



Vienna, September 2023

FREERIDE FILM FESTIVAL – Media Release

Keywords: Freeride Film Festival, Film Tour, Cinema, Ski Film, Snowboard Film, Sports, Skiing, Snowboarding, Deep Powder, Big Mountain, Freestyle, Urban Skiing, Storytelling, Arthouse Cinema

<https://freeride-filmfestival.com/en/>

Freeride Film Festival 2023: All in – Action, Femininity, Art, Passion

FFF Prime Tour: November 3–18, 2023, in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland

FFF Cinema Edition: starting November 19, 2023, in approximately 50 theaters in AUT, GER and SUI as well as Italy, Slovakia, and the Benelux countries

This year, the Freeride Film Festival (FFF) is set to reach even more people. In addition to the well-established PRIME TOUR from November 3 to 18, 2023, the CINEMA EDITION will expand to around 50 cinemas across Europe. The program, under the theme "FOREVER RIDE," covers a wide spectrum: from hardcore ski action and the female cycle to playful dystopia and wordless beauty, from arctic adventures to a snowboard film about the magic of turning.

"It's fascinating how many top-notch productions vied for an FFF spot this year. Among the more than 50 submissions, there were about 20 real highlights – we've never had such a tough time selecting the films," says Harry Putz, co-organizer of the largest Freeride Film Festival in Europe. "After long and intense discussions, we've chosen six outstanding films that perfectly capture our zeitgeist with their themes and approaches. What impressed us the most was the unwavering passion of all the protagonists and the creative and individual execution. We've filtered out the slogan 'FOREVER RIDE' as the common thread for all productions."

In "THE BLONDES," three ski-crazy friends from Canada and Norway want nothing more than to ski – "showcasing the most epic lines and the most hardcore freeride action ever seen from women in a film, both technically and in terms of stunning cinematography," explains Volker Hölzl, the second co-organizer of the FFF. Also, in the sensitively staged production "CYCLES," exclusively female freeriders take the stage. Alongside exquisite

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powder and freestyle shots, they openly and honestly discuss the transformative power of their menstrual cycle and how they handle it in their sport.

Arty by nature

In the timeless snowboard film "LEFT RIGHT," the focus is solely on carving, but director Samuel McMahon portrays it so brilliantly that it takes your breath away. In search of the perfect turn, the filmmaker encounters cool characters like France's freestyle legend Mathieu Crepel and visits dreamlike locations, from the Alps to Japan. In "22 HOURS," the South Tyrolean brothers Matthias and Jakob Weger embark on a journey to the Norwegian Lyngen Alps, 350 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle. Despite extreme weather conditions, they are seeking their Arctic Dreamline.

With minimal words but incredibly impressive visuals, the last two films shine.

"PROJECTION" creates a "Lost Places" atmosphere in the best arthouse style: a team of skiers and snowboarders indulge in playfulness in the abandoned facilities and landscapes of former ski resorts, subtly addressing pressing issues like climate change and capitalist exploitation. In "PURITY," director Lukas Schäfer creates a wonderfully meditative journey from darkness to light, from solitude to togetherness. Nature takes the lead, and snowboarder Gabriel Indrist & Friends deliver outstanding athletic performances in supporting roles. The film manages perfectly without a single spoken word.

The right cinema nearby

The FFF PRIME TOUR, with its 10 stops in renowned theaters in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland, runs from November 3 to 18, 2023. As usual, each location features live stage moderation and interviews with the athletes and filmmakers. A meet-and-greet area for personal interaction with the film's protagonists is also available.

What's new this year is the significant expansion of the FFF CINEMA EDITION, which offers on-screen moderation and reduced ticket prices. "With this second branch of the festival, we want to reach even more people with our unique program and become more international overall," explains Volker Hölzl. "We're now collaborating with cinemas in the DACH region, as well as Italy, Slovakia, and the Benelux countries. In total, there are around 50 locations."

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Overview of the films

The Blondes – How Did We Get Here?

Janelle Yip, Emily Childs (both CAN), and Tonje Kvivik (NOR) call themselves "The Blondes" and live life in the fast lane. These three are not reckless thrill-seekers but consciously conquer male-dominated fields like big mountain skiing, wildfire fighting, and helicopter flying. This sympathetic portrayal of three friends is perhaps the most feminist ski action film in FFF history. It's genuinely epic freeride cinema – visually and musically – by Clay Mitchell, who has worked on everything from Hollywood productions and major commercials to adventure and documentary films.

Cycles

How do female athletes manage their menstrual cycle, and how does it affect their performance? Johanna Brunner and Anjuna Hartmann aim with their experimental and action-packed production "Cycles" not only to break a taboo but also to empower female elite athletes: "Our film aims to make women in freeride sports more visible and inspire them to pursue their dreams and goals in the outdoor world."

Left Right

A snowboard film where carving takes center stage, and no one leaves the ground. "I've been working towards this project for the last ten years," says director Samuel McMahon. "I hope it gives you goosebumps, a few laughs, and showcases incredible people, styles, and turns along the way." In addition, he imparts profound insights into the art of carving because one thing is clear: whether you're entering a jump, ripping down exposed faces, gliding through forests, or taking your first snowboarding lesson, the turn is the heart of the sport.

22 HOURS – Arctic Dreamlines

The South Tyrolean Weger brothers love challenges and variety: both were world-class kayakers, but they are also passionate paragliders, base jumpers, freeriders, and content creators whose clips regularly go viral on social media. The winter of 2022/23 is supposed to be over for them in May, but they learn of an approaching storm and massive snowfall in the Norwegian Lyngen Alps. So, they head there, and the adventure begins.

Projection

Director Richard Buchner creates a beautifully macabre picture of abandoned ski resorts with expressive imagery and minimal commentary. Associations with climate change, environmental pollution, and capitalist machinations are present. But it is also a parody of the sustainability of alpine winter tourism, as young shredders appropriate places where

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this tourism has already failed, through sustainable means like ski touring, urban skiing, and art. A crucial side note: the film was produced without financial sponsorship.

Purity

Director Lukas Schäfer places nature front and center in this non-verbal yet atmospherically epic narrative. In between, Gabriel Indrist and his friends deliver elegant, high-class freeride action that seamlessly integrates into the story. A perfect film for days when you have no desire to talk or listen to others. Sometimes, all it takes is to be enchanted by the beauty of the images and the magic of life.

FFF PRIME TOUR 2023 Dates

- 03.11. 20:00 - 23:00 ZELL AM SEE / KAPRUN, Burg Kaprun
- 09.11. 19:00 - 22:00 INNSBRUCK, Metropol Kino
- 10.11. 19:00 - 22:00 ZÜRICH, blue Cinema Abaton
- 11.11. 19:00 - 22:00 ENGELBERG, Kursaal
- 12.11. 19:00 - 22:00 SCHRUNS, Kulturbühne
- 13.11. 19:00 - 22:00 STUTTGART, Gloria Kino
- 14.11. 19:00 - 22:00 FREIBURG / BREISGAU, Bürgerhaus Seepark
- 15.11. 19:30 - 22:30 MÜNCHEN, Mathäser Filmpalast
- 16.11. 20:00 - 23:00 WIEN, Gartenbaukino
- 18.11. 19:00 - 22:00 ANDERMATT, Konzerthalle

FFF CINEMA EDITION 2023

In 50 theaters across Europe – from Antwerp and Rotterdam to Karlsruhe and Berlin to Bratislava, Graz, and Vahrn in South Tyrol

More information about dates and locations:

<https://freeride-filmfestival.com/en/freeride-filmfestival-tour-dates/>

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Details about individual films:

<https://freeride-filmfestival.com/en/films-2023/>

Photos: freeride-filmfestival.com/en/press/

Instagram: [instagram.com/freeridefilmfestival](https://www.instagram.com/freeridefilmfestival)

Facebook: [facebook.com/freeridefilmfestival](https://www.facebook.com/freeridefilmfestival)

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/channels/freeridefilmfestival>

For inquiries about the festival itself or for interview requests with athletes, filmmakers, please contact us. Additional press photos and film material are available upon request.

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