

LOVECUT (1h 34 min, Austria, 2020) 2020 European Film Academy Young Audience Award
https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7613162/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

Synopsis: Through different intersecting stories, LOVECUT tells about three teenage couples and their conflicts with identity, love and sexuality in our digital, rapid changing society that offers many possibilities, as well as extreme challenges. What we observe is a snapshot, an excerpt from their lives and their love stories. An attempt to better understand the bold youth of our time as well as the society we live in.

Discussion topics: teenage lives and relationships today, and how they are influenced by the internet; tinder, teenagers' identity, borderline between decent and indecent in the 'digital age' on social media such as Instagram and Tic Toc; protection of teenagers' privacy and personal data on internet.

THE SHIFT (1h 23 min, Italy, Belgium, 2020) <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10405760/>

Synopsis: Brussels, Eden and Abdel, two 17 years old boys brake in their school to perform kamikaze terrorist attack, but Abdel blows himself before time and hurts Eden in the explosion. Isabelle and Adamo, two paramedics, arrive at the school and find Eden hurt and unconscious. They transport him, unaware that he is one of the terrorists. On the way to the hospital they find out that he wears explosive but it is too late: all of a sudden Eden wakes up! Despite his injuries the young man holds them hostages threatening to activate the bomb and instructs Adamo to keep on driving. With his debut feature, centred on a terrorist attack in Brussels, Alessandro Tonda finds the right tone to tackle a burning topical issue without giving up on entertainment.

Discussion topics: youth and violent extremism and radicalism.



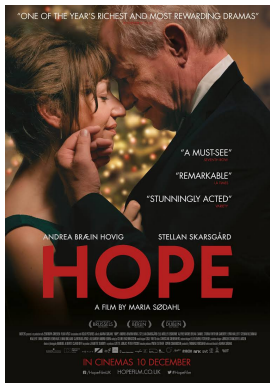
Programme



MARE (1h 24 min, Switzerland, Croatia, 2020) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UHajQ_U6kU

Synopsis: Routinely, but with dedication, Mare runs her small family's modest household, although a new washing machine is not the only thing that is missing. When a chance encounter rekindles her libido, she does not hold back for long.

Discussion topics: Women in film, more women participate in filmmaking (directing, photography, production)



HOPE (2h 10 min, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, 2019) <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9812614/>

Synopsis: 43 years old Anja and 59 years old Thomas have large family of biological and adopted children. For several years they have grown apart, living and working in parallel worlds. When Anja is diagnosed with terminal cancer, their life breaks down and exposes neglected love. Alone with her grief and fears, Anja realizes that she needs Thomas's support and help. That is their only chance. How else their children will find strength after she leaves, if they don't go together through the storm? Anja and Thomas are pushed to find the mutual trust, and at the end of their common struggle to face unexpected and early death. But by finding each other again, they become the lead characters in a love story and learn to truly love each other after a long-shared life.

Discussion topics: Illness in the family, cancer, dysfunctional families.

Programme



ATLAS (1h 30 min, Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, 2021) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2NXcmXDPpg>

Synopsis: The only survivor of a terrorist attack that took the life of her three friends fights to overcome guilt and self-hatred. Allegra is a lively young woman with a passion for high mountain climbing. She decides to travel to Morocco to reach the top of the Atlas, but her trip ends abruptly when a man explodes a bomb in a coffee shop and her three friends die in the attack. Unable to overcome the trauma months later she returns to her city, where the encounter with Arad, a young Muslim refugee, forces her to confront her perception of reality, her fears and heal her profound interior wounds.

Discussion topics: violent extremism and radicalism, terrorism, young extremists.

SPACE BOY (1h 40 min, Belgium, 2021) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U87803kx8I4>



Synopsis: At only 11 years, Jim is a gifted boy passionate about space and science. Arriving in a new town with his dad, Jim has to participate in a young scientist competition with his new classmate Emma, a sensitive and discreet girl. Despite her reluctance, Jim convinces her to imitate Kittinger's 'Excelsior' project (first man to reach the frontier of space in 1960) and to build secretly a real air balloon. This calling comes from his father, Graham, an astrophysicist who was meant to carry out a space mission very soon. Since Jim's mother died, this project is very important to him. But when he discovers Graham has given up without telling him, his world falls apart. The competition turns into an obsession and Jim wants to prove unlike his father that he won't give up. Jim pushes Emma to her limits and drags her into an adventure which is going to bring them closer.

Awards: Teen screen Winner/Best Film (Molodist 2021), Heart on Award (BIKY 2021), European Children's film Award & Junior Jury Award (Schlingel International Film Festival, 2021), Children's Jury Prize (Riga International Film Festival, 2021)

Discussion topics: Children in science, scientific culture and mental gymnastics among children, working in groups with boys and girls.