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The LUX Shortlist: Five Films, One European Conversation

Five films competing for the 2027 LUX Audience Award spark a continent-wide conversation on ageing, housing, identity, and war—inviting both European citizens and lawmakers to cast equal votes on the stories shaping Europe today.

The European Parliament has named the five films competing for the 2027 LUX Audience Award, the 20th edition of a prize that asks Europe's cinema-going public and its politicians to reach the same verdict. From elder care in France to divorce in wartime Vilnius, the shortlist is less a parade of prestige pictures than a portrait of a continent anxious about home, ageing, identity and belonging.

The nominees are Ryusuke Hamaguchi's All of a Sudden, Laura Samani's A Year of School, Maryam Touzani's Calle Málaga, Paweł Pawlikowski's Fatherland and Andrius Blaževičius's How to Divorce During the War.

The films

All of a Sudden (Soudain), by the Japanese director Ryusuke Hamaguchi, is a French-language drama set in the world of elder care. Its heroine, the director of a care home, seeks to impose a more dignified philosophy of care against resistance from some of her staff; her friendship with a Japanese theatre director confronting cancer becomes the film's emotional engine.

A Year of School, by the Italian director Laura Samani, follows Fred, a girl who moves from Sweden to Trieste for her final year at a technical high school. As the only girl in an all-male class, she finds acceptance comes at a price: the erosion of parts of herself.

Calle Málaga, by the Moroccan director Maryam Touzani, is a

comic drama about an elderly Spanish woman in Tangier who refuses to surrender her lifelong home when her daughter returns to sell it. In defending her apartment, she unexpectedly rediscovers love and sensuality.

Fatherland, by the Polish director Paweł Pawlikowski, turns to 1949 and the strained relationship between Thomas Mann, the Nobel laureate, and his daughter Erika, actress, writer and rally driver. Their road journey from American-occupied Frankfurt to Soviet-controlled Weimar becomes a study of a divided Germany — and a divided family.

How to Divorce During the War, by the Lithuanian director and screenwriter Andrius Blaževičius, is set in Vilnius in 2022, as Russia invades Ukraine. A couple's divorce becomes inseparable from the war unfolding beyond their door.

How the public decides

The winner will not be chosen by critics or a festival jury. Citizens across the European Union and MEPs will rate the five films on the LUX Rating Platform between 25 November 2026 and April 2027; each group carries an equal 50 per cent share of the final score.

Audiences may rate a film on a one-to-five scale, from "poor" to "excellent", and may revise their rating as often as they wish until the deadline. Only the final rating counts.

The Parliament will stage free screenings and debates in Brussels, Strasbourg and across EU member states, with MEPs taking part. The victor will be announced at the LUX ceremony in Strasbourg in April 2027.

Launched in 2007 by the European Parliament and the European Film Academy, in partnership with the European Commission and Europa Cinemas, the LUX Award was designed to make European cinema a vehicle for public debate. Its shortlists are intended to put contemporary political questions — welfare, workers' rights, housing, democracy, national identity and war — before a mass audience.

Sabine Verheyen, the Parliament's vice-president, praised a selection "full of European stories that touch our hearts and make us look at our shared continent with new eyes". Nela Riehl, chair of the Culture and Education Committee, said the films explore "who we are as a society: housing, ageing, alienation and belonging".

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