



MEDIA RELEASE

THURSDAY 08 SEPTEMBER, 2016

FROM DEUTSCHLAND WITH LOVE

German Film Fest Australia Opening and Closing Night Films + Dates Announced

The 15th German Film Fest Australia today announced the Festival will return this November to Palace Cinemas in Sydney (15-29), Melbourne (17-30), Brisbane (25-30) and Canberra (24-27), and will open and close with two films, *Goodbye Berlin* and *Varieté*, both based on significant German novels.

Goethe-Institut Australia Director, **Sonja Griegoschewski** said, “The **Goethe-Institut** and **German Films** are delighted to bring these essential films to premiere in Australia at the German Film Fest.

“We look forward to bringing a colourful kaleidoscope of German stories and storytellers to share perspectives, creativity, and important and current German filmmaking,” she said.

To open the Festival, the latest feature film by multiple-award-winning director Fatih Akin (*Head-On*, *Soul Kitchen*) *Goodbye Berlin* (2016) will take audiences on a road trip through provincial Germany. The film is based on the best-selling cult novel *Tschick* by the late author Wolfgang Herrndorf. One of Germany’s biggest literary successes in recent years, the book has also been published in Australia under the title *Why We Took the Car*.

The closing night film *Varieté* (1925) is a new restoration of the classic 1925 silent drama, firstly presented at the Berlinale 2015. Directed and written by Golden Globe winner Ewald Andre Dupont, the film has been updated with a new soundtrack by British musical trio *The Tiger Lillies* to tell the story of trapeze artist Boss Huller, played by first-ever Oscar recipient Emil Jannings.

Presented by the Goethe-Institut, Germany’s cutting edge promoter of cultural exchange, in collaboration with German Films, the country’s world-wide film promotions service, these two films are just a teaser of what’s to come when the Festival reveals a full program of features, documentaries, guests and special events in early October.

Please visit www.goethe.de/ozfilmfest/ for more information.

FESTIVAL DATES:

- **SYDNEY** 15 – 29 November 2016
Chauvel Cinema / Palace Norton Street
- **MELBOURNE** 17 – 30 November 2016
Palace Cinema Como/ Kino Cinemas /
Palace Westgarth
- **BRISBANE** 25 – 30 November 2016
Palace Barracks / Centro
- **CANBERRA** 24 – 27 November 2016
Palace Electric



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SYNOPSIS: *Goodbye Berlin* (2016)

Summer. A stolen car, with nothing less than the whole world to discover. Fatih Akin tells the story of two outsiders who experience a life changing road trip together. To Maik and Tschick, two unlikely friends, it becomes a road trip into adulthood. Tschick is a teenager from a poor district of Berlin who was born to Russian immigrants. Emotionally neglected Maik, however, is from an upper middle class family. The film is based on Wolfgang Herrnsdorf's best-selling coming of age story Tschick (English title: *Why We Took the Car*).

SYNOPSIS: *Variété* (1925)

Love, lust and jealousy are the main ingredients of E. A. Dupont's circus fairy tale. Former trapeze artist "Boss" Haller leaves his wife and children behind in order to run away with Berta-Marie. The beautiful and seductive young dancer, however, begins an affair with artist Artinelli. *Variété's* timeless fascination derives from its sophisticated staging as well as the suspense created by the actor's facial expressions. Originally shot in 1925, the film was restored and digitalised in 2015 with a new soundtrack by *The Tiger Lillies*. This new version was premiered at the Berlinale in 2015.

German Film Fest Handles

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***German Film Festival Press Pack and Images Available [HERE](#)

EDITORS NOTES

ABOUT THE [GERMAN FILM FEST](#)

Now in its 15th year, the German Film Fest Australia is a major cultural event organised by the Goethe-Institut and German Films. From the 15-30 November 2016 the Festival takes place at Palace Cinemas in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Canberra. The Festival showcases Germany's thriving filmmaking industry bringing contemporary, award-winning, and internationally acclaimed German-language films with English subtitles to Australia.

ABOUT THE [GOETHE-INSTITUT](#)

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide. The Institut promotes the study of German abroad and encourages international cultural exchange.