



Goethe-Institut Toronto celebrates the return of the Heimatfilm genre in

## Goethe Films: Heimat NOW

March 7, 9 & 14 at TIFF Bell Lightbox

March 10 at Goethe-Institut Toronto



*Schultze Gets the Blues | Photo courtesy Filmkorbinat*

Featuring five recent award-winning German films from this genre. Acclaimed German author Frank Goosen will be in attendance for a screening and a “Culture talks @ Goethe” event.

TORONTO, January 30, 2017 – With a nod to #Canada150, the Goethe-Institut Toronto is joining the conversation on the meaning of home and belonging with their latest **Goethe Films** screening series. **Heimat NOW** will be taking place at TIFF Bell Lightbox on March 7, 9 and 14, as well as on March 10 at the Goethe-Institut.

Popular in 1950s Germany and Austria, Heimatfilms are known for showcasing the region’s natural beauty, for featuring passionate romances, as in the popular ‘Sissi’ series, which helped launch Romy Schneider’s career. 60 years later, the genre is making a comeback, reinvented across comedies and coming-of-age stories, and not just in German film but internationally, from

*Brassed off to My Winnipeg.*

**Heimat NOW** will show five recent award-winning features that explore the current state of the nation, as well as how regional distinctions are portrayed in contemporary German films, post-reunification. Toronto audiences will have a chance to explore the country, as well as the meaning of “home”, through the following titles:

\*Toronto Premiere\*

March 7, TIFF Bell Lightbox

**Grave Decisions** Marcus H. Rosenmüller (2006) **\*shown on 35mm**

11- year-old Sebastian lives with his father and his brother in a Bavarian village. The young boy is plagued by daily nightmares of an eternal purgatory sentence, leading him to the realization that his only hope is immortality, and his only way of achieving it is becoming a rockstar.

\*North American Premiere\*

March 7, TIFF Bell Lightbox

**Holidays** Bernadette Knoller (2016)

Despite success at work and a long-term relationship, Vivian is stuck. Wanting to help, her father sends her off to a Frisian Island in the North Sea. There, she meets single mother Biene, who briefly after meeting Vivi, suddenly disappears, leaving her in charge of her 13 year-old son.

\*Canadian Premiere\*

March 9, TIFF Bell Lightbox

**Learning to Lie** Hendrik Handloegten (2003) **\*shown on 35mm**

After overcoming shyness and awkwardness as a teen, Helmut is finally in a long-term relationship. His bliss is interrupted when his girlfriend becomes pregnant, making him realize that he can only fully commit after he sees his teenage crush one last time. Based on the book by Frank Goosen, and set in the author’s hometown in the industrial Ruhr region.

**Author Frank Goosen will be in attendance for a reading and post-screening Q&A**

March 14, TIFF Bell Lightbox

**Schultze Gets the Blues** Michael Schorr (2003) **\*shown on 35mm**

Schultze has spent his whole life in a small town in Saxony-Anhalt in East Germany. After his buddies are let go, a mid-life crisis leads him to music from the American South. His new-found love might end up taking him deep into the swamps and bayous of Louisiana and back.

\*Canadian Premiere\*

March 14, TIFF Bell Lightbox

**Sound of Heimat** Arne Birkenstock, Jan Tengeler (2012)

This doc follows New Zealand musician Hayden Chisholm on a trip through Germany on the traces of its folk music or *Volksmusik*. As an outsider, Chisholm approaches German culture through its melodies and lyrics, coming across an astoundingly rich regional diversity.

On March 10, German author Frank Goosen will also be part of a **Culture talks @ Goethe** event, where he will be reading from his bestselling *Heimatromane* in German, and Toronto actor Tony Nappo (“Butcher”) in English. Admission to this event is free and will take place at Goethe-Institut Toronto.

Audiences are invited to join on social media with their own #SoundOfHeimat – a word, a photo, a video, an idea - @GoetheToronto starting Feb 24.

**Facebook & Twitter:**

**@GoetheToronto**

**#SoundOfHeimat**

**#GoetheFilms**

All **Goethe Films** are open to audiences 18+

**Series co-presented by the German National Tourist Office**

**About Goethe Films**

Ranging from features to docs, shorts to animation, drama to comedy, the experimental to international festival highlights from Berlin, Leipzig or Oberhausen, the **Goethe Films** series offers film lovers the opportunity to see a top selection of German contemporary arthouse film in Toronto's premier cinema. Programmed and presented by the **Goethe-Institut Toronto** since 2011, the films are presented in thematic clusters throughout the year at the TIFF Bell Lightbox in downtown Toronto.

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