



Wiesbaden, November 16, 2011

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **exground filmfest 24 celebrates hump day**

#### **First winner films decorated // German Short Film Contest started // Cinematic highlights on the second weekend**

exground filmfest 24 celebrates its hump day and begins the 2nd festival half with great feedback and strong visitor numbers: Until November 20, 2011, the festival presents the highlights from the international independent film scene and an appealing framework program.

After the first festival half, we already can announce the first winner films: The main award of the Wiesbaden Youth Film Contest goes to the short film COUNTDOWN by Leon Kaczmarczyk. The „Golden Cucumber“, Award of the traditional exground-Gong-Show, goes to Linus Secker for his film DER INTERRATIONALE FRÜHSCHOPPEN. The winner of the Wiesbaden-Special – Short Film Contest will be announced on Sunday, November 20, in the course of the closing event.

Another audience draw is the renowned and well-established German Short Film Contest which nearly sold out the Caligari FilmBühne for its first screening on Tuesday, November 15. Its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary can be celebrated by the International ON-VIDEO-Contest, during which 20 films from 16 countries compete for the jury award endowed with 1500 Euros (Part I: Thursday, November 17, 5.30pm, Caligari FilmBühne; Part II: Friday, November 18, 5.30pm, Caligari FilmBühne; 2<sup>nd</sup> screening Part I: Friday, November 18, 8.00pm, Kulturpalast; 2<sup>nd</sup> screening Part II: Saturday, November 19, 8.00pm, Kulturpalast).

In addition, exground filmfest offers several German premieres today: The Mexican feature film debut by Iria Gómez Concheiro THE CINEMA HOLD UP, the cheerful production AU PAIR, KANSAS from the USA, as well as GUILTY OF ROMANCE, part 3 of the „Hatred“-trilogy by Japanese enfant terrible Sion Sono, director of LOVE EXPOSURE and COLD FISH. The festival also presents SENSATION, an Irish-Dutch comedy about a farmer with an escort service.

On the second festival weekend, exground filmfest launches a cinematic fireworks: „News from Germany“ are represented by the politically explosive documentary DER FALL CHODORKOWSKI about the former richest Russian and by now the country's most famous inmate, by director Cyril Tuschki who will be a guest at the festival, and by



KIEZKICK UND PUNKROCK by Wiesbaden director Tim Gorbauch, who approaches the fans of the 1. FC St. Pauli soccer club in his latest documentary, taking them on a musical journey.

From Russia, the festival presents the moving documentary MINER'S DAY: SANYA UND SPARROW about former miners by Andrey Gryazev, who won the Russian national award „die 2010 mit dem russischen Nationalpreis „Bay Twig“ for best debut film, and the Philippines bring us the in-your-face horror-trash-comedy REMINGTON AND THE CURSE OF THE ZOMBADINGS, in which little Remington receives a bizarre curse because he makes fun of gays.

The retrospective dedicated to Israeli director Eyal Sivan, who is known as a resolute critic of Israel's settlement politics, closes today with THE SPECIALIST, in which the documentary filmmaker retraces the trial against Adolf Eichmann, who - following Hitler's orders - deported millions of innocent people to the concentration camps.

On Sunday, November 20, exground filmfest presents the 2nd screening of the established German Short Film Contest (6.00pm, Caligari FilmBühne) and celebrates its closing party as of 9pm in the foyer with DJ Monaco Bertrand from Munich.

The festival center is located in the Caligari FilmBühne in the heart of Wiesbaden, further screening locations are the Murnau Filmtheater and the Kulturpalast. Apart from the highlights from the international independent film scene, the festival offers a manifold framework program until November 20 – including the cultish karaoke night on Saturday, November 19, at 11pm in the foyer of the Caligari FilmBühne.



exground filmfest is an honorarily organized event of the Wiesbadener Kinofestival e. V. and is being supported by the following institutions and companies:

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