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PRESS RELEASE

exground filmfest – Wiesbaden's oldest film festival celebrates its jubilee - 25. festival

Record number of film entries // jubilee program // Focus Switzerland

exground filmfest celebrates its jubilee 16-25 November, 2012 and for the 25th time presents highlights of international independent film in Wiesbaden.

Exground filmfest has received more than 250.000 entries since its start. The record number of entries for the 25th festival edition shows, that exground filmfest is popular at home and abroad: round about 3,000 films from 80 countries, from Albainia to Zimbabwe, were entered for the international program and competitions this year. The festival's international significance is not least mirrored in the number of entries, which has risen by 20% since last year. Exground filmfest's selection committee chooses ca. 300 highlights from the international choice of independently produced short- and feature length films.

On the occasion of the jubilee exground filmfest will show highlights of past festival editions again. Exground fans, cinephiles and those interested in film may look forward to the special program – we will announce the „best of“ films by mid-October. On top of that a multifaceted supporting program awaits the visitors. The Berlin film maker and ON-VIDEO award winner Marion Pfaus invites for a racy image-reading-performance, Karl Nussbaum will return to exground filmfest to present his video performance „Hilbert Space“ as international premiere, and a Rudi Weissenstein – one of the most important chroniclers of Israeli history – photo exhibition continues last year's focus on Israel.

This year's country in focus gives a manifold image of modern Switzerland – beyond mainstream and clichés – in ten programs of current feature- as well as documentary films and a program of shorts. To tune in on Swiss films, Wiesbadener Kinofestival e. V. within the series „exground film of the month“ presents a special highlight on October 24, 2012 at Caligari FilmBühne: this year's Swiss film in Berlinale competition, L'ENFANT D'EN HAUT by Ursula Meier as exclusive preview. On November 16th exground filmfest will open with the award-winning film SUMMER GAMES by Rolando Colla, which also was the Swiss entry for the Oscar as Best foreign language film. The focus Switzerland is supported by Swiss Films and the Swiss consulate general in Frankfurt/Main.

Exground filmfest's main program in 2012 presents our well established programs American Independents, News from Germany, International and News from Asia. The films in exground youth days compete for prize money of 3.000 EUR. Wiesbaden productions will be presented in the Wiesbaden-Special – shortfilm-competition, endowed with 500 EUR. The prize money is donated by Wiesbadener Kurier. The Wiesbaden sound studio Klangbezirk donates services worth 2,000 EUR. Shortfilms from all over Germany are gathered in the renowned German Shortfilm competition, attracting with prizes of 8,000 EUR altogether. The 4,000 EUR prize money for 1st and 3rd place are donated by the department of culture of the state capital Wiesbaden. The prize money for 2nd place of 2.000 EUR is donated by the Wiesbaden tv production company Magenta TV. Pille film equipment rental donates services for 2,000 EUR. International works compete for the jury award of the International ON-VIDEO competition, endowed with 1,500 EUR. The prize money is given by the Friends of Exground.

Another regular in our program is the international short film, which at exground filmfest is traditionally shown before each feature length film or curated short film program. The short film program Short Matters will present all films nominated for the European Shortfilm Award including this year's award winner THE WHOLLY FAMILY by Terry Gilliam.

Festival center is Caligari FilmBühne Wiesbaden. Additional cinemas are Murnau Filmtheater and Kulturpalast. The complete program of exground filmfest 25 will be announced by mid-October on www.exground.com. Film stills and texts will be on exground filmfest's press server from mid-October.

Press officer

Tanja Bischoff

phone (0611) 4 50 49 68

presse@exground.com

exground filmfest is organized in unpaid work by Wiesbadener Kinofestival e. V. and is supported by the following institutions and enterprises:

promoters/sponsors

- Department of culture of the state capital Wiesbaden
- Hessian film subsidy
- Hessian ministry for science and arts
- Swiss consulate general in Frankfurt/Main
- Swiss Films
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- Kulturpalast
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- Department for field work in social work/culture (youth department) – WI & YOU

media partners

- Wiesbadener Kurier
- Journal Frankfurt