



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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For its 19th edition, Courts Mais Trash is partnering up with Queer Mais Trash to feature the first cinema event of the year in Brussels. From January 29 to February 3, the underground, independent, political, fun, gore, cheap and quirky cinema will be celebrated at the Riches-Claire theatre in the heart of Brussels.

Adding up the regular screenings, the school screenings, the parties and the pro events, around 5,000 people will attend Courts Mais Trash and Queer Mais Trash to discover more than a 100 movies. For the occasion, around 40 national and international movie makers are invited to share their short movies with the audience.

### **An ever-growing festival**

The 2024 Courts Mais Trash program entails the traditional national and international competitions, but also the "Courts Mais Trash Deluxe" dedicated to the movies made with more budget. The other cult screenings from the festival won't be missing: "Super Sex" and "Super Trash", "Super WTF!?", "Born 2 Be Cheap" (dedicated to the best movie on a budget), "Anime Trash" and many more!

As every year, the audience will vote and give out the awards:

- the best national movie award (500 euros offered by SABAM);
- the best international movie award (500 euros offered by the festival);
- the best movie on a budget award (500 euros offered by the festival);
- the best Belgian student movie award (500 euros offered by the Belgian national lottery).

The festival will once more organize events for pros, one of them being "Meet Mais Trash", a speed dating event in partnership with Amplo, SABAM and Entrax, and which goal is to support young directors to join the professional world.



Courts Mais Trash is a party before being a festival

Alongside the screenings, several After Trash Parties will take place, among which the legendary "Karaoke Mais Trash". Concerts and performances will also take place during the week at the bar of the Riches-ClaIRES theatre.

### Six years of Queer Mais Trash

Another independent cinema event, Queer Mais Trash focuses on LGBTIQ+ issues. Previously held in May, it will now be integrated to Courts Mais Trash week, on Wednesday 31 January.

This concentrated top-quality version will have a screening for schools, short movies screenings (one being "Queer Mais Super Sex") as well as a surprise performance to close the day. As usual, the festival is interactive, and 500 euros will be awarded by the audience to the best queer movie.

The objective is to make LGBTIQ+ culture more accessible to as many people as possible by breaking down binaries (woman and man, male and female, straight and queer, trans and fluid, bi and inter...) The message is to break down barriers as well as to open up.

### Activist festivals

Both festivals are proud of putting the lights on directors with less conventional movies; and screen films with messages that the audience have fewer opportunities to discover. Courts Mais Trash and Queer Mais Trash play an active part in the vibrant Brussels' cultural scene by putting in one room directors and the audience, an audience that become a real actor of this underground revolution.

The official selection will be announced mid-December, and the ticket office will open right afterwards. For more information on the festival and the connected activities, visit <https://courtsmaistrash.net/en> (the website is regularly updated).

Media enquiries: François Marache, [courtsmaistrash@gmail.com](mailto:courtsmaistrash@gmail.com), +32 477 75 93 89  
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