



## PRESS RELEASE

### Film|Neu: New Films from Germany, Austria and Switzerland

Opening with *Me and Kaminski*, based on Daniel Kehlmann's novel

**November 3-6, 2016**

**Landmark's E Street Cinema  
555 11th St. NW  
Washington, DC 20004**

[www.filmneu.org](http://www.filmneu.org)

Download Dropbox images [here](#).

(Washington, DC, October 18, 2016) – The 24th annual edition of Film|Neu, running November 3-6, 2016 at Landmark's E Street Cinema, is a week-long tour of worlds known and unexplored as well as a snapshot of the best new films from Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

The festival kicks off with Wolfgang Becker's comedy *Me and Kaminski (Ich und Kaminski)*, based on Daniel Kehlmann's satirical take on the world of culture, and wraps up with *B-Movie: Lust & Sound in West-Berlin*, an essay about the avant garde scene in 80s Berlin. Captured between these bookends are eight other fascinating films/film programs from Germany, Switzerland and Austria, including an afternoon of short films from these three countries showcasing an impressive range of styles.

Note: All films have English subtitles.

Film|Neu is a project of Goethe-Institut Washington, the Austrian Cultural Forum, and the Embassy of Switzerland, with support from German films and Friends of the Goethe-Institut.

#### OPENING



**Thursday, November 3, 7 pm**

**Me and Kaminski (Ich und Kaminski)**

*Germany, 2015, 124 min., German with English subtitles*

**Director:** Wolfgang Becker, **With:** Daniel Brühl, Jesper Christensen, Amira Casar, Geraldine Chaplin, Jödis Triebel, **World Sales:** The Match Factory

**Discussion and reception with Thomas Wendrich, screenwriter, follows the screening. Followed by party at E Street Cinema with complimentary wine, beer, and German snacks.**

In this tragicomic road movie, unsuccessful young journalist Sebastian Zöllner (Daniel Brühl) is writing an article on the legendary but almost forgotten painter Manuel Kaminski. Zöllner's ulterior motive soon becomes obvious – the sooner Kaminski dies, the sooner he can become famous. Based on Daniel Kehlmann's novel of the same name, this art industry satire takes the audience on a true adventure.

**Goethe-Institut Washington**  
1990 K St. NW, Suite 03  
Washington, DC 20006

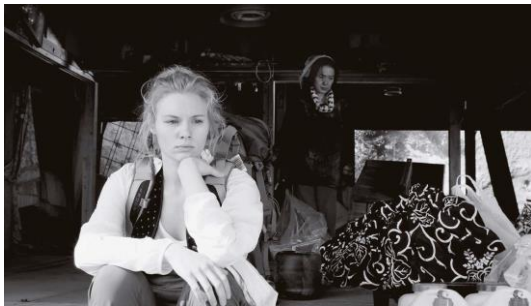
Media Contact:  
Norma Broadwater  
202-847-4707  
[nbroadwater@washington.goethe.org](mailto:nbroadwater@washington.goethe.org)  
Sylvia Blume  
202-847-4706  
[sblume@washington.goethe.org](mailto:sblume@washington.goethe.org)

[www.goethe.de/washington](http://www.goethe.de/washington)

**GOETHE  
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

**Wolfgang Becker's** (b. 1954, Hemer) internationally-popular film *Good Bye, Lenin!* was the most successful German film of 2003. It received numerous European Film awards and was nominated for the Golden Globes.



**Friday, November 4, 6:30 pm  
Fukushima, mon Amour (Grüße aus Fukushima)**

*Germany, 2016, 108 min.,*

**Director/Screenplay:** Doris Dörrie,

**With:** Rosalie Thomass, Kaori Momoi,

Moshe Cohen, **World Sales:** The Match Factory

**Introduced by Tamaki Tsukada, Minister for Communications and Cultural Affairs, Embassy of Japan**

Young Marie heads to Japan to escape her broken dreams and attempt to spread a little cheer among the victims of the triple catastrophe in Fukushima. Quickly realizing she isn't up to the task, she's about to give up when she meets the headstrong Satomi, Fukushima's last geisha. Despite their differences, the two women develop a bond as they each confront ghosts of their past.

After *Cherry Blossoms (Kirschblüten - Hanami)* **Doris Dörrie** (b. 1955, Hanover) returns to Japan for this gorgeous black-and-white drama which tells a poetic and universal tale about letting go and getting on with one's life.

Awards: Bavarian Film Prize, Best Actress

**Friday, November 4, 8:30 pm**

**A Heavy Heart (Herbert)**

*Germany, 2015, 109 min. Director:* Thomas Stuber, **Screenplay:** Thomas

Stuber/Clemens Meyer, **With:** Peter Kurth, Lina Wendel, Edin Hasanovic, **Sales:** Picture Tree International

Former Eastern German boxing champ Herbert has not been a winner in life since the fall of the Berlin Wall. When the hard up bouncer and debt collector suddenly collapses with spasms of pain and is diagnosed with a fatal neural disease, Herbert struggles with himself and the hard outer shell he's cultivated over time

**Thomas Stuber** (b. 1981, Leipzig) won the Student Academy Award and the German Screenplay Award. Together with multiple award-winning writer Clemens Meyer, he co-wrote the screenplay for this touching story of a lone wolf who takes a long time to find the meaning of his life.

Award: German Film Award 2016

**Saturday, November 5, 2 pm**

**New Short Films from Germany, Austria and Switzerland**

**Introduced by Joe Bilancio, Director, DC Shorts Film Festival**

A showcase capturing the latest impulses in the German-speaking world of short films.

### **The Bathtub (Die Badewanne)**

*Germany/Austria, 2016, drama/comedy, color, 13 min., German with English subtitles, **Director/Screenplay:** Tim Ellrich, Dominik Huber, **World Sales:** KurzFilmAgentur Hamburg e.V.*

Three brothers are preparing an original present for their mother. Little by little they bare all until three brothers remain who have grown apart over time.

Award: Special Jury Award (38th Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival)

### **Who Will Pay the Bill? (Wer trägt die Kosten?)**

*Germany, 2015, animation, color, 4 min., German with English subtitles,*

**Director/Screenplay:** Daniel Nocke, **World Rights:** Studio FILM BILDER GmbH

In this talk show satire moderated by a hyena, two lions, a vulture and a lonely zebra debate about justice in a society of eating and being eaten.

Awards: Short Tiger Award 2016; FBW-rating: "exceptionally valuable"

### **Dokument: Hoyerswerda| Frontex**

*Germany, 2014, documentary, color, 16 min., German with English subtitles,*

**Director/Screenplay:** Thomas Kaske, **Sales:** Thomas Kaske

Four contract workers from Mozambique report on racial attacks in Hoyerswerda in 1991.

Award: Soirée Allemande screening (Clermont-Ferrand 2016)

### **Babash**

*Austria/USA/Iran, 2014, documentary, color, 9 min., with English subtitles,*

**Director/Screenplay:** Lisa Truttmann, Behrouz Rae, **World Sales Rights:** Lisa Truttmann, Behrouz Rae

Babash is a parrot. Photographer Behrouz Rae made friends with Babash over the years. *Babash* is an associative portrait about this special relationship and the domestic surroundings in which it emerged.

Award: The No Violence Award (Ann Arbor Film Festival 2015)

### **Tristes Déserts - A Robot's Tale**

*Austria, 2015, science-fiction/drama, color, 8 min., without dialogue,*

**Director/Screenplay:** Stephanie Winter, **World Sales:** sixpackfilm, **World Sales Rights:** Sixpack Films

Originating in the idea of an audiovisual realization of M.A. Charpentier's *The* boundaries between human and machine, between baroque music and electronic sounds become blurred in this intergalactic musical short film.

Award: Best National Music Video (VIS Vienna Independent Shorts 2015)

### **Domino**

*Austria, 2014, animation, color, 2 min., without dialogue, **Director/Screenplay:** Anna*

*Vasof, **World Sales Rights:** Not for sale, all rights are reserved by Anna Vasof*

A video camera continuously follows and films a progression of dominoes falling, creating the illusion of the movement in an imaginary space.

Award: Best Austrian Animation (ASIFA AUSTRIA 2014)

### **Uncanny Valley**

*Austria, 2015, animation, color, 13 min., without dialogue, **Director/Screenplay:** Paul Wenninger, **World Sales Rights:** Sixpack Films*

In *Uncanny Valley*, we are immediately bombarded by the psychological and physical intensity of a battle fought between desperate soldiers during the First World War.

Award: Public Award and Best Austrian Animation (ASIFA AUSTRIA 2015)

### **Sparrows and Snorkels (Von Faltbooten und Heringen)**

Switzerland, 2014, fiction, color, 15 min., German, English and French with German, English and French subtitles, **Director/Screenplay:** Elena Brotschi, **World Rights:** Zürcher Hochschule der Künste ZHdK

Ivan meets Paolo, little Jonas meets Ida, another Jonas meets Sandra and Annina meets Jonas - in July, at a campsite by the river.

Award: Prix de la Ville de Vannes 2015

### **Flirt**

Switzerland, 2015, animation, color, 6min., without dialogue, **Director/Screenplay:** Rahel Gerber, **World Sales:** Interfilm Berlin Management GmbH

Dreams woven from airy fabrics make wishes tangible. Walter is a loner. Hanging up his laundry the resident sees how easily his shirt contacts his neighbor's dress. Might he be closer than ever to his own happiness?

Award: Berner Filmpreis 2015, Category Animation

### **Whatever the Weather (Bei Wind und Wetter)**

Switzerland, 2016, animation, black & white, 11 min., German and French with English subtitles, English, **Director/Screenplay:** Remo Scherrer, **World Sales:** Interfilm Berlin Management GmbH

Wally's life is increasingly turned upside down by her mother's alcohol addiction. Helplessness, excessive demands and desperation shape her childhood.

Award: Official Selection Cinéfondation Cannes 2016

### **Saturday, November 5, 4:30 pm**

#### **24 Weeks (24 Wochen)**

Germany, 2016, 102 min., **Director:** Anne Zohra Berrached, **Screenplay:** Carl Gerber and Anne Zohra Berrached **With:** Julia Jentsch, Bjarne Maedel, Johanna Gastdorf, **Sales:** Beta Film

*24 Weeks* tells the story of cabaret performer Astrid (Julia Jentsch) who, six months pregnant, learns that her unborn child will be severely disabled. She and her husband Marcus (Bjarne Maedel) have a choice, but little time...

As in her first film *Zwei Mütter (Two Mothers)*, this second feature by **Anne Zohra Berrached** (b. 1982, Erfurt) explores the way in which women choose to live their lives.

Award: Prize of the Guild of German Art House Cinemas Berlinale 2016



### **Saturday, November 5, 6 pm**

#### **All of a Sudden (Auf Einmal)**

Germany/Netherlands/France, 2016, 112 min. **Director/Screenplay:** Asli Özge, **With:** Sebastian Hülk, Julia Jentsch, Hanns Zischler, **Sales:** Memento Films International

**Director Asli Özge and Cinematographer Emre Erkmen will take part in a discussion moderated by Sky Sitney (co-director of the Investigative Film Festival *Double Exposure*) following the screening.**

After a party in Karsten's apartment, everyone leaves except one mysterious woman. How could he have known that in this moment of weakness, his well-established life in a small provincial German town would spiral out of control?

This is the first German-language feature film for Istanbul-born, Germany-based director **Asli Özge** (b. 1975). Her feature film debut, *Men on the Bridge*, won a number of international awards.

Award: Special Mention Europa Cinemas Berlinale 2016

### **Saturday, November 5, 8:45 pm**

#### **Chucks**

*Austria, 2015, 93 min., Director: Sabine Hiebler, Gerhard Ertl, Screenplay: Sabine Hiebler With: Susi Stach, Markus Subramaniam, Lola Khittl Sales: Dor Film*

#### **Reception with Austrian treats prior to the screening.**

Live. Love. Dance. Now! Mae (Anna Posch) roams the streets of Vienna as a punk in her dead brother's Converse shoes. She's not interested in bourgeois life, but in stronger experiences. When she is sent to an AIDS center to work off a punishment, she meets Paul (Markus Subramaniam), who takes Mae as she is – and is terminally ill.

**Sabine Hiebler** and **Gerhard Ertl** have codirected a number of internationally-recognized experimental films and three feature films, including the 2011 *Coming of Age (Anfang 80, 2011)*. *Chucks* is based on the successful novel by Cornelia Travnicek.

Award: Audience Award, World Film Festival Montreal

### **Sunday, November 6, 2:30 pm**

#### **Heidi**

*Germany/Switzerland, 2015, 111 min., Director: Alan Gsporner, With: Anuk Steffen, Bruno Ganz, Quirin Agrippi, Katharina Schuettler, Hannelore Hoger, Peter Lohmeyer, Sales: Studiocanal*

#### **Reception with Swiss treats takes place following the screening.**

After charming her reclusive grandfather and falling in love with the beautiful mountain he calls home, Heidi is uprooted and sent to Frankfurt where she befriends Klara, a young girl confined to a wheelchair. This classical feel-good feature has generated impressive box-office numbers not only in Germany and Switzerland, but abroad as well.

Beginning with his first feature film, *Kiki and Tiger* (2003) **Alain Gsporner** (b. 1976, Zurich) has received numerous awards. He lives in Berlin, where he works as an author and director.

Award: German Film Award, Best Children's Film 2016

### **Sunday, November 6, 4:45 pm**

#### **Wonderland (Heimatland)**

*Switzerland/Germany, 2015, 99 min., Director/Screenplay: Michael Kruppenacher, Jan Gassmann, Lisa Blatter, Gregor Frei, Benny Jaberg, Carmen Jaquier, Jonas Meier,*

Tobias Nölle, Lionel Rupp, Mike Scheiwiller, **With:** Peter Jecklin, Dashmir Ristemi, Julia Glaus **Sales:** Wide, Paris

**Reception with Swiss treats takes place before the screening.**

A hurricane of catastrophic proportions is brewing over Switzerland. The country is in a state of emergency. Using this situation of widespread uncertainty, ten young Swiss filmmakers illuminate people, mentalities and Switzerland's milieu, weaving together these wildly different personal episodes into a big, unified supernatural thriller.

**Michael Krummenacher** (b. 1985, Schwyz) and **Jan Gassmann** (b. 1983, Zurich) studied filmmaking at the HFF Munich. Krummenacher's short *When Everybody's Here (Wenn alle da sind)* was nominated for the German Short Film Award. Gassmann's first feature, *Chrigu*, received the Berlin and Zurich film awards. See [www.filmneu.org](http://www.filmneu.org) for details on the other filmmakers.

Award: Best Feature Film, Bern Film Prize 2015



CLOSING

**Sunday, November 6, 7:30 pm**  
**B-Movie: Lust & Sound in West-Berlin**  
**1979-1989**

*Germany, 2015, 92 min., Director:* Jörg A. Hoppe, Klaus Maeck, Heiko Lange,  
**Screenplay:** Jörg A. Hoppe, Klaus Maeck, Heiko Lange, **With:** Mark Reeder,  
**World Sales:** Celsius Entertainment

**Closing night reception with a complimentary B-Movie Cocktail and *Berliner* takes place before the screening. Discussion with special guest follows the screening.**

Music, art and chaos in the wild West-Berlin of the 1980's: the walled-in city became the creative melting pot for sub- and pop-culture. Before the Iron Curtain fell, everything and anything seemed possible. This is a fast-paced collage of mostly unreleased film and TV footage from a frenzied but creative decade, starting with punk and ending with the Love Parade, in a city where it was not about long-term success, but about living for the moment.

For information on co-directors Jörg A. Hoppe, Klaus Maeck and Heiko Lange, each of whom has an extensive background in the music industry in Berlin, see [www.filmneu.org](http://www.filmneu.org)

Award: Heiner Carow Prize of the DEFA Foundation 2015

**Tickets:**

\$12, \$10 for Students and Friends of the Goethe-Institut, \$9 for Seniors

Opening Night Screening followed by Party at E Street Cinema with Complimentary Wine, Beer, and German Snacks: \$27

Closing Night Pre-Film Reception with a Complimentary B-Movie Cocktail and *Berliner*. \$17

**More:** [www.filmneu.org](http://www.filmneu.org)

**About the Goethe-Institut:**

Founded in 1990, Goethe-Institut Washington, DC is a center for German culture and language. From its location in the lively Downtown, the Goethe-Institut Washington reaches out to both individuals and organizations in the community, bridging the past, present, and future with a variety of high-quality events.

###