Press release

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**25th FSF Portorož opens with digitally restored Čáp’s classic ‘Vesna’**

The 25th Festival of Slovenian Film Portorož officially opened tonight at 7 pm in the Main Hall of Avditorij Portorož with an opening gala, which saw the attendance of the State Secretary for Culture in the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, **Dr Kaja Širok**, the Head of Minister's Office at the Ministry of Culture, **Nina Ukmar**, and the Mayor of Piran Municipality, **Đenio Zadković**. The host of the event with a live performance by **Jure Ivanušič** was **Toni Cahunek**.

This is the second festival edition with **Bojan Labović** as director. Since this edition honours a number of anniversaries, most notably the 50th death anniversary of František Čáp, a film director, screenwriter and editor who spent the last years of his life in Portorož, his evergreen hit [**Vesna**](https://fsf.si/2022/en/class/vesna/) had the honour of opening the festival. This was the **Slovenian premiere of the version** **digitised and digitally restored** by the Slovenian Cinematheque in collaboration with the Slovenian Film Archives, a department of the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia, and the Slovenian Film Centre.

During the gala, the **Badjura** **Award for lifetime achievement in cinema** was presented to the film and theatre actress [**Milena Zupančič**](https://fsf.si/2022/en/metod-badjura-lifetime-achievement-award/), whose life and work are celebrated in an **exhibit** in Avditorij’s White Hall. The judges’ statement was read by **Polona Juh**, one of the judges for the Metod Badjura Award.

In her opening address, the director of the Slovenian Film Centre, **Nataša Bučar**, emphasised the efficiency of Slovenian producers in obtaining international funding, noting that for the feature films in this year’s line-up alone, their producers raised nearly 30% of all the funding in as many as 11 different countries. *“Their creative power puts Slovenian filmmakers at the pinnacle of European cinema. I am confident that this year’s festival will provide a wide diversity of filmmaking for all of you to enjoy,”* said Bučar.

Over a little less than a week, the main Slovenian film event will provide a curated overview of the latest Slovenian cinema, which includes fiction, documentary and animated films of all lengths. A total of **174 films were submitted** to the festival for consideration by the Programming Board, with **108 films** making it into the [official selection](https://fsf.si/2022/en/films/). Of this, the **Official Competition includes 63 films**: 11 feature-length films, 5 films in the ‘30 anniversary’ strand, 19 short films, 3 medium-length films, 10 minority co-productions, and 15 student films.

The 25th FSF Portorož carries on the trajectory set last year, with the “cinema euro”, a more environmentally friendly approach, and the ‘**Friend of Slovenian cinema**’ (a guest of honour who is in any way connected with Slovenian cinema or the audience in Slovenia), a title given this year to the Croatian director [**Rajko Grlić**](https://fsf.si/2022/en/the-2022-friend-of-slovenian-cinema-revealed/).

The festival also boasts a strong [line-up of concerts](https://fsf.si/2022/en/festival-nights/) curated by **Brane Rončel**.

The festival runs until **Sunday, 30 October**, and closes with the Awards Gala to celebrate the winners of the 2022 Vesna awards, the highest national accolade in cinema.

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