

8 GLOBAL SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL

BASEL, BERN, ZÜRICH

23-25 OCTOBER 2026

WWW.SCIENCEFILM.CH

*The Shortest Distance between
Science and Society is Cinema*



University of
Zurich ^{UZH}

^b
u

UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

ERNST GÖHNER
STIFTUNG



Swiss Federal Institute for Forest,
Snow and Landscape Research WSL

eawag
aquatic research ^{ooo}



University of Basel
Graduate Center



life science zurich

**UZH alumni
science**
KEEP IN TOUCH

8th Global Science Film Festival

Festival overview	3
Full-length films	4
Scientists-as-filmmakers	8
Focus Country (Italy)	13
Award ceremony	15
Location and ticketing	17
Sponsors and partners	19

Full program overview

ZÜRICH – Filmpodium Friday 23 October

15:30 TO THE MOON AND BACK (Documentary, 2026, 84min) p. 5



17:30 SHORT FILMS

BEYOND IMAGES... (Animation, 2026, 5min) p. 14

NUCLEAR MEMORIES... (Documentary, 2025, 8min) p. 14

INVISIBLE EFFORT... (Documentary/Fiction, 2026, 4min) p. 9

URBAN HEAT... (Documentary, 2026, 5min) p. 9

ENOUGH... (Fiction/Animation, 2026, 3min) p. 10

METACOGNITION LABS... (Fiction/Animation, 2026, 4min) p. 10

BEAUTY, EXTRAVAGANZA & KALOKAGATHIA... (Animation, 2026, 4min) p. 11

BREAK THE CYCLE... (Fiction/AI, 2026, 4min) p. 11

BRIDGING... (Fiction, 2026, 4min) p. 12

19:30 AWARD CEREMONY

19:30 NUISANCE BEAR (Documentary, 2026, 86min) p. 6



BASEL – STADTKINO Saturday 24 October

17:00 SHORT FILMS

URBAN HEAT... (Documentary, 2026, 5min) p. 9

METACOGNITION LABS... (Fiction/Animation, 2026, 4min) p. 10

BEAUTY, EXTRAVAGANZA & KALOKAGATHIA... (Animation, 2026, 4min) p. 11

BREAK THE CYCLE... (Fiction/AI, 2026, 4min) p. 11

BRIDGING... (Fiction, 2026, 4min) p. 12

17:45 CONSCIOUS (Documentary, 2026, 81min) p. 7



Full-length
Films



Scientists-as-
Filmmakers



Ceremonies
Special events



Followed by a podium discussion
with filmmakers and scientists

FULL-LENGTH FILMS

TO THE MOON AND BACK

GENRE: Documentary

COUNTRIES: Switzerland, Philippines, France, Qatar

YEAR: 2026

LENGTH: 84 min

LANGUAGES: English, Cebuano, Moroccan, Spanish and French,
with English and German subtitles



ELISA GÓMEZ ALVAREZ

An interdisciplinary filmmaker, she has developed a practice at the intersection of documentary, theatre and socio-cultural projects. In 2017 she graduated from the Berlin University of the Arts. In 2020 she completed a Master in film directing from ECAL/HEAD (École Cantonale d'Art de Lausanne). She collaborates with several major European theatre institutions. Her films have been selected for international festivals such as Visions du Réel, the Zurich Film Festival and the Geneva International Film Festival, and have been streamed on Tënk and Play Suisse. Since 2025, she has been working with Ciné-Doc Suisse.



Story

To the Moon and Back follows Ilyasse from Morocco, and Pauline from the Philippines, two Gen Z scientists shaped by a personal history of uprooting, chasing the dream of becoming an astronaut. As their journeys unfold, Ilyasse and Pauline find themselves torn between their ideals of inclusion and sustainability and the fiercely competitive world of contemporary space exploration. The film exposes how the new space race reproduces old hierarchies of gender, geography and access, all against the backdrop of an uncertain future on Earth.

Set between reality and dream, between grounded struggles and whimsical moon mission simulations, To the Moon and Back becomes a true exploration of what it means to belong — and whether space exploration is a way forward or a way to escape.

Q&A

Film Director & Writer: **Elisa Gómez Alvarez**

Moderator: **Simon Christian Stähler** (ETH Zurich)

NUISANCE BEAR

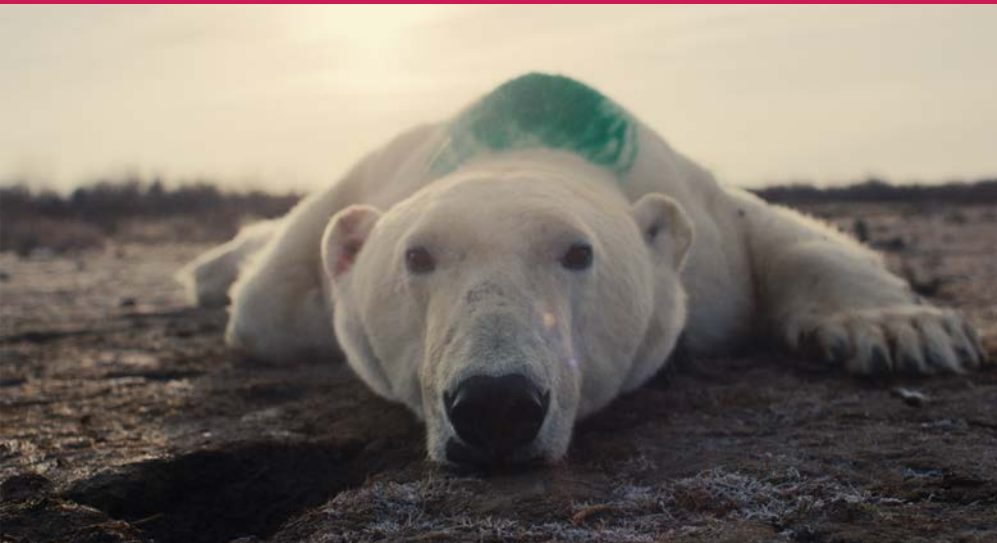
GENRE: Documentary

COUNTRIES: UK, USA, Canada

YEAR: 2026

LENGTH: 86 min

LANGUAGES: English and Inuktitut, with English and German subtitles



Jack Weisman

is an Emmy-winning filmmaker and co-founder of Documist whose documentaries have premiered at major festivals including Sundance, TIFF, SXSW, and IDFA. His acclaimed short *Nuisance Bear* was shortlisted for an Academy Award.

Gabriela Osio Vandens

is an award-winning Venezuelan-Canadian director and cinematographer whose work has screened at leading international festivals including TIFF, SXSW, IDFA, and Camerimage. Her short *Nuisance Bear* was Academy Award shortlisted and won multiple major awards, including a Critics Choice Award and Cinema Eye Honors.

Story

A polar bear is forced to navigate a human world of tourists, wildlife officers, and hunters as its ancient migration collides with modern life. When a sacred predator is branded a nuisance, it becomes unclear who truly belongs in this shared landscape.

Filmmakers Gabriela Osio Vandens and Jack Weisman return to Churchill, Manitoba — affectionately known as the “Polar Bear Capital of the World” — to deepen the inquiry begun in their award-winning short film. The result is a striking portrait of the fraught coexistence between polar bears and humans, guided by an Inuit narrator whose insights resist simplification.

The film traces this relationship with nuance, revealing how these arctic creatures deal with being constantly monitored, photographed, and redirected. There is a thrill in watching a polar bear outwit human efforts to contain it, underscoring the bears’ resilience and the fragility of the systems that attempt to control them.

By challenging the conventions of a nature documentary and favoring confrontation over moralism, *Nuisance Bear* invites us to reconsider our assumptions about wildlife as spectacle.

Q&A

Film Directors : **Jack Weisman & Gabriela Osio Vandens** (online)

Moderator: **Christoph Küffer** (OST Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences)

CONSCIOUS

GENRE: Documentary

COUNTRIES: UK

YEAR: 2026

LENGTH: 81 min

LANGUAGES: English



Suki Chan

is a British artist, film director and founder of Conscious Productions. Her films take audiences on an immersive journey and shine a light on subjects that challenge and destabilise our understanding of reality. Chan seeks out narratives that explore alternative ways of looking at the world.

Her passion is to change perception and build empathy for other people's experiences.

Suki is a recipient of the 2020 Film London's FLAMIN Productions Award, a major award supported by Arts Council England.

Chan is a member of BAFTA Connect and Women In Film & TV (WFTV).

Story

A beautiful and haunting exploration of what happens when consciousness and memory begin to disintegrate. Conscious narrates the stories of Wendy Mitchell, Pegeen O'Sullivan, and Maureen Winfield who navigate dementia in transformative ways. Mirroring their journeys is the work of neuroscientist Anil Seth who has dedicated his career to studying consciousness, and finds his professional and personal life intersect as science becomes personal. With striking visuals and a rich, textured soundscape, Conscious invites audiences inside these altered landscapes of awareness, asking: what remains of us when our internal landscape fragments?

Q&A

Film Director & Writer: **Suki Chan**

Composer: **Dominik Scherrer**

Moderator: **Kiana Rezakhanlou** (PhD Student, University of Basel)

SCIENTISTS-AS-
FILMMAKERS
SHORT FILMS
MADE BY SWISS
SCIENTISTS

SCIENTISTS-AS-FILM-MAKERS

INVISIBLE EFFORT

SWITZERLAND, 2026, 4 min, English

Zurich (Filmpodium Cinema), Friday 23 October, 17:30



Story

At first glance, we move the same. Look closer, and a hidden world begins to emerge.

SCIENTISTS-AS-FILMMAKERS

Fransiska Bossuyt

ETH Zurich

Loughborough University

Caroline Heimhofer

Balgrist University Hospital

Irina Lerch

Balgrist University Hospital

Samuel Dutler

Eastern Switzerland

University of Applied

Sciences (OST)

Aufstand AG

Kevin Mauchle

Aufstand AG

Sue Bertschy

Dr. Bertschy Beratungen

MENTOR

Albert Blanch

URBAN HEAT: GREENER CITIES - COOLER FUTURES

SWITZERLAND, 2026, 5 min, Swiss German with English subtitles

Zurich (Filmpodium Cinema), Friday 23 October, 17:30

Basel (Stadtkino Cinema), Saturday 24 October, 17:00



Story

As climate change intensifies, temperatures in cities are increasing. We took to the streets of Zürich during a record-breaking June heatwave, to explore how both locals and the city are mitigating the heat and shaping a more resilient, liveable city.

SCIENTISTS-AS-FILMMAKERS

Minea Mäder

University of Bern

Barbara Mühlemann

ETH Zurich

Leandra Stengele

University of Bern

Jeanne Droux

University of Zurich

ETH Zurich

Gladwin Suryatin Alim

University of Basel

MENTOR

Barbara Gollwitzer

Plan Biodivers GmbH

SCIENTISTS-AS-FILM-MAKERS

ENOUGH

SWITZERLAND, 2026, 3 min, English

Zurich (Filmpodium Cinema), Friday 23 October , 17:30



Story

Setting personal goals and tracking your progress can be motivating and rewarding. But when you focus too much on a few metrics and continually raise the bar, you risk losing sight of the bigger picture and obscure broader aspects of your well-being.

METACOGNITION LABS

SWITZERLAND, 2026, 4 min, English

Zurich (Filmpodium Cinema), Friday 23 October , 17:30

Basel (Stadtkino Cinema), Saturday 24 October, 17:00



Story

Welcome to Metacognition Labs. You will take part in a study about something very ordinary; remembering to do something in the future.

SCIENTISTS-AS-FILMMAKERS

Iris Nogueroles Langa

ETH Zurich

Ivan Novotny

ETH Zurich

Julie Doelker

EAWAG

Samuel Hepner

University of Bern

MENTOR

Daniel Harisberger

Team Tumult

SCIENTISTS-AS-FILMMAKERS

Seraina Herzig

University of Basel

Sophia Mast

ETH Zurich

Chiara Scarampi

University of Geneva

Beatrice Tarapoanca

University of Zurich

MENTOR

Frederic Siegel

Team Tumult

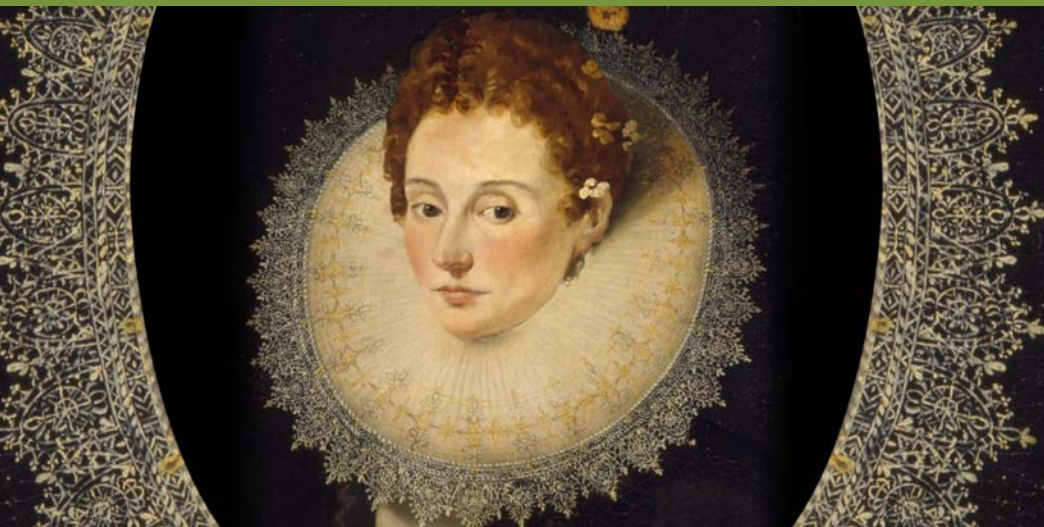
SCIENTISTS-AS-FILM-MAKERS

BEAUTY, EXTRAVAGANZA & KALOKAGATHIA

SWITZERLAND, 2026, 4 min, English with German subtitles

Zurich (Filmpodium Cinema), Friday 23 October, 17:30

Basel (Stadtkino Cinema), Saturday 24 October, 17:00



Story

This documentary provides an insight on Early Modern women's fashion & its connection with the ancient Greek ideal *Kalokagathia*, that unites strength, beauty & a virtuous character within a person. It presents exquisite historical clothing, jewellery, accessories & lace pattern prints especially from public & private Swiss collections, while emphasizing nature as a source of inspiration.

BREAK THE CYCLE

SWITZERLAND, 2026, 4 min, English

Zurich (Filmpodium Cinema), Friday 23 October, 17:30

Basel (Stadtkino Cinema), Saturday 24 October, 17:00



Story

Despite knowing that most people care about nature, a young woman struggles to understand why the world around her suggests otherwise. Inspired by the psychological phenomenon of pluralistic ignorance, the film reveals how caring individuals' invisible actions are easily overlooked, creating a false perception of indifference. It is a story about perception, hope, and the power of one small act to break the cycle.

SCIENTISTS-AS-FILMMAKERS

Janine Jakob

University of Basel

Timur Kharisov

University of Basel

MENTOR

Geena Gasser

SCIENTISTS-AS-FILMMAKERS

Désirée F. Schmid

Eawag

University of Geneva

Corinne Othenin-Girard

University of Basel

MENTORS

Hadis Abbaspour

Mahya Eslami

Hosein Abbaspour

CodyMind

SCIENTISTS-AS-FILM-MAKERS

BRIDGING

SWITZERLAND, 2026, 4 min, English

Zurich (Filmpodium Cinema), Friday 23 October, 17:30

Basel (Stadtkino Cinema), Saturday 24 October, 17:00



Story

Convinced they have solved a complex problem, a scientist realizes their breakthrough is still missing a crucial element. Stepping into the real world, they are guided toward unexpected practice partners by a hidden figure equipped with unique tools and perspectives. This mysterious guide not only bridges different worlds, but actively contributes the vital final piece to solve the puzzle.

SCIENTISTS-AS-FILMMAKERS

Danny Ward

University of Basel

Adwait Deshpande

Max-Planck-Institut

Tim Geiges

WSL

MENTOR

Patrizia Widmer

NZZ



ITALY

FOCUS COUNTRY



FI(NA)LMENTE is an interdisciplinary science communication initiative at the University of Turin that equips PhD students and young researchers with audiovisual storytelling skills. The programme incorporates the Aldo Fasolo National Prize, which recognizes outstanding short videos communicating neuroscience research to the general public.

BEYOND IMAGES

ITALY, 2026, 5 min, Italian with English subtitles

Zurich (Filmpodium Cinema), Friday 23 October , 17:30



Story

Psychosis affects over 25 million people worldwide, yet many of its challenges remain unseen. Through the perspective of people living with psychosis, this short film describes “concretism”, a language difficulty affecting 80% of individuals with the condition, revealing the hidden barriers it can create in everyday communication.

NUCLEAR MEMORIES

ITALY, 2025, 9 min, Italian with English subtitles

Zurich (Filmpodium Cinema), Friday 23 October , 17:30



Story

Angelo and Antonio spent their working lives at the Caorso nuclear power plant. With Angelo Gistri and Antonio Saraconi.

SCIENTISTS-AS-FILMMAKERS

Federico Frau

Istituto Universitario di
Studi Superiori of Pavia

SCIENTISTS-AS-FILMMAKERS

Ana Catarina CABRAL VALE da CUNHA

University of Turin

Adna CAMDZIC

University of Turin

Elena DEL COL

University of Turin

Matteo SARTINI

University of Turin

AWARD CEREMONY

Zurich (Filmpodium Cinema), Friday 23 October , 19:30



The award ceremony will take place Zurich on Friday (23 October) at 19:30. The ceremony is presided over by Prof. Dr. **Hugues Abriel**, Vice-Rector of the University of Bern.

Moderator: Dr. **Juanita Schlaepfer-Miller** (Plant Science Center)

WALKING IBEX (GIACOMETTI'S IBEX)

The winning films in each category are awarded with a "Walking Ibex" award.

The "Walking Ibex" imitates Alberto Giacometti's style in the iconic sculpture "L'Homme qui marche I (The Walking Man I)".

The awards are

- **Best scientist-as-filmmaker 2026** (Public Award)
- **The Swiss Science Film Academy award** for "Science Communication 2026"

The Swiss Science Film Academy award for SCIENCE COMMUNICATION 2026 goes to **Gabriela Schaeppman-Strub**



Science Communication Award 2026

Gabriela Schaepman-Strub



The Swiss Science Film Academy award for SCIENCE COMMUNICATION 2026 goes to **Gabriela Schaepman-Strub**.

Schaepman-Strub is a Professor of Earth System Science at the University of Zurich whose research focuses on Arctic biodiversity, climate change, and the impacts of environmental change on ecosystems and local communities.

She has led extensive Arctic field research across Siberia, Alaska, Greenland, and the Russian High Arctic, and has held key leadership roles in the Swiss Polar Institute and the International Arctic Science Committee.

Her work combines science, international collaboration, and engagement with Indigenous communities to promote sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in the polar regions.

8th Global Science Film Festival



Zurich

Friday 23 October

15:30 To the Moon and Back

17:30 Short films (Scientists-as-Filmmakers)

19:30 Award Ceremony

19:30 Nuisance Bear

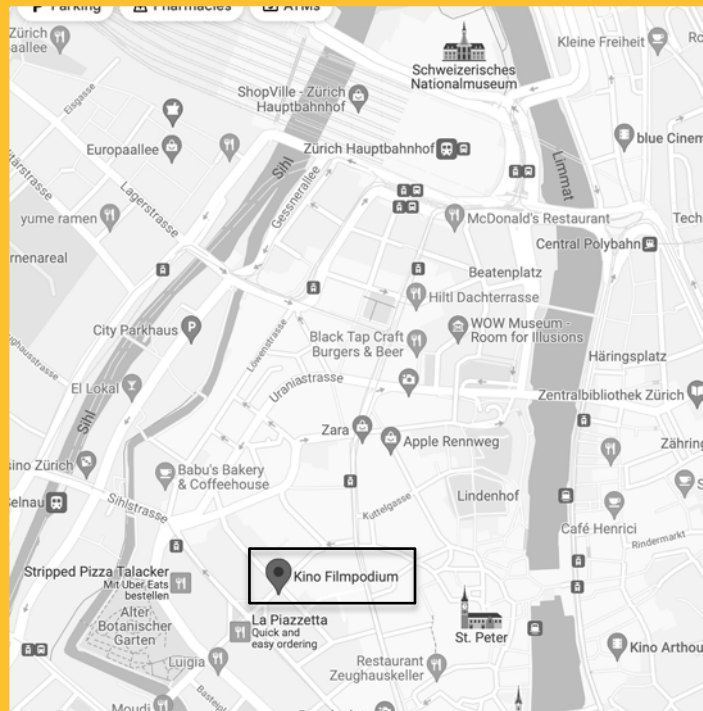
Filmpodium Cinema at Nüscherstrasse 11 is located between the Kaufleuten club and Paradeplatz.

It is easily accessible by tram 2/9 Sihlstrasse, 2/6/7/8/9/11/13 Paradeplatz,

6/7/11/13 Rennweg

and a 10 minute walk from the central train station (Zurich HB)

www.filmpodium.ch



TICKETS



8 GLOBAL SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL

BASEL, BERN & ZÜRICH
23-25 OCTOBER 2026

WWW.SCIENCEFILM.CH



*The Shortest Distance between
Science and Society is Cinema*

BASEL

Saturday 24 October

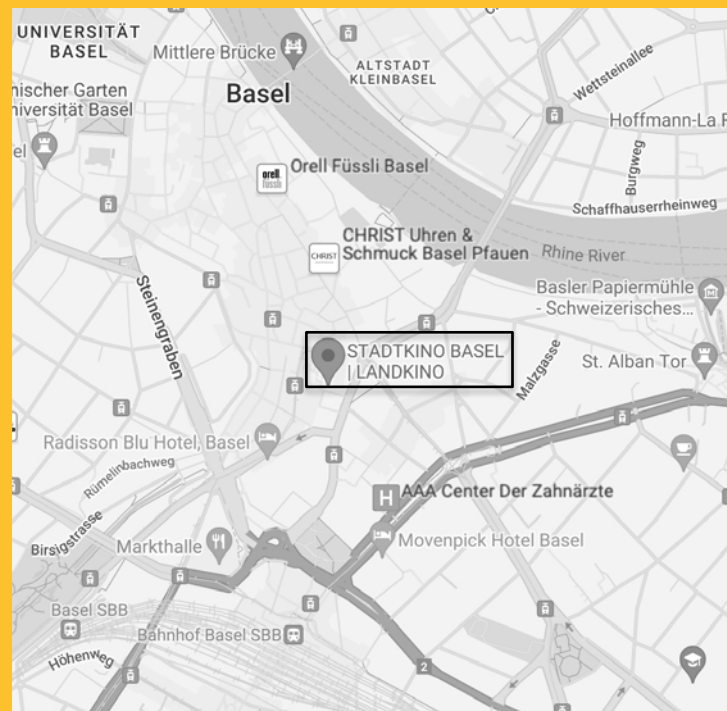
17:00 Short films (Scientists-as-Filmmakers)

17:45 Conscious

Cinema Stadtkino Basel at Klostersgasse 5

is located in the Oldtown of Basel at the Theaterplatz through the Kunsthallengarten. It is at about 3 minutes walking distance from Bahnhof Basel SBB.

www.stadtkinobasel.ch



TICKETS



8th Global Science Film Festival

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



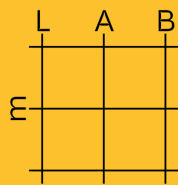
University of
Zurich ^{UZH}



Swiss Federal Institute for Forest,
Snow and Landscape Research WSL

ERNST GÖHNER
STIFTUNG

eawag
aquatic research ^{ooo}



uzh alumni
science
KEEP IN TOUCH