

BRAUNSCHWEIG INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

31. Braunschweig International Film Festival Announces its Programme

Nina Hoss is the star guest of the 31st Braunschweig International Film Festival (17-22 October). The Festival is awarding the German actress the “Europa” for her outstanding acting achievements to and accomplishments for European film culture. Volkswagen Financial Services is donating the prize, which is endowed with 15,000 Euros. On Saturday, October 2, at 3 pm, Hoss will first answer questions and talk to the film journalist, Daniel Kothenschulte, before she is awarded the “Europa” in the evening at the Braunschweig Staatstheater.

In the audience competition for European debut and second films for the “Heinrich”, the Festival is presenting ten productions from ten countries, including eight German premieres. The prize of 10,000 Euros is being donated by the Film Festival’s main sponsor, Volkswagen Financial Services. A jury made up of six young German and French people are awarding the KINEMA Youth Prize for the best debut film from Germany or France.

In addition, the Festival is awarding two further prizes: main sponsor Volkswagen Financial Services is promoting the “Schwarzer Löwe” (Black Lion), an award of 2,500 Euros for the best film in the “Beyond” section. The Festival will also be awarding the “Goldene Vier Linden” (Golden four lime trees) prize for the best film in the “Heimspiel” (Home Game) series. The award ceremony will be taking place on October 21, 7 pm in the ‘Großes Haus’ of the Braunschweig Staatstheater.

The Film Festival is opening with the film concert “Matrix Live. Film in Concert” in the Braunschweig Stadthalle. The Braunschweig State Orchestra will be playing under the baton of the American film music composer Don Davis. The concert is funded by the Foundation of the ‘Braunschweigischer Kulturbesitz’.

Altogether, the Festival is showing over 264 films from 42 countries on six days. 100 of these are feature films, of which 21 will be celebrating their German premiere and one production its world premiere in Braunschweig. Into the bargain, there will be 164 short films, of which 30 German ones and five others will have their world premiere; also 32 music videos will be shown, as well as about 30 films which have been shot by children or young people.

The Film Section in Detail:

“Music and Film”: Retrospective for the Film Composer and Oscar-Winner Jan A.P. Kaczmarek
The BIFF dedicates a retrospective to the Polish Oscar-winner Jan A.P. Kaczmarek with six films, including “Finding Neverland” with Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet for whose score he was given the Academy Award in 2005. In the “Discussion Concert” on Thursday, October 19 at 8.30 pm, Kaczmarek will report on his journey through life between Hollywood and Poland, talking to film composer Matthias Hornschuh. Using film and music excerpts, Kaczmarek will tell us about how his music originates and about his work with important directors like Max Färberböck, Lasse Hallström and Lajos Koltal. The Maestro himself will sit at his grand piano and will play extracts from his works with members of the Braunschweig State Orchestra.

The Film Concerts

Apart from the opening concert "Matrix Live" and the "Discussion Concert Jan. A.P.Kaczmarek", the Festival is showing two further film concerts.

On Wednesday, October 18, at 8.30 pm in the Schlossarkaden, the Andalusian double bass player Inma Galiot will carry us off into the world of "**Evelyn**" with her La Rosa Negra Ensemble. "Evelyn" is the filming of the prize-winning graphic novel "Evelyn, el misterioso caso de Dr. Corman" by Andres G. Leiva. Animated by Anna Levinson, the blood-soaked and foggy streets of London reawaken to new life on the big screen. Inma Galiot created a mysterious music which mirrors and amplifies the gloomy atmosphere of the comic. The concert with the La Rosa Negra Ensemble is sponsored by the Braunschweig Land Foundation and the Film University of Babelsberg.

As a contribution to the Reformation year, the Festival is presenting the silent film concert "**Stephan von Bothmer: Luther**" on Friday, October 20, 8 pm in the Braunschweigesches Landesmuseum. Stephan von Bothmer has composed new live film music to the silent film "Luther". His music, both virtuoso and modern, goes further than just an 'accompaniment' to the film and makes the restored version of the film appear surprisingly modern. The concert is promoted by the Evangelische Akademie Abt Jerusalem.

"Sound on Screen"

Music is in the main focus of "Sound on Screen", the film series of the Universum cinema and Café Riptide with six films. As German premieres, the BIFF is showing star portraits of the world-wide celebrated jazz and soul singer Gregory Porter ("Don't Forget Your Music") as well as "Placebo: Alt Russia" about the alternative rock heroes. Directing star Michael Winterbottom goes "On The Road" with Wolf Alice, the popular indie band from London. "A Life In Waves" introduces the electronic pioneer Suzanne Ciani, and "When God Sleeps" is the enthralling documentary about the Iranian Rapper, Shahin Najafi, who has been issued with a fatwa of death. On Saturday, October 2, in the Schlossarkaden, DJ Icon Lefto from Belgium will take us to the underground scenes of L.A., London and Seoul with "Lefto in Transit".

Lectures

The section "Musik and Film" is supplemented by two lectures on music videos. "What do they want? Music Video Showcase" is what Tanja Godlewsky and the musician Gregor Schwellenbach from the Institute for Popular Music at Folkwang University ask on Thursday, October 19 in the LOT-Theater at 7 pm.

In her lecture "Watch the Music – Eastern European Way", the Ukrainian artist and curator Alina Gordiyenko will be presenting the development of East European music videos before and after the fall of the "Iron Curtain" on Thursday, October 19 at 9 pm in the LOT-Theater.

"Never Ending Stories"

The exhibition "Never Ending Stories" in the Wolfsburg Art Museum is the occasion for the BIFF to contribute a cinematic reflection on the topic. The loop is a fixed component in today's pop culture, amongst others in music, dance, music videos and computer games. In films, the loop is either a (positive) dream or (negative) trauma as in "Groundhog Day" by Harold Ramis, the science fiction drama "Moon" and "Source Code" by Duncan Jones, Omer Fast's "Remainder" and "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" by Michel Gondry.

"Green Horizons"

This year, the series examines social aspects of sustainability with documentations on the unconditional basic income ("Free Lunch Society") and on the refugee rescues in the Mediterranean ("Astral"), climatic aspects with contributions on the problems of drought in Kenia ("Thank you for your Rain") and on the drying out of the Aral Sea ("Sea Tomorrow") as well

as on the protection of flora and fauna with a documentary film on the preservation of old seed ("Seed: The Untold Story").

The series is promoted by AGIMUS GmbH, ALBA Braunschweig GmbH, Perschmann GmbH and Hoffmann Maschinen- und Apparatebau GmbH.

"New International Cinema" and "Prime Time"

Around the world in the cinema: "The Net", the latest film by Kim Ki-Duks, has its German premiere and is a film where the Korean conflict is reduced down to the story of one personal fate.

Strong female protagonists take centre stage in the Chilean drama "Los Perros" and in the American small town drama "Katie says goodbye" (German premiere). Kirsten Tan delivers a gentle as well as eloquent debut film with "Pop Aye" (Thailand). In Shubhashish Bhutiani's family drama "Hotel Salvation" (India), a son helps his father on the way to his supposed salvation. The bizarre gangster film "Free and Easy" takes us into a deep provincial Chinese backwater. There is also plenty of enthralling genre cinema, e.g. the brilliant political thriller "Blind Spot" (German premiere) or the Afro-western "The Train of Salt and Sugar".

"Prime Time" takes a look at the arthouse highlights of the next few months, eg the winner at Cannes in 2017 "The Square", the beautiful Argentinian film, "El ciudadano illustre" ("The Distinguished Citizen"), "Ava" from France, "The Killing of a Sacred Deer" from Yorgos Lanthimos and the German premiere of the Italian "At War For love" from Pierfrancesco Diliberto.

Schwarzer Löwe (Black Lion) for the Best Film in the "Beyond" Series

"Beyond" shows films that dare to try out new things, that do not shy away from taking risks. The best film of this series will be given the "Schwarzer Löwe", an award with 2,500 Euros prize money, which is sponsored by Volkswagen Financial Services. With "Beyond: Faith", the series revolves around the question of how the way to God can be found if the essence of the belief is misaligned.

In so doing, the films venture down unusual paths like the musical "Jeannette, the childhood of Joan of Arc", which shows the opposite of a cheesy saint with dancing nuns and lay actors.

"Little Crusader" looks at the plight of the father and the loneliness of the child instead of an excessively heroic children's crusade – and has absolute topicality when you think of the 16-year-old follower from Saxony who was captured in Mossul. A documentary film about exorcism today ("Libera Nos", German premiere), a visually powerful St. Antony allegory ("The Ornithologist"), a thriller, where religion is abused for ambition of power ("The Preacher"), and an evil deity that assigns insubordinate people into time loops ("The Endless") – all these complete the experiments and new narratives of the series.

German French Youth Award: KINEMA

A jury of six young people, French and German, aged from 16 to 21 will choose a winner from six debut and second films. The German director Gordon Maugg will advise the jury during their bi-lingual discussion and on their decisions. The prize is supported by the 'Deutsch-Französische Jugendwerk' (Franco-German Youth Office); actress Hanna Schygulla is the patron.

Home Match: "Die Goldenen Vier Linden" Award for best film.

2017 promises to be the best year ever for the film-producing region of Braunschweig: fantastic thrillers, regional diversity and international festival winners. In Saarbrücken Nora Fingerscheidt won the prize for the best documentary with "Ohne diese Welt" [Without this World]. Max Ophüls' and Sarah Ben Hadouze's film "Wald" [Forest] was nominated as best medium-length film, also in Saarbrücken. "Gabi" with the brilliant Gesa Flake was shown at the Berlinale in February and the Turkish film "Clair Obscur" with Mehmet Kurtulus was invited to Toronto, Warschau, Kopenhagen und Tallinn. All of these films are in the competition for the "Goldenen Vier Linden", the award for the Home Match series.

In addition there are also the current projects of the film students at the Braunschweig University of Art and the Ostfalia University, the films from the 'Selbstfilmfestivals durchgedreht 24', as well as the "BIFFI Tapes" (Films by young filmmakers) and "Filmklappe" (Short Film Festival for schools in Braunschweig).

New German Films

In eight films the generation of directors from the 70s and 80s explore the entire spectrum of human nature. With its German premiere, Swiss director Martin Guggisberg's political satire "Meet the Gähwilers" can be seen as an afterthought to the recent election campaign. In "Dark Blue Girl", 7-year-old Luca reacts jealously to her parents falling in love all over again. Jürgen Vogel plays Ötzi in "Der Mann aus dem Eis" (Iceman). The documentary "Homo Sapiens" by Nikolaus Geyhalter, also manages completely without speech. Barbara Albert's "Mademoiselle Paradise" is a parable about the power of music in Mozart's time in Vienna.

The series is supported by Gärtner Datensysteme.

QUE*RSCHNITT: New LGBTQI*-FILMS

With the support of the Association for Sexual Emancipation, the festival will present for the first time an LGBTQI* film series, which reflects the diversity beyond the hetero-normative cinema. The series shows the diversity and acceptance of alternative life styles, such as the remarkable life story of "Tamara" Adrián, Venezuela's first transsexual politician. A few days ago, the French production "BPM" about the group of activists, ACT UP, in Paris during the 90s and their fight for Anti-aids research, education and support, was nominated for the Best Foreign Film Oscar. The film series is funded by the Lower Saxony Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Equality as part of the campaign "For sexual and gender diversity* in Lower Saxony".

Witches at Midnight

This year the series "...at midnight" will be haunted by witches! In the cinema the witch always had to be the source of blatant horror. But in 2015 a film transcends the subgenre: "The Vwitch" by director Robert Eggers introduces a renaissance in films about witches. The Braunschweig International Film Festival will show 5 films where the focus is on women who resolutely confront their fate and opt for unconventional means to reach their goal. "The Noonday Witch" and "A Dark Song" bring us psychological horror beneath the searing sun and in a dark house. "The Love Witch" (German premiere) tackles the topic in a retro and light-hearted way, but no less deadly.

Neo Westerns

A special thematic focus of the Film Festival this year is the genre Neo Western. Originally initiated by New Hollywood stars like Sam Peckinpath, Arthur Penn and Robert Altman, in recent years, prominent exponents such as Tarantino or the Coen brothers have helped the genre gain more popularity. This series shows that the conventions of the genre are also being revived in new and different ways by the younger generation of filmmakers. For example "Dogs" and "Coyote" relocates the Wild West to the European hinterland, where the heroes fight for their land, in "My Sweet Pepper Land" and "Marlina", strong women take a stand in a patriarchy dominated by violence. "Loin des hommes" finally tries to fathom the question of justice and freedom of choice in times of war.

Film Festival in the Schloss

After last year's success, the Festival is once more going to transform the inner courtyard of the Schloss Arkaden into an "Open-In" Cinema. On four evenings the emphasis will be on "Music and Film". The film concert "Evelyn" starts off the proceedings on Wednesday, October 18. On the following evening there is the lecture-concert with Oscar winner Jan A.P. Kaczmarek. On Thursday, October 19 the programme continues with the British alternative band Placebo in "Placebo: Alt. Russia" on tour, before "Lefto in Transit" explores the club scene in London and

Seoul on Saturday, 21/10. "Evelyn" and the lecture-concert start at 8.30 pm, "Placebo" and "Lefto" at 9.00 pm.

With generous support from Volkswagen Financial Services, the Richard Borek Foundation, Foundation Braunschweiger Land and Allianz for the region.

Pre-Crime

The documentary looks at the phenomenon of "Predictive Policing." Computers, fed with our personal information, which we voluntarily disclose every day, enable police to predict when and where a crime will occur. The film introduces people, who work with this big data technology, those who develop it further and also their victims. In co-operation with Haus der Wissenschaft (House of Science).

School Presentations and Children's Cinema

On 18/10 and 19/10 at 11 am, the Festival will show "Raving Iran" for school classes. The captivating portrait of two techno DJs in Teheran was awarded the FIRST STEPS prize in 2016.

Registration at ticketing@filmfest-braunschweig.de or 0531-70220 20.

On Sunday, 22/10 it really is Family Cinema time in C1 Cinema. At 11 am, two children save their botanical garden with the help of a magical blue tiger. At 1pm, Veit Helmer's colourful fairy-tale "Quatsch und die Nasenbaerbande" invites laughter and amazement – both films are General Admission.

Programme for Prams

For everyone whose life right now revolves around nappies, bottles and burp cloths, BIFF is showing three films from the Festival programme, at 11 am on each three days from October 18 - 20 in the Roten Saal in the Kulturinstitut– "Little Crusader," "Der Nobelpreisträger", and "Katie Says Goodbye". And there are special arrangements: The sound track is quieter, the lights are lower and there will be plenty of room for prams etc.

Braunschweig University of Fine Arts

It has always been a tradition of the Braunschweig Film Festival to present - in a special programme of experimental, documentary, animated and short films - a selection of films and videos, which have been produced during a year's study at the HBK. The classes of Professors Michael Brynntrup, Candice Breitz and Corinna Schmidt as well as the Institute for Media Research are all represented.

Short Films

164 short films in 28 programmes as well as 32 music videos are being shown in the Festival.

Workshops

Two workshops on October 20, at 12 pm and 3 pm respectively, provide hands-on experience. Sebastian Droschinski and Nick Buckenauer from the Hamburger Wendie Webfest (Festival for Web Series Hamburg) will explain how to film and market a web series. Tim Mittelstaedt and Anna Weisenberger from 'APITs Developing Lab – Nordmedia' introduce the latest developments and applications from Bereich 360°.

Exhibitions

"Film – Footage – Fotografie. Bildnerische Augenblicke mit filmischen Bezügen" (Pictorial Moments with filmic references) can be seen in the Photography Museum with works by Angelo Novi, Martina Sauter and Eli Cortiñas. During the Festival, a video installation of the exhibition will be shown daily in the Universum Cinema from 11 am.

“ErSiEeS – Portraits von Yvonne Most. Eine fotografische Spurensuche” (HeShelt – Portraits by Yvonne Most. A photographic investigation) in Queer Centre Onkel Emma.

Tickets are available online from September 28 on www.filmfest-braunschweig.de and from October 7 in the Universum Cinema.

Ticket prices:

Tickets: 8.50 Euros | 5 tickets: 38 Euros | 10 tickets: 72 Euros | season ticket: 98 (concessions 85 Euros)

Student Day sponsored by Volkswagen Financial Services

Only on Wednesday, October 18

Students can buy tickets for mainstream films at the reduced price of 2.50 Euros. These are only valid for films shown on that day. Tickets for the next day cannot be purchased at this price.

Braunschweig International Film Festival is supported by

VOLKSWAGEN FINANCIAL SERVICES

THE KEY TO MOBILITY



Niedersachsen



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