



Wiesbaden, October 15, 2013

PRESS RELEASE

exground filmfest 26: the program is finalized

Country in focus New Zealand // Numerous premieres // Queer cinema // Music films

With around 200 short and feature-length films exground filmfest celebrates its 26th edition, November 15 to 24 in Wiesbaden. The festival will present 15 world-, two European and 26 German premieres in ten days. Festival center is Caligari FilmBühne, other venues are Murnau Filmtheater and Kulturpalast. The festival will open with Taika Waititi's New Zealand production BOY, a moving and funny account of a coming-of-age film.

BOY also marks the beginning of this year's country in focus program dedicated to New Zealand. exground filmfest casts a look on the development of New Zealand film since 1949. "After New Zealand was guest of the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2012 and also the section indigenous film of this year's Berlinale showed a number of New Zealand films, it was clear, exground filmfest's country in focus will be New Zealand in 2013", says Andrea Wink, co-chair of organizer Wiesbadener Kinofestival e. V. "Here are many great short and feature-length films to be detected, beyond Peter Jackson. Though, this is not quite right, our program also shows an (almost) unknown film of the 'Lord of the Rings' director."

The program is comprised not just of films by internationally renowned directors like Jane Campion's THE PIANO or Peter Jackson's FORGOTTEN SILVER. Early travel films, first low-budget hits like GOODBYE PORK PIE from 1981 along with new works like THE RED HOUSE, which will have its German premiere at exground filmfest, broaden the scope of the New Zealand film history. A panel completes the portrait of New Zealand as a multifold cinematic country. The program is curated by Stefanie Reis, a freelance curator and filmmaker herself. "Generally speaking, New Zealand film means refinement in storytelling", Reis explains what is special about New Zealand film. "New Zealand filmmakers often have a very fine sense for nuances, for the interpersonal, for the human which gets under your skin, regardless which genre".

The overall program of exground filmfest falls into the established sections American Independents, International, Neues aus Deutschland [News from Germany] and the exground youth days. exground also gives broad space to short film in several competitions and series. The audience can look forward to quite a number of films as European and world premieres. The section International presents BETHLEHEM, recently



decorated as Best Film of the Year by the Israeli Film Academy, as German premiere. Also premiering at exground filmfest will be two films from the Philippines: in world premiere MAGDALENA, a documentary about the conflict between religious rituals and Western medicine. The nightmarish drama TERMITARIA will be shown as German premiere. Another German premiere is the Mexican-French coproduction AFTER LUCIA within the exground youth days. The youth drama awarded at the Cannes festival was Mexico's entry for Best Foreign Language Film of the Oscars last year.

Two focal topics have developed in the exground program. Altogether eight feature films deal with lesbian and gay environments. The Dutch production MATTERHORN tells of the late coming out of a widower. The film, that – despite the problematic situation in Russia – won the most awards at this year's Moscow International Film Festival, screens at exground filmfest in the section International. Other examples are I AM DIVINE, FLOATING SKYSCRAPERS or OUT IN EAST BERLIN – LESBIANS AND GAYS IN GDR. Music in its various forms of expression is the topic of five feature-length films. FOLLOWING THE NINTH, screening as European premiere in the section American Independents, revolves around the worldwide significance of Beethoven's ninth symphony. Also in the program: THE LAST ELVIS and DEATH METAL ANGOLA.

The complete program will be online by the end of October at www.exground.com. Film stills and information material are available on our press server. Journalists writing about the festival can request accreditation free of charge for exground filmfest 26. The accreditation form is up for download.

exground filmfest is an international film festival, organized and presented since 1990 on a honorary basis by the association Wiesbadener Kinofestival e. V. With 14,500 viewers attending in 2012, among them 250 professionals (press, guests, directors, producers, actors etc.), exground filmfest belongs to the film festivals with the highest attendance in Hesse.

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exground filmfest 26 was made possible with the support of:

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- Kulturamt der Landeshauptstadt Wiesbaden
- Hessische Filmförderung
- Hessisches Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kunst
- Medienzentrum Wiesbaden e. V
- US-Generalkonsulat Frankfurt am Main
- Hessische Landeszentrale für politische Bildung

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- Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden
- Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF
- Amt für Soziale Arbeit – Abteilung Jugendarbeit „wi&you“

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