

Oscar-Winner Jan A.P. Kaczmarek – Guest at the 31st Braunschweig Filmfestival

Polish film composer Jan A. P. Kaczmarek is the guest of honour at the 31st Braunschweig International Film Festival (October 17-22, 2017). In his honour the festival is showing a retrospective of six of his films, including “Finding Neverland”, for which he received the Academy Award for Best Film Music in 2005. On October 19th, Jan A.P. Kaczmarek presents excerpts of his work in a “lecture concert” with musicians from the Braunschweig State Orchestra. Kaczmarek is the pianist, Matthias Hornschuh the moderator.

Kaczmarek first studied law, but for political reasons ended his intended career as a diplomat. When he moved from Poland to the USA in 1989, he could already look back on a successful career as a theatre and film composer. In the USA he was successful with theatre music, winning both the Obie Award and the Drama Desk Award.

He soon gained a foothold in the US film industry and wrote music for sixty films, including “Bliss” (1997), “Unfaithful” (2002), “Evening” (2007) and “Hachi: A Dog’s Tale” (2009). Kaczmarek composed for directors such as Lasse Hallström, Agnieszka Holland, Lajos Koltai or Adrian Lyne.

In 2005, he was the first Pole to win an Oscar, when “Neverland” won the award for best film music. His symphonic works include, among others, the “Cantata for Freedom” for the 25th anniversary of Solidarność and the oratorio “1956”, commemorating the insurrection in Posen.

In addition to music, Kaczmarek organizes the film and music festival Transatlantyk Lodz, which he founded in 2011 and which attracted 63,000 guests in 2017. He is the bearer of the Order Polonia Restituta.

On Thursday, October 19, composer Matthias Hornschuh will present Jan A.P. Kaczmarek and his exciting way of life between Hollywood and Poland in a “lecture concert” in the Schloss Arkaden. Kaczmarek provides information about the development of his music and the collaboration with major directors and producers through film and music excerpts. The Maestro will himself play the piano and members of the Braunschweig State Orchestra will play examples of Kaczmarek’s work, in films such as “Hachi: A Dog’s Tale” or “Unfaithful”.

Braunschweig International Film Festival is supported by

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