

New Films From Germany, Switzerland and Austria

January 15 - 22

gives us the right to use inhuman means to prevent people from living here. [It's] also about various relationships. Perhaps this emotional aspect is ultimately more important than the political level."

—Eddie Cockrell

**Hans-Christian Schmid** studied film in Munich and has been making shorts, documentaries and TV movies since 1989. His three theatrical features to date include IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE (1995), 23 (1998) and the popular 2000 coming-of-age dramedy CRAZY.

Tuesday, January 20, 7 & 9:30 pm  
Washington premiere:

**SOLINO**

Germany, 2003, color, 124 minutes, in German and Italian with English subtitles  
**Director** Fatih Akin **Screenplay** Ruth Toma **Producers** Ralph Schwingel, Stefan Schubert, Hejo Emans **Director of Photography** Rainer Klausmann **Editor** Andrew Bird **Music** Jannis Eolou **Production Design** Bettina Schmidt **Principal Cast** Barnaby Metschurat, Moritz Bleibtreu, Antonella Attili, Gigi Savoia, Tiziano Lodato, Patrycja Ziolkowska, Hermann Lause, Nicola Cutrignelli, Michelle Ranieri, Vincent Schiavelli **Production Companies** Wüste Film Production and Wüste Film West (Hamburg), in co-production with WDR (Cologne), Arte (Strasbourg), Bavaria Film (Gaiselgasteig), Multimedia Film und Fernsehproduktion (Hamburg) **With backing from** Filmförderungsanstalt (FFA), Filmförderung Hamburg, Filmstiftung NRW, MEDIA **World Sales** Bavaria Film International (Gaiselgasteig) email bavaria.international@bavaria-film.de, www.bavaria-film-international.de



Deciding in 1964 that their fortunes lay elsewhere, the Amato family pulls up stakes from their Italian village for the industrial Ruhr town of Duisburg. When father Romano (Gigi Savoia) tires of work in the mines, mother Rosa (Antonella Attili) decides to open an Italian restaurant, which they name after their hometown—Solino. The eventual success of the enterprise is then played against the rivalry of now-grown siblings Gigi (Barnaby Metschurat), an aspiring filmmaker, and the more macho Giancarlo (RUN LOLA RUN and IN JULY star Moritz Bleibtreu). With only his third feature—the first to be shot from someone else's script—director Fatih Akin is the compleat filmmaker, and SOLINO is a mature, thoughtful, compassionate story of emigration, perseverance and the vital importance of family.

—Eddie Cockrell

**Fatih Akin** was born in Hamburg and studied Visual Communications at the College of Fine Arts there. His acclaimed feature films include IN JULY (IM JULI), one of the highlights of the ninth festival of new German films in 2001.

Wednesday, January 21, 7 & 9:30 pm

Washington premiere:

**FREE RADICALS (BOSE ZELLEN)**

Austria/Germany/Switzerland, 2003, color, 120 minutes, in German with English subtitles  
**Director and Screenplay** Barbara Albert **Producers** Antonin Svoboda, Martin Gschlacht **Director of Photography** Martin Gschlacht **Editor** Monika Willi **Music** Various **Art Director** Katharina Wöppermann **Principal Cast** Kathrin Resetarits, Ursula Strauss, Georg Friedrich, Marion Mitterhammer, Martin Bramboch, Rupert M. Lehner, Bellinda Akwa-Asare, Gabriela Schmoll, Christian Ghera, Karl Fischer, Desiré Ourada, Dominik Hartel, Nicole Skala, Deborah Ten Brink, Alfred Worel **Production Companies** Coop 99 (Austria), Zero Film (Germany), Fama Film (Switzerland) **US Distributor** Kino International (New York) email contact@kino.com, www.kino.com



The beating of a butterfly's wings generates a tornado which downs a plane full of tourists; years later, the accidental death of the sole survivor has an insidious ripple effect on her friends and relatives in a small Austrian town awash in social malaise. A breathtakingly assured example of the new resurgence in Austrian cinema, Barbara Albert's universally hailed FREE RADICALS, which takes its name from the rogue atoms which can wreak havoc on the human organism, is the country's official submission for the 2003 Foreign Film Oscar and was featured in the last fall's New York Film Festival. "I want to do so many things," Albert said by cell phone recently on the eve of her London festival debut; on the strength of FREE RADICALS, she'll be very busy indeed.

—Eddie Cockrell

**Barbara Albert** studied theater, German and journalism before enrolling in the Vienna Film Academy. She has directed and edited numerous shorts and documentaries as well as the 1997 feature NORTHERN SKIRTS, and is the co-founder of the production company Coop 99.

In cooperation with the Austrian Cultural Forum, Washington, DC

austrian cultural forum™

CLOSING

Thursday, January 22, 6 and 8:30 pm

Schedule permitting, the director will attend both screenings.

US premiere:

**SUPERTEX**

Germany/The Netherlands, 2003, color, 96 minutes, in English, German, French and Yiddish  
**Director** Jan Schütte **Screenplay** Richard Reitinger, Andrew Kazamia, Jan Schütte, from the novel by Leon de Winter **Producers** Haig Balian Wiesbke Toppel **Director of Photography** Edward Klosinski **Editor** Renate Merck **Music** Zbigniew Preisner **Production Design** Benedict Schillemans **Principal Cast** Stephen Mangan, Jan Declair, Mauraen Lipman, Elliot Levey, Tracy Ann Olberman, Ana Geislerová, Meital Berdahl **Production Companies** HaleBob Film (Emmerich, Germany), Minerva Film (Amsterdam), Novoskop (Berlin), TOBIS (Berlin), WDR (Cologne), Arte (Strasbourg), France Cinema (Paris), Covimages (Paris) **With backing from** Filmförderungsanstalt (FFA), Filmförderung Hamburg, Filmstiftung NRW, Nederlandse Fonds voor de Film **World Sales** HaleBob Film (Emmerich) email info@halebob.de

In modern-day Amsterdam, 33-year-old businessman Max Breslaue (Stephen Mangan) locks horns constantly with his father, Holocaust survivor and respected textile baron Simon Breslaue (Jan Declair), over the future of their firm, SuperTex. Discovering the old man is having an affair with Polish beauty Maria (young Czech actress Ana Geislerová), Max embarks on a darkly comic voyage of personal discovery that impacts both his personal and professional identities. With his triumphant English-language adaptation of Leon de Winter's book, Berlin-based director Jan Schütte continues his unique, novelistic approach to filmmaking. Filled to the brim with tart, snappy dialogue and thought-provoking familial subplots, SUPERTEX features the luminous widescreen photography of the great Edward Klosinski (ZENTROPA, THREE COLORS: WHITE) and a lush score by Zbigniew Preisner (THE DOUBLE LIFE OF VERONIQUE, DEKALOG).

—Eddie Cockrell

**Jan Schütte** studied literature, philosophy and art history, turning to documentaries in 1982. His fiction features include the acclaimed debut DRAGON CHOW (1987), WINCKELMANN'S JOURNEY (1990), BYE-BYE AMERICA (1994) and THE FAREWELL (2000).

In cooperation with the Washington Jewish Film Festival:  
An Exhibition of International Cinema

NEW FILMS FROM GERMANY is co-presented by Goethe-Institut in Washington and the Export Union of German Cinema.

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**Tickets:** \$9.00, \$7.00 for Seniors, Military, Students, and Friends of the Goethe-Institut available at Visions or online at: www.boxofficetickets.com/goethe

**Opening Night Screening and Reception:** \$20

Reception will follow featuring complimentary Beck's Beer and wine, and food provided by Old Europe Restaurant, Marvelous Market, Cafe Mozart, Swiss Bakery and Pastry Shop, Heidelberg Pastry Shoppe, German Gourmet and Whole Foods Market

Co-presented by the Goethe-Institut in Washington and the Export Union of German Cinema

GERMAN CINEMA www.german-cinema.de

With support from the German Information Center and Friends of the Goethe-Institut in Washington

www.germany.info

GOETHE-INSTITUT WASHINGTON

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Now firmly established as an industry of international stature and vibrancy, the German cinema continues to produce commercially successful and provocative entertainment that grapple with contemporary social issues. It is this storytelling ability that has catapulted Wolfgang Becker's European Film Award-winning GOOD BYE, LENINI! to the top of the box office charts all across Europe. As Washington moviegoers anxiously await its impending stateside release, this 12th annual program of new German films—newly expanded to include Barbara Albert's Oscar-nominated Austrian drama FREE RADICALS and Werner Schweizer's provocative Swiss documentary VON WERRA—provides a primer on German-language film now and the issues with which filmmakers are grappling today. Chief among these volatile subjects is the liquidity of borders and the ongoing challenge of illegal immigration, dramatized in Hans-Christian Schmid's labyrinthine DISTANT LIGHTS, Yüksel Yavuz' urgent A LITTLE BIT OF FREEDOM and Christoph Hochhäusler's mysterious MILCHWALD. Daring family and relationship dramas are represented by Oskar Roehler's intense ANGST, Fatih Akin's inspiring SOLINO and Jan Schütte's quirky SUPERTEX, while all these themes are buffed to a fantastic commercial gloss in the domestic box office smash BIBI BLOCKSBERG, which gives a certain Master Potter a run for his money. When veteran Cologne-based rocker Wolfgang Niedecken sings "Much Happened" in Wim Wenders' dazzling documentary ODE TO COLOGNE, he's reflecting on an eventful career, but might well be describing German-language film as a whole; join the musician on opening night for a celebration of longevity and energy that is the essence of the German moviegoing experience.

—Eddie Cockrell

All film notes were written by Eddie Cockrell, a Maryland-based film critic and consulting programmer who reviews for Variety from Berlin and other festivals.

All films are presented with English subtitles, except as noted.



OPENING

Thursday, January 15, 7 pm

Wolfgang Niedecken in person with the East Coast premiere:

ODE TO COLOGNE: A ROCK'N'ROLL FILM (VIEL PASSIERT: DER BAP FILM)

Germany, 2002, color, 97 minutes, in Kölsch dialect, German with English subtitles  
**Director and Screenplay** Wim Wenders **Producers** Olaf Wicke, Björn Klimek **Director of Photography** Phedon Papamichael **Editors** Moritz Laube, Igor Palotas **Music** BAP **Principal Cast** BAP (Sheryl Hackett, Werner Kopal, Helmut Krumminga, Michael Nass, Wolfgang Niedecken, Jens Streifling, Jürgen Zöllner), Marie Bäumer, Joachim Krül, Willi Laschet, Anger 77, Wolf Biermann **Production Companies** Screen:Works Cologne, Travelling Tunas, Westdeutscher Rundfunk (Cologne) **With backing from** Filmstiftung Nordrhein-Westfalen **World Sales** Screen:Works (Cologne) email info@screenworks.tv, www.screenworks.tv

Between the magnificent BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB (1999) and the sublime THE SOUL OF A MAN (2003), Wim Wenders found and filmed veteran rocker Wolfgang Niedecken and BAP, the constantly shifting band he's fronted out of Cologne for 25 years. Niedecken sings and plays an anthemic, often confessional brand of rock music, much in the spirit of acknowledged heroes The Kinks (long-time Wenders faves as well), Bruce Springsteen, Eric Burdon and, of course, Bob Dylan. What separates him from the pack, however, is Niedecken's determination to perform in the regional Kölsch dialect, which is all but impenetrable to anyone—even Germans—who don't hail from there (think Cockney's relationship to British English). The interpretations are intriguing: that line from Dylan's "My Back Pages", the immediately recognizable "I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now" becomes, after translation and English subtitling, "That's when I was a much older man, a lot happened since then." In fact, the original title, "viel passiert," translates literally as "much happened"—which, in itself, is a pretty good description of the hard-working rocker's approach to life and music. Wolfgang Niedecken will be on hand opening night to discuss the film and perform an unplugged set of BAP songs.

—Eddie Cockrell

Wim Wenders has, over his 30-plus years of making movies all over the world, paid particular attention to the role of music in storytelling. His many films include KINGS OF THE ROAD (1976), THE AMERICAN FRIEND (1977), PARIS, TEXAS (1984), WINGS OF DESIRE (1987), UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD (1991) and BEYOND THE CLOUDS (1995).

Friday, January 16, 5 pm & 9:15 pm & Saturday, January 17, 7 pm

Washington premiere:

ANGST (DER ALTE AFFE ANGST)

Germany, 2002, color, 92 minutes, in German with English subtitles  
**Director and Screenplay** Oskar Roehler  
**Producers** Bernd Burgemeister, Diemar Guentsche, Eberhard Junkersdorf **Director of Photography** Hagen Bogdanski **Editor** Uli Schoen **Music** Martin Todsharow **Production Design** Birgit Knip-Gentis **Principal Cast** André Hennicke, Marie Bäumer, Vadim Glowna, Catherine Flemming, Ralf Bauer, Herbert Knaup **Production Companies** Neue Bioskop Film (Munich), in co-production with TV60 Film (Munich), BR (Munich) **With backing from** Filmförderungsanstalt (FFA), Filmboard Berlin-Brandenburg, FilmFernsehFonds Bayern **World Sales** Telepool (Munich) email cinepool@telepool.de, www.telepool.de



Robert and Marie are having a tumultuous relationship. An introverted creative type, he (André Hennicke) is suffering a debilitating bout of impotence. She (Marie Bäumer, from MANITOU'S SHOE) is an organized doctor trying her best to adapt. When his father (Vadim Glowna) announces he's dying of cancer, the news sends Robert into a tailspin of promiscuity and decadence from which there seems no relief. Director and novelist Oskar Roehler has a distinct talent for the narrative arc of emotional crisis, as evidenced in his breakthrough work, 2000's award-winning NO PLACE TO GO (which dramatizes the struggles of the director's mother, writer Gisela Elsner). ANGST shines a cold light on a couple of very different people who seem fated, against all odds, to be with one another.

— Eddie Cockrell



Oskar Roehler is a director, screenwriter, novelist and freelance journalist whose films include the 2000 German Film Award-winning NO PLACE TO GO (DIE UNBERUHRBARE). He lives in Berlin.

Friday, January 16, 7 pm & Sunday, January 18, 7:30 pm

East Coast premiere:

A LITTLE BIT OF FREEDOM (KLEINE FREIHEIT)

Germany, 2003, color, 100 minutes, in German, Turkish, Kurdish and French with English subtitles  
**Director and Screenplay** Yüksel Yavuz **Music** Ali Ecker **Cast** Çağdas Bozkurt, Leroy Delmar, Nazmi Kirik, Necmettin Çobanoğlu, Naci Özarslan, Susanna Rozkosny **Production Companies** Cotta Media Entertainment (Berlin), Peter Stockhaus Film Production (Hamburg), ZDF Das Kleine Fernsehspiel (Mainz) **With backing from** BKM, Filmboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Filmförderung Hamburg **World Sales** Cotta Media Entertainment (Berlin) email: cottamedia@online.de



From his home base, a snack bar on Hamburg's Friedrichstrasse, 17-year-old Kurd refugee Baran (Çağdas Bozkurt) works as a delivery boy, bicycling kebabs and such around town. While waiting for a grant of political asylum that never comes, Baran befriends illegal African immigrant Cherno (Leroy Delmar), a small-time drug dealer who's dyed his hair blonde. As in Stephen Frears' DIRTY PRETTY THINGS and Michael Winterbottom's IN THIS WORLD, this fine sophomore effort from Turkish-born filmmaker Yüksel Yavuz dramatizes the often perilous lives of the disenfranchised in a nuanced, compassionate way. Patrick Orth's sinewy camera captures the seedy energy of Hamburg's Altona immigrant neighborhood (home of the hypnotically tawdry Reeperbahn red light district), and Bozkurt's shy yearning gives powerful voice to fundamentally decent people searching for better lives against long odds.

—Eddie Cockrell

Yüksel Yavuz was born in Karakocan, Turkey, and moved to Germany at 16. He studied economics and sociology before focusing on film. He has made video shorts, documentaries and the acclaimed 1998 feature THE APRIL CHILDREN (APRILKINDER).



Saturday, January 17, 5 pm & 9:15 pm

East Coast premiere:

THIS VERY MOMENT (MILCHWALD)

Germany, 2003, color, 94 minutes, in German and Polish with English subtitles  
**Director** Christoph Hochhäusler **Screenplay** Christoph Hochhäusler, Benjamin Heisenberg **Producers** Clarens Grollmann, Mario Stefan **Director of Photography** Ali Gözkaya **Editor** Gisela Zick **Music** Benedikt Schieler **Production Designer** Maximilian Lange **Principal Cast** Judith Engel, Horst-Günter Marx, Miroslav Baka, Sophie Charlotte Conrad, Leonard Bruckmann **Production Company** lieber.film (Munich), in co-production with Filmcontract (Warsaw), Cine Image (Munich), Schmidt Katze Film (Halle), Colonial Media Film Production (Cologne) **With backing from** FilmFernsehFonds Bayern, Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung **World Sales** lieber.film (Munich) email: info@lieberfilm.de, www.lieberfilm.de

Returning from a shopping trip in Poland, thirtysomething German stepmom Sylvia Mattis (Judith Engel) grows exasperated with her cranky step-children Lea (Sophie Charlotte Conrad) and Konstantin (Leonard Bruckmann), throwing them out of the car in the middle of nowhere and driving away. Thus begins an enigmatic contemporary drama that recasts "Hansel and Gretel" as the hypnotic odyssey of two level-headed children across a daunting emotional and physical landscape. Too embarrassed to admit her mistake to distraught husband Josef (Horst-Günter Marx), Sylvia and the adults play a cat-and-mouse game with the Polish restroom supply deliveryman Kuba (Miroslav Baka, from Kieslowski's A SHORT FILM ABOUT KILLING), who sees the children as a meal ticket. As much about rural spaces as human faces, MILCHWALD resonates with a profound sense of mystery and foreboding.

—Eddie Cockrell

Christoph Hochhäusler studied architecture, worked as an illustrator, writes on the cinema for numerous German publications and is the co-publisher of the film magazine "Revolver." MILCHWALD is his directorial debut.

Saturday, January 17, 2:30 pm & Sunday, January 18, 2:30 pm

East Coast premiere:

BIBI BLOCKSBERG

Germany, 2002, color, 106 minutes, in German with English subtitles  
**Director** Hermine Huntgeburth **Screenplay** Ellie Donnelly **Producers** Bernd Krause, Karl Blatz, Uschi Reich **Director of Photography** Martin Langer **Editor** Hansjörg Weissbrich **Music** Biber Gullatz, Moritz Freise **Production Design** Susann Bietling, Uwe Szielsko **Principal Cast** Sidonie von Krosigk, Maximilian Belfort, Katja Riemann, Corinna Harfouch, Ulrich Noethen **Production Companies** Bavaria Film & Production (Munich), Kiddinx Film Production (Berlin), in co-production with Bayerischen Rundfunk (Munich), Odeon Film (Geiselgasteig), Gustav Ehmeck Film Production (Gräfelfing) **With backing from** Filmförderungsanstalt (FFA), FilmFernsehFonds Bayern, Bayerischer Bankenfonds **World Sales** Bavaria Film International (Geiselgasteig) email bavaria.international@bavaria-film.de, www.bavaria-film-international.de

Twelve-year-old Bibi Blocksberg (Sidonie von Krosigk) is about to join the witchocracy three years ahead of schedule, to the immense satisfaction of hexer mom Barbara (Katja Riemann), and consternation of witch-phobic mortal dad Bernhard (Ulrich Noethen). But when Bibi lands in the middle of a power struggle

between the forces of good and evil (Corinna Harfouch's flamboyantly dastardly Rabia), the resulting family chaos tests her mettle. Here's a charming, award-winning magical musical fantasy, a German box office blockbuster—there's a sequel on the way—that's perfect entertainment for anyone old enough to read the subtitles. "For all those girls out there who do not like Harry Potter because he is a boy," wrote one young filmgoer after the Chicago premiere, "BIBI BLOCKSBERG is your movie."

—Eddie Cockrell



Sunday, January 18, 5 pm & Monday, January 19, 2:30 pm

US premiere: VON WERRA

Sunday, film introduction by Prof. Peter Rollberg, Chair, George Washington University Film Studies Program

Switzerland, 2002, B&W and color, 103 minutes, in German and English with English subtitles  
**Director and Producer** Werner Schweizer **Screenplay** Martin Witz, from an idea by Wilfried Meichtry **Director of Photography** Pio Corradi **Editor** Kathrin Plüss **Music** Michel Seigner **Cast** Hardy Krüger, Marthe Rey-von Werra, Therese Wildhaber-von Werra, Hans von Werra, James Leasar, Roy Ward Baker, Viktor Matter **Production Company** Dschoint Ventschr Film Production (Zürich), www.dschointventschr.ch **World Sales** Peppermint International (Pelaling Jaya, Malaysia) email mail@seeppeppermint.com, www.seeppeppermint.com



Swiss born Franz von Werra was a German fighter pilot during World War II, a dashing media favorite and the only prisoner to escape British captivity—three times; upon capture in the U.S., he professed an eagerness to return home and "shoot down some more planes." Hardy Krüger is an actor, well known for distinctive character roles in HATARI! and THE FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX, who rose to international prominence playing von Werra in the sympathetic 1957 British biopic THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY. How could such a film be made only 12 years after the war? Who was von Werra, who died at 27 in a mysterious 1941 flying accident? Producer-director Werner Schweizer's inquiry into "a very different kind of German" is a very different kind of documentary, at once methodical and contemplative.

—Eddie Cockrell

Werner Schweizer is a producer, author and director who co-founded the Dschoint Ventschr production company in 1994. His many credits include producing the 1997 immigrant thriller STOWAWAYS and directing the 1996 documentary NOEL FIELD—THE FICTITIOUS SPY.

In cooperation with the Embassy of Switzerland and Pro Helvetia



Monday, January 19, 5 & 7:15 pm

Panel discussion after the 7:15 pm screening with:

Helga Flores Trejo, Heinrich Böll Foundation North America  
 Daniel Kriener, First Secretary, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany  
 Artur Michalski, First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Poland

East Coast premiere:

DISTANT LIGHTS (LICHTER)

Germany, 2003, color, 104 minutes, in German, Polish, Russian and English with English subtitles  
**Director** Hans-Christian Schmid **Screenplay** Hans-Christian Schmid, Michael Gutmann **Producers** Jakob Clausen, Thomas Wöbke **Director of Photography** Bogumil Godrejow **Editors** Hansjörg Weissbrich, Bernd Schlegel **Music** the Notwist **Production Design** Christian M. Goldbeck **Principal Cast** Ivan Shvedov, Sergei Frolov, Anna Yanovskaya, Sebastian Urzendowsky, Alice Dwyer, Martin Kiefer, Tom John, David Striesow, Claudia Geisler, Zbigniew Zamachowski, Aleksandra Jusla, Marysia Zamachowska, Maria Simon, Janek Rieke, August Diehl, Julia Krynke, Herbert Knaup, Henry Hübchen **Production Companies** Clausen & Wöbke, in co-production with ZDF (Mainz), Arte (Strasbourg) **With backing from** FilmFernsehFonds Bayern, Filmförderungsanstalt (FFA), BKM, Filmboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Filmstiftung NRW **World Sales** Bavaria Film International (Geiselgasteig) email bavaria.international@bavaria-film.de, www.bavaria-film-international.de

The German city of Frankfurt/Oder and the Polish town of Slubice hug opposing banks of the Oder river, the porous border between the two countries. Hans-Christian Schmid's remarkable ensemble film DISTANT LIGHTS illuminates 48 hours in the new Europe: a German entrepreneur's mattress business is failing spectacularly; a Polish woman struggles with her husband to afford their daughter's first communion dress; German teenagers smuggle cigarettes and grapple with first love. The stories come together as a group of illegal immigrants from the Ukraine undertake various schemes to make it across the river. The title "can mean hope and danger," muses Schmid. "One can speculate about who really

