



Wiesbaden, September 5, 2011

PRESS RELEASE

exground filmfest 24 brings highlights from international independent films to Wiesbaden

Record number of film submissions // Focus on Israel // Retrospective Eyal Sivan

Film fans from near and far should make a note in their calendars: Between November 11 and 20, 2011, Wiesbaden's exground filmfest – one of the most important independent-festivals in Germany – presents around 300 highlights from the current choice of independently produced short- and feature films. These were selected from more than 2 500 film submissions from 151 countries from Andorra to Cyprus. The international impact of the festival is reflected by the number of submissions from all over the world, which is 25% higher than last year. In 2010, the festival received 2 000 film submissions from 89 countries. Currently, the viewing committee is busy sifting through films, a few program highlights are already fixed though:

This year's country focus lies on Israel. Apart from current feature films and documentaries, exground filmfest presents several short film programs, introducing up-and-coming young talented directors from Israeli film academies. A tribute program is dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Sam Spiegel Film & Television School in Jerusalem. In the course of this country focus, exground filmfest shows a retrospective of Israeli filmmaker Eyal Sivan, who is also known as a tough critic of Israel's politics. Among his best-known films are *THE SPECIALIST*, a documentary about the Eichmann trial, and *JAFFA*, *THE ORANGE'S CLOCKWORK*. Eyal Sivan will talk about his work and the backgrounds in a film talk.

A highlight of the American Independents program is the German premiere of the US-Dutch co-production *SOMEWHERE TONIGHT* by Michael Giacomo, starring John Turturro in the leading role as a man who is crazy for telephone sex.

Further program highlights: News from Asia – new films from Asia; International – insights into known and less-known film countries; News from Germany – national feature films with a distinctive handwriting, and short films, be it traditionally as short before the main feature or in themed programs. exground filmfest thanks the Wiesbaden film production company „Bewegte Zeiten“, who in 2011 supports the presentation of the documentaries in the festival program for the first time.



exground filmfest's contests have become an important forum for promising young filmmakers – not least due to the audience's high interest in works off the mainstream.

German Short Film Contest

One of the traditional highlights and crowd-pullers is the nationwide contest – launched in 1993 – for the best German short film, endowed with a total of 6 000 Euros.

International ON-VIDEO Contest

In 2002, an expert jury assigned the ON-VIDEO award for the best international short film on video, endowed with 1 500 Euros, for the first time.

Wiesbaden-Special – Short Film Contest

This contest had its premiere at exground filmfest 18. The audience award for the best short film from Wiesbaden is endowed with 500 Euros as well as “2 days in the sound studio“, worth 2 000 Euros.

In the youth film program, the exground youth days, a youth jury will award the prize money of 2 500 Euros for the best international youth film. The audience will vote for the best youth film from Wiesbaden, endowed with 450 Euros.

As always, the festival center is the Caligari FilmBühne in the heart of Wiesbaden. Additional screening locations of exground filmfest 24 are the Murnau Filmtheater and the Kulturpalast.

You can find the complete program of exground filmfest 24 online as of mid-October 2011.

From October 5, 2011, you can find film stills and texts on our press server.

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

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