



Wiesbaden, October 15th, 2012

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Cineastic fireworks for the 25. edition of exground filmfest**

**International independent film pays a visit to Wiesbaden //**

**Jubilee Program // Focus Switzerland**

exground filmfest celebrates its jubilee and invites to Wiesbaden November 16-25, 2012 for the 25. edition of exground filmfest. One of the most important festivals of independent film in Germany for its 25th edition presents some 250 independently produced short- and feature length films from all over the world. This year's country in focus is Switzerland.

exground filmfest 25 will, in ten festival days, show 250 productions from 37 countries, among them 17 world premieres, 2 international premieres, 8 European premieres and 47 German premieres. Festival center is Caligari FilmBühne in the very heart of Wiesbaden. The other cinemas are Kulturpalast and Murnau Filmtheater.

The festival will open on November 16 with the award-winning Swiss film SUMMER GAMES by Rolando Colla, which in 2012 was nominated for an Oscar as „best foreign language film“. SUMMER GAMES tells an impressive story about the first steps into adult life and is one of the competitors for best direction (endowed with EUR 250) in the international youth film competition of exground youth days. The film will have a repeat screening on November, 21.

Switzerland is exground filmfest's this year's country in focus. Ten documentary- and feature films, a short film program SWISS SHORTS, one supporting film IN SEARCH OF A DONKEY by Marie Nicollier in BEST OF SHORTS and RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE by Cécile Brun in the international short film competition ON VIDEO give a multilayered filmic impression of modern Switzerland – off clichés like lilac cows, pittoresque mountain panoramas and white chocolate.

The unusual Swiss documentary *A GLORIOUS MESS* by Ulrich Grossenbacher lets us look into everyday life – always respectful and never at the expense of the protagonists – of four messies. Big screen splendor complete with stars offers exground filmfest with the award-winning Swiss film *180°* by Cihan Inan starring Christopher Buchholz, Sophie Rois and Michael Neuenschwander. The brilliantly played characters experience a rampage shocking Switzerland.

Other than that the exground filmfest program is composed of the sections American Independents, International, News from Germany and the exground youth days.

In American Independents exground filmfest presents masterpieces of the independent US film. In *TWIXT* master Francis Ford Coppola entangles his protagonist Hall, played by Val Kilmer, in a mysterious series of murders. *KILLER JOE* is William Friedkin's new film, a high class neo-noir-thriller – starring Matthew McConaughey as corrupt cop Joe. Amir Bar-Lev documents an impressing experiment in *RE:GENERATION MUSIC PROJECT*: in developing new pieces electro-DJs work with famous artists of other music genres (among them members of „The Doors“!). *STRUTTER* by Allison Anders and Kurt Voss is a declaration of love to rock 'n' roll with musicians such as Victoria Williams, Terry Graham and Ariel Pink.

The section International gives a multifaceted image of current independent film productions all over the world. Among the highlights here the European premiere of the Philippine film *AMOK* by Lawrence Anthony Fajardo about a rampage in Manila. In an exclusive preview before the film comes to German cinemas exground filmfest shows *MONDOMANILA OR: HOW I FIXED MY HAIR AFTER A RATHER LONG JOURNEY* Philippine star director Khavn De La Cruz' new film. On top of that exground filmfest presents in this section *BEN LEE: CATCH MY DISEASE*, in which Hollywood stars like Claire Danes and Winona Ryder take us into the life of singer/songwriter Ben Lee, and also *TABU*, which won the Alfred-Bauer-award at Berlinale 2012.

In the section News from Germany exground filmfest presents the winner of this year's student Oscar in silver – *OF DOGS AND HORSES* by Thomas Stuber. Fritzi Haberlandt and Mario Adorf meet in the delicate film *LONELY U* by Lola Randl. The documentary *DETLEF* follows the life of now 62 year-old Detlef Stoffel, an important activist of the German gay movement in the 1970s. *WENN MAN ES VERSTEHT, IST ES ZU SPÄT* (By the time you understand it, it is too late), Hartmut Jahn's documentary about the Fluxus movement, initiated in Wiesbaden 50 years ago, will have its world premiere at exground filmfest.

The youth film section exground youth days is designed for twelve to eighteen year-old film fans. A highlight in the program is FÜR ELISE (for Elise) starring Wiesbaden-born Jasna Fritzi Bauer, screening out of competition at exground youth days. The tumultuous comedy FLYING FISH by Güzin Kar is among the top five of successful Swiss films in 2011. FORTRESS as sensitively as unsparingly tells about a teenager's self-discovery in the midst of domestic violence and brings Peter Lohmeyer as alcohol-addicted father back to the screen. Also in competition this year's Berlinale Glass Bear-winner, the slightly different road movie ARCADIA from the USA. The Wiesbaden youth film competition features works by local talent, competing for the Best Director-award endowed with EUR 450.

Especially important at exground filmfest – short films. Traditionally a short film opens each program before the feature length film. On top of that exground shows quite a number of short film programs and also has short film competitions. On the occasion of 15th KIMUAK, each year presenting the best shorts from Basque country, exground filmfest shows a BEST OF KIMUAK in nine Basque short films from the past four years. Alongside with programs of Polish and Iranian shorts.

Short films from all over Germany are gathered in the prestigious German Shortfilm Competition, one of the exground filmfest highlights since 1993 and endowed with prize money of EUR 8,000 altogether. The money for 1. and 3. awards, amounting to EUR 4,000 are donated by the department of culture of the state capital of Wiesbaden. The money for the 2. award, amounting to EUR 2,000 is sponsored by the Wiesbaden tv-production company Magenta TV. Pille film equipment rental offers services worth EUR 2,000. Participants of the International Shortfilm Competition ON VIDEO compete for EUR 1,500 in prize money, awarded by an international jury and endowed by the group of exground filmfest-friends. The best Wiesbaden shortfilm gets determined by the audience in the Wiesbaden-Special – shortfilm-competition and is endowed with EUR 500, donated by Wiesbadener Kurier, and services of „two days in a sound lab“, worth EUR 2,000.

On the occasion of the 25-jubilee exground filmfest presents the highlights of past festival editions once more in a „Best-of-program“. On top of that for the jubilee there's a multifold supporting program: Berlin-based filmmaker Marion Pfaus invites to a racy image-reading-performance, Karl Nussbaum presents THE ART OF FILM AND VIDEO PERFORMANCE for the first time at an

international film festival, and after the four hour Russian masterpiece CHAPITEAU SHOW supporting actor and artist Jim Avignon invites to party at Wiesbaden Schlachthof.

Starting November 11, the Wiesbaden department of culture together with Wiesbadener Kinofestival e.V. presents a photo exhibit of works by Rudi Weissenstein at Kunsthau Wiesbaden. Rudi Weissenstein (1910–1992) has created the most extensive photo archive in Israel, with more than a million negatives. The exhibit YOU JOYOUS EYES presents a documentary as well as artistic opening of his oeuvre, which made Weissenstein one of the most significant chroniclers of his country. A 20-minute filmic documentary by Jutta Louise Oechler complements the exhibit and also draws an outline of his life. The exhibit opens on Sunday, 11. November at 12 pm with a vernissage and runs until December, 20. Admission free.

Opening- and closing party, the cineastic city walk A WALL IS A SCREEN as well as talks with filmmakers on certain topics complete the offer of exground filmfest 25.

The complete program of exground filmfest 25 will be online as of October 15, 2012 on [www.exground.com](http://www.exground.com). Stills and information about all films will then also be available on [www.exground.com/exground-presseserver](http://www.exground.com/exground-presseserver) verfügbar.

Reporting representatives of the press can get accredited for exground filmfest 25. The form is online on the press server.

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exground filmfest is organized in unpaid work by Wiesbadener Kinofestivals e. V. and gets supported by the following institutions and companies:

### **Promoters**

- Kulturstadt der Landeshauptstadt Wiesbaden
- Hessische Filmförderung
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