



Wiesbaden, November 1, 2011

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **exground filmfest 24: The world is our guest in Wiesbaden**

**International filmmakers in conversation //**

**Discussions about the work of Eyal Sivan // 250 films in the program**

Between November 11 and 20, 2011, exground filmfest welcomes a multitude of international guests to its 24th festival edition in Wiesbaden and is looking forward to animated discussions about the 250 films in the program.

In the course of this year's country focus, numerous Israeli guests have been invited to Wiesbaden to present their current films. successful and repeatedly decorated documentary filmmaker David Fisher presents his latest production MOSTAR ROUND-TRIP, Tomer Heymann introduces his emotional family study THE QUEEN HAS NO CROWN as well as – in cooperation with his German partner Andreas Merk – the multiple decorated „home movie“ I SHOT MY LOVE. Levy Noam will talk with the audience about his impressive documentary CONCRETE, in which former soldiers of the Israeli army tell about their war assignment in the Gaza Strip. Highly anticipated are Hagar Ben Asher, director of the controversially discussed debut film DIE ZÜGELLOSE [THE SLUT], and Suha Arraf, director of the explosive documentary WOMEN OF HAMAS. The filmmaker from the region, known as scriptwriter for Eran Rikli's feature films LEMON TREE and DIE SYRISCHE BRAUT, will tell the audience about her exciting impressions from the closely guarded „inner circle“ of influential Hamas women.

In addition, exground filmfest presents three Israeli short film programs with numerous guests. Israeli film students Nelli Guy (director of MESILOT), Tamar Nethanel (director of SIGNS), Eliyahu ZIGDON (SATELLITE OF LOVE), as well as Ariel Weisbrod (co-director of WONDERFUL DAY) will talk about their short films.



In the frame of this year's country focus, a retrospective is dedicated to Israeli director Eyal Sivan, who is also a guest in Wiesbaden. Known as a resolute critic of the Israeli settlement politics, the documentary filmmaker and Grimme award winner will discuss his work with the audience in several film talks.

A multitude of further international guests is awaited in Wiesbaden. In the "International" program, exground filmfest offers a varied impression of the current independent film scene from all over the world and welcomes Russian documentary filmmaker Andrey Gryazev (Double feature: MINER'S DAY and SANYA AND SPARROW), Austrian documentary filmmaker Paul Poet (EMPIRE ME) and Egyptian documentary film maker Amal Ramsis, who presents an exciting contemporary document of the Arabian spring with FORBIDDEN. The Polish feature film SOMMER AUF DEM LAND is represented by director Radosław Węgrzyn.

For the „American Independents“ program, exground filmfest welcomes director Megan Griffiths and producer Lacey Leavitt from the indie production THE OFF HOURS, whose protagonist is also the star of this year's festival poster. Additionally, director Michael Di Giacomo will present his film SOMEWHERE TONIGHT, starring a brilliant John Turturro in the leading role. From Asia, Ryo Yoshikawa, director of the Japanese feature film PANORAMA, will fly in. For the exground youth days, director David Wnendt (KRIEGERIN), and director Clay Jeter plus actress Sarah Hagan (JESS + MOSS) have confirmed their visit – as has the director of the Israeli short film SHIR IN THE WATER, Keren Bergman.

From Germany we await, among others, Cyril Tuschi, director of DER FALL CHODORKOWSKI, Justus Pasternak, director of RANCHO TEXAS, and Claudia Heindel, director of LUCKY SEVEN. The impressive chamber play BEREDTES SCHWEIGEN is presented by director Julia Keller and camera man Janis Mazuch. The essayistic short film TRACES OF AN ELEPHANT is presented by director Vanessa Nica Mueller, winner of the German Contest of the International Short Film Days in Oberhausen 2011.

In addition, numerous directors from the international, national and regional short film contests have announced their coming.



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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