

Wiesbaden, 17. September 2014

PRESS RELEASE

exground filmfest 27: first highlights of our program

Focus Mexico // films with international stars // benefactors of awards

The waiting will soon be over: November 14 – 23, 2014 international exground filmfest presents the best independently produced feature-, documentary- and experimental films as well as animations in Wiesbaden. Caligari FilmBühne will be the festival center once more, completed by Murnau-Filmtheater and Kulturpalast as additional cinemas.

Mexiko is this year's country in focus. The latest in Mexican cinematography will be represented in eight feature- and documentary films as well as two short film programs. The family comedy LOS HÁMSTERS by Gil González and the unsparing documentary THE NAKED ROOM about a children's hospital in Mexiko City among them.

Numerous international top stars will meet at exground filmfest 27. Among them Isabelle Huppert, playing in ABUS DE FAIBLESSE, Catherine Breillat's new autobiographically motivated film. Also on board: Stellan Skarsgård and Bruno Ganz with stunning performances in the black humor gangster comedy IN ORDER OF DISAPPEARANCE (KRAFTIDIOTEN). In the US drama CAMP X-RAY about prisoners and soldiers in Guantanamo Bay – a German premiere – Kristen Stewart shows impressingly, that she has become a serious actress. Also behind the camera exground filmfest can present high-class names this year: Angelina Jolie took part as producer in the Ethiopian film DIFRET by Zeresenay Berhane Mehari, a rousing drama about the 14 year old Hirut, who finds herself threatened by a death sentence. The complete program with 200 feature length and short films will be announced at the beginning of October.

From the 3,000 entries from over 90 countries from Afghanistan to Zaire the selection committee has chosen most of all those films, who won't play theatrically otherwise. The selected films play in the traditional festival sections „American Independents“, „International“, „News from

Germany“ – this year renamed to „Made in Germany“ – as well as in numerous short film programs and competitions.

One of the most important competitions of exground filmfest is the absolute audience favorite, the „German Short Film Competition“, in which twelve German short films compete for cash and non-cash prizes worth € 8,000. As usual the audience decides the winners. The prize money for first and third places - € 3,000 and 1,000 – are donated by the state capital of Wiesbaden. „We are very happy, that the Wiesbaden tv production company Magenta TV after 2012 once more donates € 2,000 for second place“, says Andrea Wink, member of the exground team. On top of that Pille film equipment rental once again donates a non-cash prize for equipment rental worth € 2,000. An expert jury will choose the winner of the „International Short Film Competition“, a prize endowed with € 1,500 – since many years donated by the Friends of exground. Short masterpieces of local directors screen in the „Wiesbaden Special – Short Film Competition“. The winners of the cash and non-cash prizes worth € 2,500 are traditionally determined by audience vote. The prize money of € 500 is donated by exground filmfest's media partner, Wiesbadener Kurier, and sound studio Klangbezirk offers help with the next project: the winner can use the sound studio free of charge up to an equivalent of € 2,000.

For the younger audiences exground filmfest offers the „youth days“: in the Wiesbaden Youth Film Competition once more works of 12-18 year old individuals and groups compete for the audience vote and the awards: the first place is endowed with € 450, donated by the Hessian State Centre for Civic Education – the second place with a voucher for the Apple store ergo sum worth € 250. Other than that in the International Youth Film Competition at least seven youth films from all over the world compete for the favor of the Wiesbaden youth jury. They decide, which director can take the € 2,500 in prize money home. For the second time there will also be an audience award, endowed with € 1,000. Both awards are offered by the state capital of Wiesbaden. Some of the contestants have already been determined: MOMMY, the latest film by wunderkind Xavier Dolan. For this drama the young Canadian received the award for best directing at this year's Cannes Film Festival. With 52 TUESDAYS from Australia, a film about sexual identity, the winner of „Glass Bear“ at this year's Berlinale enriches the „youth days“ program.

Beyond the cinema halls exground filmfest offers a multifold supporting

program with opening and closing partys, readings as well as panel discussions with national and international guests and the iconic „Gongshow“.

exground filmfest is presented and organized by the association Wiesbadener Kinofestival e. V. – entirely in unpaid work. More than 12,500 film buffs, among them 200 professionals, attended exground filmfest 26 in 2013.

The detailed festival program will be available from mid-October at www.exground.com. Film stills and texts will be available on our press server from mid-October. Reporting press can request accreditation free of charge for exground filmfest 27 starting now. The accreditation form is available for download.

Press officer:
Sandra Blass
Mobil (01 51) 16 93 92 42
presse@exground.com



exground filmfest 27 gets supported by the following institutions and companies:

patrons

- Office for culture of the state capital of Wiesbaden
- Hessian Film Fund
- Hessian Ministry for Science and Arts
- Media Center Wiesbaden e. V
- Hessian State Centre for Civic Education

sponsors

- ESWE public transportation ltd.
- Magenta TV – tv production company ltd.
- Pille film equipment rental ltd.
- klangBezirk
- Renault Enders – ENDERS Automobile + Service ltd. & Co. limited partnership
- ergo sum e. K.
- Die Hofköche ltd.
- Vineyard Udo Ott
- fritz-kola
- UNITED PLANETS
- flower shop Zaubernuss
- Radeberger group

cooperation partners

- Caligari FilmBühne
- F.W. Murnau foundation
- Kulturpalast



- Nassauischer Arts Association Wiesbaden
- Office for Social Work – Department Youth Work „wi&you“

media partners

- Wiesbadener Kurier/publishing group Rhein Main
- sensor/publishing group Rhein Main
- Journal Frankfurt