



Wiesbaden, November 17, 2009

PRESS RELEASE

film ab! 50 – new contest at exground filmfest

Films about losing, looking for, and finding work make up the program of the first film ab! 50 short film night on November 18 in the Caligari FilmBühne Wiesbaden. The eight nominated short films of the film ab! 50 short film contest will be shown for the first time in the framework of exground filmfest. The contest is endowed with 10.000 Euros in total, split into the first (5.000 Euros), the second (3.000 Euros), and the third (2.000 Euros) prize. The jury of five, including HR moderator Holger Weinert and Kinowelt founder Michael Kölmel, will announce the winners on the evening of the event.

Around 150 entries from more than 20 countries were submitted to the film ab! Short film contest. Young and older film makers have approached the subject “age and work” in sensitive portrayals, droll comedies, and critical utopias. The contest was advertised by the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs in the context of the „Perspektive 50plus“ program. No specific genre was required.

film ab! 50 short film night, November 18, 2009, Caligari FilmBühne Wiesbaden, 7 pm

Further info can be found at: www.perspektive50plus.de/filmwettbewerb

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The nominated films

(in alphabetic order)



15 MINUTEN WAHRHEIT (Feature film, Germany, 15 Min.)

Director: Nico Zingelmann

50 years old Georg Komann and his colleagues at the Jaffcorp Investment AG are being laid off out of the blue and without appropriate compensation from their employer. They face a personal disaster because they are aware that nobody hires a 50+ person. Komann comes up with a risky plan.



EDGAR (Feature film, Germany, 12 Min.)

Director: Fabian Busch

Since his wife died two years ago, Edgar lives alone, doing nothing. He isn't needed anymore and nobody seems to notice him. One day he leaves his flat, determined to find work. He is being turned down by an employee in a department store. Lost in thought he accidentally pockets an umbrella upon leaving. The store detective arrests him. All of a sudden Edgar realizes his chance.



FRISCHE ERDBEEREN (Feature film, Germany, 9 Min.)

Director: Laslo Scholtze

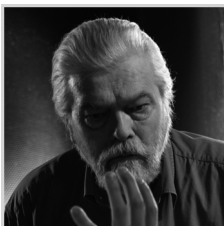
A film about a man's inner dilapidation and his relationship with his wife. The viewer encounters an ambiance of the old, the used, and the readiness for renewal. An endlessly empty open pit landscape, shared only by a deserted, rusting digger.



GEDANKEN ZUM THEMA ARBEIT (Documentary, Germany, 9 Min.)

Director: Severin Vogl

"Gedanken zum Thema Arbeit" (thoughts on work) is an artistic documentary about problems and visions of our work society. This film treats quotes from a conversation with Moritz Rinke, who among others wrote the play "Cafe Umberto" which deals with the loss of paid work and the accompanying loss of one's own dignity. The film broaches the issue of our society's attitude towards the worth and sense of work.



HANDARBEIT (Feature film, Germany, 12 Min.)

Director: Andreas Dahn

A future. More and more people exchange their hands for more effective implants. Dennis s, but they are old. When his job performance at the cuckoo clock factory decreases, layoff impends.



RENTNER GMBH (Documentary, Germany, 27 Min.)

Director: Bertram Verhaag

The average age at „Vita Needle“, a needle and tube factory near Boston, USA, lies at a proud 74 years. The employees for life Mary, Marion, Paul, Tom, Ann, and Rosa, all of them between 75 and 95 years of age, have found a new home the company. In the interviews, the aged needle factory workers lay open their new self-esteem in a touching and amiable manner.



TIME OFF (Feature film, France/Russia, 27 Min.)

Director: Roman Kantor

Albert Jakobs is laid off from his company for which he worked for 35 years. His job meant everything to him. Now all he has left is himself. But does Albert Jakobs really know who Albert Jakobs is?



UNGEBROCHEN (Documentary, Germany, 6 Min.)

Director: Jolanka Höhn

Short film portrayal of a former inhabitant of Eastern Germany and his social and professional path after the coming down of the wall. Wolfgang, in his mid-50s, tells his personal story in a touchingly open manner. He looks back slightly wistfully, the events of the years 1989/1990 left their mark on him. But he still keeps on tirelessly, like a little tumbler – unbowed.

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exground filmfest is an honorary event of the Wiesbaden Kinofestival e. V. and is being supported by the following institutions and businesses:

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- Cultural office of the state capital Wiesbaden
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- U.S. Consulate General Frankfurt
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