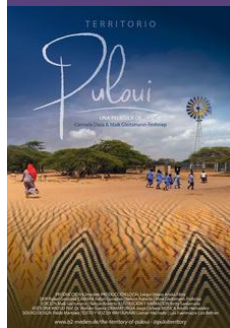
**Production Year:** 2024

**Production Locale:** Germany

**Language:** Spanish, Wayuu



**\*Cluj Napoca and Cappadocia Screenings.**



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## Cosmographies

A hybrid film that draws from modes of speculative fiction, observational and poetic documentary, activism, and Indigqueer approaches.

**Director(s):** Juan Francisco Salazar

**Running Time:** 1hr 33 mins 45 sec

**Genre(s):** Documentary, Speculative fiction

**Production Year:** 2024

**Production Locale:** Australia

**Language:** English, Maori, Spanish



**\*Bern Screening.**

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## Made In Paradise

Tells the story of the Changpa nomads, guardians of the world's finest Pashmina. A testament to human resilience and perseverance, the film highlights the community's immense respect for the environment, and its attempt to protect a rich heritage and culture.

**Director(s):** Aniruddha Das

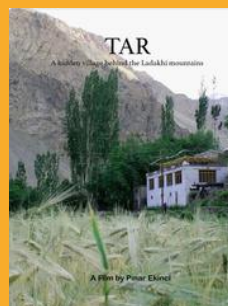
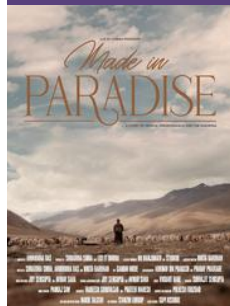
**Running Time:** 44mins 35sec

**Genre(s):** Expository, Participatory

**Production Year:** 2024

**Production Locale:** India

**Language:** English, Hindi, Tibetan  
with English & German Subtitles



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## TAR

In the remote village of Tar, nestled within the rugged Ladakhi mountains, 70-year-old Tsering reflects on the life he once knew, filled with self-sufficiency and community, as he grapples with the profound changes brought by globalization.

**Director(s):** Pinar Ekinci

**Running Time:** 14mins 17sec

**Genre(s):** Documentary, Student

**Production Year:** 2025

**Production Locale:** Turkey

**Language:** English



**\*Cluj Napoca and Cappadocia Screenings.**

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**\*Meiringen Screening.**

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## The Other Side of the Mountain

Filmmaker Shirley Yumeng He, follows her father, an artist, in search of his childhood home in Southwestern China, fulfilling a wish of his aging mother. Changed by the tides of history, the streets are unrecognizable. Father and daughter meander through time, contemplating what it means to see and make images.

**Director(s):** Shirley Yumeng He  
**Running Time:** 19mins 58sec  
**Genre(s):** Documentary, Short, Student  
**Production Year:** 2024  
**Production Locale:** United States  
**Language:** Mandarin Chinese



**\*Cluj Napoca Screening.**



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## Ngurrawana

Yindjibarndi man Wimiya Woodley takes us on an immersive journey of self discovery back to his homelands. Originally established by his grandfather Woodley King, Ngurrawaana was set up as a place of rejuvenation and recovery for Yindjibarndi people who had lost their way. Wimiya shows us how being back on country helps his people find their spirit and power amongst their ancestors.

**Director(s):** - Kieran Satour  
**Running Time:** - 2min 55sec  
**Genre(s):** - Indigenous, Poetry, First Nations, First Peoples  
**Production Year:** - 2023  
**Production Locale:** - Australia  
**Language:** - English



**\*Bern Screening.**



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## City on the Back

María and Isabel are women in their fifties who, like many others, recycle in Quito, where there is no recycling system. Maria leads a collective fight for basic labor rights; Isabel passes on her knowledge of environmental care while raising her daughters. They walk the streets with recycling material on their backs, generating a better future for themselves and for the city.

**Director(s):** Fadia Paola Rodas Ziade  
**Running Time:** 1hr 16mins  
**Genre(s):** Human Rights, Labor rights, Women, Environmental  
**Production Year:** 2023  
**Production Locale:** Ecuador  
**Language:** Spanish



**\*Cluj Napoca Screening.**

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## Kwatye urrewé

kwatye urrewé is a collaboration between GARUWA and Running Water Community Press, tracing the stories of five poets: Be transported to the heart of the desert with Marie Elena Ellis (Arrernte and Warlpiri) as she sings to the beautiful, ancient Country where she grew up in Inteye Arrkwe (Ross River).

**Director(s):** Kieran Mpetyane Satour  
**Running Time:** 15mins 1sec  
**Genre(s):** Poetry, First Nations  
**Production Year:** 2024  
**Production Locale:** Australia  
**Language:** English

**\*Cluj Napoca Screening.**



## Oslo: A Tail of Promise

Oslo - A Tail of Promise is a true story. The film runs in non-linear style and intricately weaves the stories of people, journeys, longing, loss, grief, love, courage and surrender. Pooja had the revelation to make this film during a stifling highway traffic jam in the northern plains of India. As she rolled down the window, letting Oslo, a Siberian husky peek out, the tense atmosphere around transformed into wonder. Everyone stuck in the jam was astonished and smiling. She knew at that moment that Oslo's story had to be told.

**Director(s):** Isha Pungaliya  
**Running Time:** 1hr 33mins 53sec  
**Genre(s):** Documentary, Feature  
**Production Year:** 2024  
**Production Locale:** India  
**Language:** English, Hindi, Marathi



**\*Bern Screening.**



## The Tundra Within Me

After living for many years in Oslo, Lena moves back to Sápmi in Northern Norway with her young son to explore Sami gender in an art project. While researching in the wintry tundra, she falls in love with reindeer herder Máhtte - whose mother, the head of the family, disapproves of the relationship. As decisions from the past come to haunt her, Lena struggles to find out whether her and Máhtte's lifestyles can ever be compatible.

**Director(s):** Sara Margrethe Oskal  
**Running Time:** 1hr 35mins  
**Genre(s):** Romance, Drama  
**Production Year:** 2023  
**Production Locale:** Norway  
**Language:** Norwegian  
with English & German Subtitles



**\*Meiringen Screening.**



## Nature Attack

A bird decides to hunt crickets, but his crossing will be more complicated than expected.

Un oiseau décide de chasser les grillons, mais sa traversée sera plus compliquée que prévu.

**Director(s):** Erik Semashkin  
**Running Time:** 3mins 15sec  
**Genre(s):** Drama, humor, ecology, Ukraine, pollution  
**Production Year:** 2023  
**Production Locale:** France  
**Language:** No Dialogue



**\*Cappadocia and Bern Screenings.**

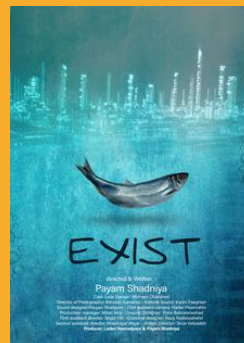
## Exist

She is a mother and a fisherwoman. She sells fish to provide money for her disabled boy.

**Director(s):** Payam Shadnīya  
**Running Time:** 4mins 48sec  
**Genre(s):** Experimental, Student, Short  
**Production Year:** 2023  
**Production Locale:** Iran, Islamic Republic of  
**Language:** English



**\*Bern Screening.**



## Eskawata Kayawai: The Spirit of Transformation

In the heart of the Amazon Rainforest, the Huni Kuin people are undergoing a profound renaissance of their identity. After enduring decades of slavery, massacres, and cultural suppression, their resurgence began in 2000. Two decades later, they're thriving at a cultural peak, rediscovering and embracing their true heritage.

**Director(s):** Lara Jacoski, Patrick Dequech Belem

**Running Time:** 1hr 10mins 26sec

**Genre(s):** Documentary, Feature

**Production Year:** 2023

**Production Locale:** Brazil

**Language:** English, Portuguese, Spanish



**\*Bern Screening.**



## Only if the Baby Cries...

In the world's only deaf-mute village where silence reigns, tension mounts as Misra Khatoon approaches childbirth. The villagers surround her home and beat drums seeking a response from the newborn.

**Director(s):** Shadab Farooq

**Running Time:** 14 mins 58 sec

**Genre(s):** Documentary, Short

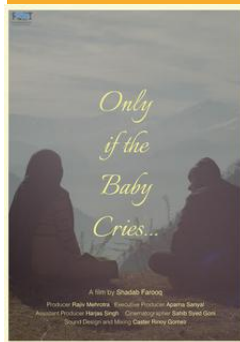
**Production Year:** 2024

**Production Locale:** India

**Language:** No Dialogue



**\*Bern Screening.**



## Hanina/Homesick: “Home is a place inside us”

A young Nubian girl embarks on a journey back in time to reconnect with her drowned homeland. Guided by the Nile egret, she travels underwater within the lake created by Egypt's Aswan High Dam to visit Nubia's mountains and palm trees, water wheels and houses, men and women. She bids farewell to her people as they board the boats that will take them to their resettlement villages. Returning to her own time, she carries the strength of knowing that Nubia will always live on inside her.

**Director(s):** Yasmin Moll

**Running Time:** 7mins 50sec

**Genre(s):** Animation, Experimental, Short

**Production Year:** 2023

**Production Locale:** United States

**Language:** No Dialogue



**\*Bern Screening.**

## Guru Padmasambhava- The Second Buddha

Traversing centuries of Tibetan Buddhist lore, this film brings to life the fascinating story of Guru Padmasambhava – one of the greatest Buddhist teachers from the Indian sub-continent. Also referred to as Guru Rinpoche, he is credited with establishing the Buddha Dharma in Tibet in the 8th century, as well as initiating the 'Nyingma Lineage', that continues to be acknowledged as the oldest school of Buddhism to still be followed in the Himalayan regions of present-day Pakistan, India, Bhutan, Nepal and Mongolia.

**Director(s):** Aparna Sanyal

**Running Time:** 29 mins 49 sec

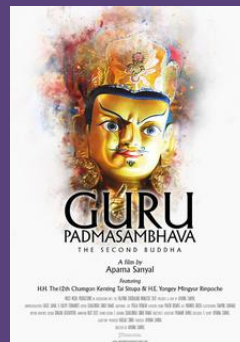
**Genre(s):** Documentary

**Production Year:** 2024

**Production Locale:** India

**Language:** English

**\*Bern Screening.**

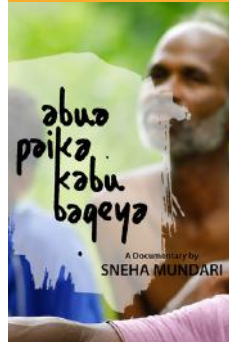




## Aabua Paika Kabu Bageya: We won't let go off, our Paika!

This film is about a martial art danceform. More than a medium of entertainment, it has a social significance as it commemorates and has preserved historical incidences, struggle and triumph of the Munda indigenous community in the artform.

**Director(s):** Sneha Mundari  
**Running Time:** 26mins 12sec  
**Genre(s):** Documentary  
**Production Year:** 2020  
**Production Locale:** India  
**Language:** Mundari (with English subtitles)



**\*Bern Screening.**

## ADE (ON A SUNDAY)

A coming-of-age short film that explores a young boy's initial brush with the complexities of the adult world.

**Director(s):** Theja Rio  
**Running Time:** 17 mins  
**Genre(s):** Coming of Age/Drama  
**Production Year:** 2023  
**Production Locale:** India  
**Language:** Tenyidie(Local Language)



**\*Bern Screening.**



## Ningwasum: Memory

Ningwasum which roughly translates to 'memory' in Yakthung language, is a Yakthung science fiction video work that imagines a future from an Indigenous perspective where Indigenous Nations have agency, sovereignty and advanced technology. The story follows two time-travellers, Miksam and Mingsoma, who travel from a future Indigenous Yakthung Nation to our current timeline.

**Director(s):** Subash Thebe Limbu  
**Running Time:** 44 mins 26 sec  
**Genre(s):** Science Fiction  
**Production Year:** 2021  
**Production Locale:** Nepal  
**Language:** Yakthung



**\*Bern Screening.**



## Tapajos Ameacado

The indigenous people that inhabit the region of the Tapajós River, in the Brazilian Amazon, are being threatened. Major infrastructure projects such as railroads, waterways, agribusiness and mining are being developed in the region as part of the expanding of international capital over the forest.

**Director(s):** Thomaz Pedro  
**Running Time:** - 26 mins  
**Genre(s):** - Documentary  
**Production Year:** - 2021  
**Production Locale:** - Brazil  
**Language:** - Portuguese



**\*Bern Screening.**

## Replikaa

Replikaaa is a silent, award-winning sci-fi short film that immerses the viewer in a stylized future, where six traffickers exploit human desire and vulnerability—across genetics, antiquities, organs, biochemicals, precious stones, and digital identity. Blending performance, choreography, and visual art, the film explores the commodification of the body and the ethical collapse at the frontier of technology, war, and greed.

**Director(s):** Tayeb Al-Hafez  
**Running Time:** 15 mins 4sec  
**Genre(s):** Short film  
**Production Year:** 2010  
**Production Locale:** USA  
**Language:** Silent



**\*Cappadocia Screening.**



## Jorge da Capadócia

Story revolves around the life of Saint George also known as George of Lydda. He was an early Christian martyr and is venerated as a saint in Christian faith.

**Director(s):** Alexandre Machafer  
**Running Time:** 1 hr 59 mins  
**Genre(s):** Action, Drama, History  
**Production Year:** 2024  
**Production Locale:** Brazil  
**Language:** Portuguese

**\*Cappadocia Screening.**



## Cacique Mulato

Mulato (Chumjaluwun), grows up observing the advance of the whites and the dominion of the lands he inhabits, he becomes a Cacique (Tribal Chief). The territory is divided into frontiers and the foreigners show their intentions.

**Director(s):** Jorge Grez  
**Running Time:** - 1hr 30min  
**Genre(s):** History, Western, Fiction  
**Production Year:** - 2023  
**Production Locale:** - Chile  
**Language:** - Spanish



**\*Cappadocia Screening.**



## The Glacier Wedding

In the northeastern mountains of Pakistan, a group of researchers aid a small farming community to revive the "Glacier Wedding" — an ancient practice to seed a new glacier just as rising temperatures threaten traditional ways of life." The film showcases a symbolic "marriage" of two types of ice: the white, translucent glacier, referred to as the "female," and the darker, permafrost-rich ice known as the "male."

**Director(s):** Amin Muhammad, Thomas Sawano  
**Running Time:** - 26 mins  
**Genre(s):** - Documentary  
**Production Year:** - 2025  
**Production Locale:** - USA  
**Language:** - English & German Subtitles.

**\*Meiringen Screening.**





THE TERRITORY OF PULOI

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## Prof. Aashish Xaxa

### The Future of Indigenous Peoples Cinema

Oral histories and cinema. Mediums separated by a time frame. Imagine once they are merged. Cinema which began as a vaudeville attraction has emerged in the last century as the biggest audio-visual medium of expression. It has spanned cultures, societies and touched millions of lives. A critical point to be noted is the depiction of Indigenous Peoples in cinema. Most depictions across various countries have stereotyped them as backward, savages, primitive, very much steeped in colonial anthropological tropes. However, such depictions have been challenged in the last 20 years or so. Thanks to technological advancement, Indigenous filmmakers are increasingly making their own films, sharing their own stories and challenging age-old stereotypes. The future of Indigenous Peoples Cinema has the potential to shine as a beacon of cultural sovereignty, creative empowerment, and global resonance. They can weave narratives that honor ancestral wisdom, reclaim histories, and imagine bold futures. This talk will explore how Indigenous filmmakers can not only shape the screen but also redefine the very essence of global cinema, fostering a world that sees, hears, and celebrates the richness of Indigenous perspectives.



**VISION  
TALKS**

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## Prof. Ton Otto

### The Magic of Film and Exhibition Making when Dealing with Death

Death remains one of the universal enigmas of human life. What happens after our biological demise? What kinds of afterlife are imaginable? How do we continue to relate to our dead loved ones? In many cultures magic and ritual are used to tame the fear of dying, to postpone death or to inflict it, and to make the transition to another world possible. I am interested to study how people in different cultures deal with the enigma of death and I wish to share my insights with a wide audience. Like many others, I observe that people in modern secularized societies often have problems dealing with death and see it as the enemy to be defeated rather than a part of life to be carefully attended to. I believe that listening to and trying to understand other cultural worlds will have a positive influence for all involved. In order to have an impact with my research I use the modern magic of two powerful media of communication: film and exhibition making. In this masterclass I discuss and compare two recent productions, the exhibition *The lives of the dead* (Moesgaard Museum 2014-2023) and the film *On behalf of the living* (DER 2025), to find out how we can cast a spell by immersive, sensory, participative and interventionist methods.



**MASTERS  
IN BERN**



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## Dr. Natalie Ceperly

### Glaciers: Water Reservoirs or Sacred Ancestors?

Glaciers are frozen water; their ice is a planetary time machine that delays the journey of precipitation to streamflow by centuries, from what might take hours without them. As a hydrologist, I've understood glaciers as reservoirs of water and energy, but they capture so much more- pollution, artifacts, and even life. They are the ancestors who carved the landscape we know. In this talk, I weave science with spirit to explore both the glacial hydrological resource and reflect on the living glacier with an identity, rights, and wisdom of its own. Glaciers around the world have irreversibly shrunk this and recent years. How will we honor their melt? What can they teach us? What can we preserve?



**VISION  
TALKS**

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## Dinero Ash

### The Magic of D'Club and What's not to Love

Dinero Ash is an established Indian artist known for his unique blend of hip-hop and old school Bollywood songs, captivating audiences with his powerful lyrics and catchy melodies. Hailing from New Delhi, he has rapidly gained recognition in the music industry for his distinctive style and compelling storytelling. His music journey began at a moment when he realised he was able to play any instrument particularly drums at ease, influenced by a diverse range of genres and artists, which helped him develop a sound that resonates with many. Dinero Ash's debut single "Dilli Hai" received critical acclaim and showcased his lyrical prowess, earning him a loyal fanbase. Over the years, he has released several successful tracks and collaborated with notable artists like the Apache Indian "Rise Up", "Freedom", further establishing his presence in the music scene. His achievements include notable awards, reflecting his talent. In addition to his music, Dinero Ash is also involved in various philanthropic efforts and his acclaimed social project the D'Club, using a drumming collective as a platform to give back to the community. With a growing discography and a commitment to his craft, Dinero Ash is poised to make a lasting impact on the music industry where he shares the magic behind all of this hard work.



**VISION  
TALKS**



THE TUNDRA WITHIN ME

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## ALBIN BRUN QUARTETT

### KINO MEIRINGEN 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY SPECIAL CONCERT



Fr., 12. Sept. // Tickets at the door // Kino Meiringen

Musik Albin Brun (Schwyzerörgeli, Sopransax), Patricia Draeger (Akkordeon), Claudio Strebel (Kontrabass), Markus Lauterburg Schlagzeug (Perkussion)

“It’s a feeling like homesickness and wanderlust at the same time. When everything seems to be in balance and yet a longing suddenly flickers up. An imaginary place where the familiar and the foreign touch each other. That’s what gives Brun’s sound its personal color.” Original compositions beyond all conventional categories—rooted somewhere in the borderlands of jazz, imaginary folk music, and improvisation—are brought to life here by four distinct personalities. Their immense experience merges with exuberant joy of playing.

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## WORKSHOP 1: RECOGNISING THE PLURIVERSE

with Dr.Eda Elif Tibet & Prof.Aashish Xaxa

This workshop invites participants to explore the concept of the pluriverse—a world in which many worlds fit—by engaging with diverse epistemologies, cosmologies, and ways of being. Through dialogue, storytelling, and critical reflection, we will examine how indigenous, local, and marginalized perspectives challenge dominant worldviews and open up possibilities for more just and sustainable futures.

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## WORKSHOP 2: THE FUTURE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CINEMA

with Dr.Eda Elif Tibet & Prof.Aashish Xaxa

This workshop examines the emerging landscape of Indigenous Peoples’ cinema as a powerful medium for cultural expression, resistance, and renewal. Participants will explore how Indigenous filmmakers use storytelling to preserve heritage, challenge stereotypes, and envision alternative futures.





# ASCONA FIREFLIES IMPACT FILMS RETREAT

In the twilight hush of Ascona, where the lake mirrors the sky and the mountains hold ancient dreams, the fireflies appear as tiny beacons of memory and possibility. Each flicker a whisper of a story, a signal in the dark, a call to gather.

Just as fireflies pulse in rhythm soft, luminous, fleeting so too have changemakers come to Ascona over generations. Artists, philosophers, rebels, and visionaries once walked these very paths. They met under the same stars, imagining more just, more beautiful worlds. Their ideas glowed briefly but brightly igniting movements, challenging power, and inspiring others to carry their light further.

The fireflies remind us: small lights, when together, become constellations of impact. And so, the Impact Stories Ascona Retreat becomes part of this living legacy. Here, stories of justice and transformation aren't only told they are felt, embodied, and set alight. Like fireflies, the participants carry sparks of change, lighting the way forward not in grand flashes, but in humble, luminous acts.

Ascona, a sanctuary of nature and history, watches on quietly. And the fireflies? They bear witness again dancing through the night, reminding us that transformation is not only possible, but already unfolding, one light at a time.

The retreat culminates with a film screening and Award ceremony event and a red carpet runway during the Locarno Film Festival.



Christian Hauselmann



Eda Elif Tibet



**ETHNOKINO**



# ASCONA FIREFLIES RETREAT

## Mov(i)ement Fellows Impact Films

### Guardians of Water

A documentary film that explores the deep and complex relationship between the indigenous Wayuu community and water.

**Director(s):** Carmela Daza, Malk Gleitsmann-Frohrip

**Running Time:** 5 mins

**Genre(s):** Non-Fiction / Documentary

**Production Year:** 2025

**Production Locale:** Germany

**Language:** Spanish, Wayuu



### RADHIKA

Once every 12 years, when Jupiter is in Taurus and the Sun is in Capricorn, the sacred riverbanks of Prayagraj become the stage for the world's largest spiritual gathering, Maha Kumbh Mela. Millions of pilgrims arrive, seeking purification, connection, and enlightenment. Amid this ocean of humanity, a filmmaker encounters Radhika, a young trans whose innocence and devotion leaves a deep impression on her. But just as suddenly as she appears, she vanishes into the vast crowd.

**Director(s):** - Pinar Ekinci

**Running Time:** - 5 mins

**Genre(s):** - Documentary

**Production Year:** - 2025

**Production Locale:** - India

**Language:** Hindi with English Subtitles.



# DOC IMPACT LAB CALL 2026

# IMPACTLAB



EthnoKino launches a mentoring and fellowship programme in the form of a Doc Impact Lab, for short and feature films that are visionary in the widest sense of the word and are concerned with identifying and addressing contemporary global issues by supporting and building movements and alliances.

Submit your application to  
[ethnokino.unibera@gmail.com](mailto:ethnokino.unibera@gmail.com)!

The lab aims to assist emerging filmmakers and storytellers as Mov(i)ement fellows from around the world to ideate, develop and complete a draft of their original film screenplay and to design their impact with the guidance of experienced mentors. The online Lab then culminate in an in person meeting at the Ascona Fireflies Retreat during the Locarno Film Festival each year.

\*Screenings in Kaleido Retreat, Locarno, Cappadocia and Bern.

# Locarno Film Festival



RED CARPET PARADE WITH SCHWEIZ 2291,  
ETHNOKINO & BLUE ARBOR FOUNDATION

## GALA APERO BY BABA FOOD

Date: 13 September,

Hour: 18PM, Opening Festival, Kino Meiringen



Baba Food, a brand of Ali Baba Bern restaurant across the Unitobler in Länggasse, is our foremost loyal catering sponsor. Once again offers generous finger food by bringing the freshness and breeze of the Mediterranean cuisine prepared from the harvest of local farmers and modern day hobby garden holders of Bern, this time to the Alps of Meiringen.

[www.alibaba-bern.ch](http://www.alibaba-bern.ch)



**ETHNOKINO CAPPADOCIA**  
**RED KILIM CARPET RUNWAY**





INFOS: [ETHNOKINO.COM](http://ETHNOKINO.COM)