

Press Release

October 2004

interfilm 20th international short film festival Berlin 2 – 7 November 2004

For the 20th time interfilm invites Berlin to the international short film festival between 2 and 7 November. Drawn from the most diverse of genres, a total of 500 productions ranging from feature, animation, documentary, children's films and music clips offer guests a wide faceted portrait of short films. This year sees a new part to the programme run alongside the annual international and German competitions - in co-operation with Siemens, MicroMovie AWARD has invited entries for films made using a mobile phone. Other competitions include: 'Shorts for Kids', 'Eject - the Long Night of the Unexpected ' and the 'Immaginale'. And for all those interested, the Filmclub parties will be taking place in the Roter Salon in the evenings. On 6 November interfilm invites Berlin to the anniversary party before the festival officially closes on 7 November with the prize giving.



The international short film festival Berlin, which started for the first time 23 years ago, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. From 2 to 7 November 2004 some 500 films will be shown in seven locations including Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Filmkunsthaus Babylon, Filmtheater Hackesche Höfe, Volksbühne at Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz and Acud cinema.

The nominated films, which generally run for less than 20 minutes, reflect current developments in international short film. Over 3600 films from 80 countries apply to take part in the renowned festival. Approximately 16,000 guests are expected this year to the capital's second largest film festival.

The competition programme is organised according to different themes. Some 100 films feature in the international competition with an international jury awarding the 'interfilm Short Awards' to the best film, best animation, best camera, best documentary and the best film 'against violence and intolerance'. Jury members include the director of the Paris Némó Festival, Gilles Alvarez, the documentary film maker, Gunter Hanfgarn, and the actress Catherine Flemming.

The German competition also focuses on local short film productions. In addition, a children's jury will choose the best films for kids. And for the seventh time, the public can select their favourites in the 'Long Night of the Unexpected - Eject.'

The 'Immagine', the Italian part of the festival, is another audience competition. The special programme on Italian films represents a competition in its own right for festival guests. The 'Immagine' has been part of the short film festival for three years already. The prize is offered by Associazione Culturale Lavori in Corso e.V.

And for the first time ever, a competition for short films made using a mobile phone. interfilm Berlin and Siemens mobile invited entries for the prize from young filmmakers all around the world. Mobile phones with an integrated camcorder were supplied by Siemens mobile for the MicroMovie AWARD. 140 films were entered before the application deadline expired for the 90-second contributions. Invitations to apply were sent to renowned film schools and select producers all over the world. Together with several European countries, China, Columbia, Australia, India, South Africa and Canada were among those that took part.

Alongside the customary competitions, the festival this year offers yet more interesting things. The focus on countries like Argentina, Australia, Spain and Portugal provides guests with a more in-depth view of the different short film landscapes. 'Music Videos' offers a portrayal of the music clip genre, 'Oscars in Animated Shorts' introduces Oscar winning short films, 'Berlin 36' shows films made in 36 hours in Berlin shortly before the festival. The special 'Alle Macht der Super8' ('Super8 Greats') is worthy of mention here since interfilm 1982 started out as a super 8 festival.

Owing to the interest shown in Spanish films last year, the Iberian peninsula will once again be represented with a special programme this year. By way of example, the films '10 Minutos' and 'El Ciclo' will be lining up in the international competition. The national focus on Portugal will show us relatively unfamiliar films from this small country. Also, the director of the Portuguese film festival in Vila do Conde has been invited to come to Berlin.

The bi-national festival ArgenKINO will be showing films in Berlin in October from the still unknown filmmaking country, Argentina. Two special programmes, 'The Best of ArgenKINO', have been put together in co-operation with ArgenKINO. This allows interfilm to acquaint the German public with the Argentinian short film. ArgenKINO and interfilm will be showing German short film productions in Buenos Aires in May next year. And as in previous years, other German and international film festivals such as the Cottbus Festival of Eastern European Films, the Némó Festival from Paris or the St. Kilda Festival from Melbourne have been invited with selected pieces.

On Monday 1 November, the actress Anna Thalbach will be discussing the engagement of famous actors in short film with a film lounge moderator in the arts department store, Dussmann. The store's water screen will show a preview of amazing films from the forthcoming festival. The 20th short film festival will officially open at 7.30 pm on 2 November in Haus der Kulturen der Welt. The English comedian Adrian Kennedy will go through the programme.

On 4 November the Minister of Culture, Dr. Christina Weiss, will be awarding the German short film prize, offered by the national short film sponsorship. interfilm Berlin has co-organised this event in the Berliner Kulturbrauerei.

A highlight of the week's evening events is the festival's 20th anniversary party on Saturday 6 November in the 'Taucher' club - this is also when the MicroMovie AWARD winner will be chosen. The world-famous life video performers from London EXCEEDA will then start performing using festival short films. On other evenings, film makers and any other interested parties can meet in the 'Roter Salon' to the backdrop of DJ sounds. The closing main prize giving will take place on 7 November in Filmkunsthaus Babylon with the comedy moderator Quilitz.

The short film distribution, interfilm, has also co-initiated this year's subway festival, 'Going Underground', and the 'Zebra Poetry Film Festival'. With the monthly short film run, 'Shorts Attack!', interfilm has secured a place in Berlin's cultural calendar. Selected entries and highlights from the interfilm festival will be presented at the worldwide 'Festival on Tour'.

Many of the films sent in cannot be screened in the competitions or special programmes. For this reason, interfilm Berlin is putting a

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special film market at the disposal of the international filmmaking public and journalists for the duration of the festival. With more than 4000 short films entered each year for different competitions, interfilm Berlin acts as a short film promoter, distributor, content agent and network.

The festival office is located in the Instituto Cervantes at Hackescher Markt. interfilm Berlin is sponsored by the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg and by the EU Media Programme.

interfilm Berlin - Presse

Short Film Distribution Berlin

Heino Handelmann
Nadine Stutterheim

Tempelhofer Ufer 1a
10961 Berlin

Fon: +49 (0)30 - 25 94 29 03
Fax: +49 (0)30 - 25 29 13 22

presse@interfilm.de
www.interfilm.de