

Hi-res pictures and infos:

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## History of the Bitfilm Festival

The Bitfilm Festival and the internet film community bitfilm.com were jointly set up in 2000. The mission of this online platform, originally funded by the EU Media programme and the Federal State of Hamburg, is to be a home for digital film makers on the net.

„It was always important for us to be present not just on the internet, but also in the real world“, says Bitfilm’s founder Aaron Koenig. „We wanted to create an annual ritual for our community so they could meet face to face, exchange ideas and party.“

From 2000 to 2002 the Bitfilm Festival was integrated into the International Short Film Festival Hamburg. In addition, Bitfilm started Germany’s first competition for Flash Movies. In 2000 and 2001 it was a part of the Berlin Beta conference, in 2002 it was integrated into Filmfest Hamburg.

In 2003 the Bitfilm founders merged these two events and became entirely self-reliant. Another two competitions for Machinima and Micromovies were added to the traditional sections for 3D, VFX and Flash films. In 2004 the Bitfilm Festival became the first festival worldwide with a competition for realtime animation.

„The most decisive change happened in 2006 when we became a truly global festival“, Aaron Koenig explains. „All films can be watched via internet, the voting process relies on the internet community. This would not have been possible seven years ago. Today, broadband connections and fast computers for playing videos are taken for granted. However, an event in the real world can never be replaced. Nothing compares to a good chat at the bar about the films and a wild party with other film maniacs.“

Since 2007 the Bitfilm Festival consists of the Internet Festival, an opening and a closing event in different cities. In 2007 it took place in Hamburg and Barcelona, in 2008 in Stuttgart and Hamburg.