

'Achtung'! German films now on screen

By **BusinessMirror** - October 15, 2017



In Photo: German filmmaker Markus Goller (left) and Goethe-Institut Philippines Director Dr. Ulrich Nowak graced the opening night of the German Film Week at SM Mall of Asia Cinema.

Organized by the Goethe-Institut Philippines in partnership with SM Retail, SM Lifestyle Entertainment Inc., SM Cinema and with the support of the Film Development Council of the Philippines, the German Film Week offers a diverse selection of films for audiences, with the goal of promoting the European country's language and culture.



French Embassy Audio-Visual Attaché Martin Macalintal (from left), SM Senior Vice President for Marketing Millie Dizon and award-winning filmmaker Brillante Mendoza

"We are truly excited to unveil this year's film and new voices to Philippine audiences," Goethe-Intstitut Philippines Director and Head of Cultural Programs Dr. Ulrich Nowak said. "Whether mainstream, romantic comedies or microbudget indies, we made sure our festival attendees will be entertained and pleased."

The German Film Week opening night was recently staged at the SM Mall of Asia Cinema 4 with German filmmaker Markus Goller as its special guest. Goller, the director of *My Brother Simple (Simpel)*, which opens this year's festivities, had a question and answer session after the film's screening. The succeeding showings ran from September 28 to October 5 at cinemas inside the SM Mall of Asia and SM City North Edsa for Metro Manila and SM City Clark from October 8 to 12.

Aside from the Manila leg, the German Film Week will move to other locations: at SM City Cebu from October 14 to 18 and SM City Davao from October 20 to 24.

The festival will screen 12 films that tackle issues of family, romance, journey, society, terrorism, German history and more.

The opening film *My Brother Simple (Simpel)* is a film based on a French best seller about two brothers—one mentally handicapped—who try to find their long-lost father. Other family-related films include *Toni Erdmann*, directed by Maren Ade, which follows the story of Winfried and his career woman-daughter Ines, as well as Daniel Levy's *The World of Wunderlichs*, which is about a single mother who is accompanied by her family on her casting journey.

There are also films about modern romance. Karoline Herfurth's *You've Got a Message (SMS für Dich)* is about love in the digital age, while *The Bloom of Yesterday (Die Blumen von gestern)* by Director Chris Kraus is a love story set in the world of academic discipline. *Return to Montauk* directed by Volker Schlöndorff relives a great but failed love affair.

The German Film Week also brings us to the world of punk rocker Fussel as he struggles between therapy and real life in *Happy Burnout*, while *Marija* features a young woman who fights to live a freer, self-determined life. On the other hand, Mark Rothemond's *My Blind Date with Life* shows how Saliya Kahawatte loses his eyesight, yet succeeds in his career.

There are also films that may be considered “ripped” from world headlines. Robert Thalheim's *Old Agent Men (Kundschafter des Friedens)* is about how Jochen Falk and two former Stasi agents embark on a dangerous mission to rescue the kidnapped president of Katschekistan, while *Welcome to Germany (Willkommen bei den Hartmanns)* tells the story of Nigerian asylum seeker Diallo who is taken in by a family in a posh district of Munich.

The German Film Week also presents the screening of *Captive*, directed by acclaimed Filipino filmmaker Brillante Mendoza, which will be screened during the week-long festival in SM Mall of Asia and SM City North Edsa. *Captive* was screened in competition during the prestigious 62nd Berlin International Film festival, the prestigious Berlinale. This will be followed by a film-appreciation video.

“The Brillante Mendoza screening is an addition to this year's program,” Nowak said. “Our goal at the institute has always been to promote cultural exchange between Germany and the countries we support. This is one way to achieve that goal: to share German features and highlight Filipino creativity.”

Tickets to the 2017 German Film Week are priced at P100 for all German films and P200 for *Captive*. They may be purchased at the cinema counters of participating SM malls.

The German Film Week is made possible through partnerships with SM Retail, SM Lifestyle Entertainment Inc. and SM Cinema with the support of the Film Development Council of the Philippines. For more information, visit *Goethe.de/Manila*.

Share 0

BusinessMirror

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

@BMSOCIALMEDIA

