

# PRESS RELEASE



## Darling, Berlin! Berlin Sayang! Berlin, Teerak! Brings Six Independent Films from Berlin to Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia



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The **Goethe-Instituts Indonesien, Thailand and Malaysia** are jointly presenting the online film festival entitled **Darling, Berlin! Berlin, Sayang! Berlin, Teerak!** from 6 to 27 December 2020. The festival will offer low-threshold, funny, profound and amusing entertainment through the screening of six independent films from the German capital: Berlin.

Each film will be premiered on the Darling Berlin YouTube channel on the specified date and time that can be checked at [Goethe-Institut Indonesien's website](https://www.goethe.de/indonesia). The films can be accessed free of charge via [youtube.com/darlingberlin](https://youtube.com/darlingberlin). No registration needed.

“Darling Berlin stands for fresh and unusual independent films from the capital. A new generation of directors and actors is shooting funny and dramatic cinema effectively and with passion. Touching, authentic, unconventional, uncompromising. We picked the six most promising films to entertain film enthusiasts all over Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia,” says Dr. Ingo Schöningh, Head of Cultural Programs at Goethe-Institut Indonesien.

**Darling, Berlin! Berlin, Sayang! Berlin, Teerak!** will open with a screening of *Datsche - Blühende Landschaften* (2018) on 6 December. This comedy film by Lara Hewitt tells the story of Valentin, an unsuccessful New York actor, who moves to a sunny allotment garden near Potsdam after the death of his grandfather. But instead of peace, he finds Adam, a refugee in hiding.

The festival will be followed with a screening of *Schwimmen* (2018) on 8 December, *Rakete Perelman* (2017) on 10 December, *Lotte* (2016) on 13 December, *Rückenwind von vorn* (2018) on 16 December, and *Luca tanzt leise* (2016) on 18 December. All six premieres will start at 7 p.m. After each premiere, the films will be freely accessible on the Darling Berlin YouTube channel until 27 December 2020.

The films were mainly made by directors who had only one or two professional films to their credit—young directors who studied at the Film Academy in Berlin and worked in the capital. Their works exhibit great enthusiasm and courage in experimenting with uncompromising visual language and performances by as yet unknown actors.

The filming location Berlin and its surroundings are also of special importance in these stories because this year celebrates the 30th anniversary of the reunification on 3 October 1990 of the formerly divided Germany, which began on 9 November 1989 with the fall of the Berlin Wall thanks to the peaceful revolution.

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The trailer of the festival can be viewed [here](#).

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## FILM LINEUP

### **Datsche - Blühende Landschaften (2018)**

by Lara Hewitt | Great Britain | 93 Minutes | Comedy, Drama

The unsuccessful New York actor Valentin moves to a sunny allotment garden near Potsdam after the death of his grandfather. In the attic of the dacha he has inherited, he meets Adam, a refugee Ethiopian who is hiding from impending deportation from Germany. While Valentin promises to keep Adam's secret, the harmony of his flatshare is put to the test by the curiosity of the neat neighbors and the arrival of couch-surfing guests from all over the world. This is a refreshing summer fairy tale about friendships that cross borders and garden fences.

### **Schwimmen (2018)**

by Luzie Loose | Germany | 102 Minutes | Drama

The film tells the story of Elisa and Anthea, two very different girls, whose friendship gives them support and orientation during a difficult phase in their lives. They become best friends and develop a game in which they capture everything they do with their cell phone cameras. They soon get the idea of turning the camera around and secretly filming their classmates, who had mobbed Elisa earlier. A destructive dynamic develops from their close friendship, which becomes threatening for anyone who gets in the way of the two. The girls turn from victims to perpetrators.

### **Rakete Perelman (2017)**

by Oliver Alaluukas | Germany | 97 Minutes | Comedy, Drama

How do we want to live together? In the middle of nowhere in Brandenburg between green meadows, techno and theater, ten people answer this question in their own way. In the artists' colony Rakete Perelman they live their version of freedom and independence, each for him/herself and all together.

Jen is new to the Rakete Perelman. During her mid-twenties, she went out of town, out of the industry, and into a new life. But the Rakete needs money and the solution—how else could it be—lies in art, more precisely in a theater production. Jen gets the lead role in a piece that slowly overtakes reality and at some point puts the idealism of the entire community to a severe test.

### **Lotte (2016)**

by Julius Schultheiß | Germany | 78 Minutes | Drama

Lotte is direct and edgy, at the same time amiable and above all endowed with a big-city snout. With all these characteristics she is permanently offensive to her colleagues, girlfriends, and even her boyfriend. He throws her out without further

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ado and Lotte is on the street. From this point on she is fully occupied with finding a place to stay.

One night, Lotte meets Marcel, an almost forgotten acquaintance, in her local pub. As soon as he recognizes her, Lotte flees and finds a safe place to stay in her friend Sabine's apartment. The next day, Lotte lingers over the exertions of that night and doesn't seem to let go of it even during her job in the hospital. A young girl is brought in, Lotte takes care of her, a subtle affection develops.

### **Rückenwind von vorn (2018)**

by Philipp Eichholtz | Germany | 80 Minutes | Drama

Is growing up easy and being an adult difficult? Charlie from Berlin finds it damn hard to meet the expectations of those around her as well as her own expectations. Her friend Marco wants a child, and her colleague Gerry guesses without being asked: "Five years together? Well, will there will be three of you soon?" Charlie is challenged in her job as a teacher and things are not going really well with Marco at the moment. In the beginning, everything was so wonderfully easy and spontaneous.

### **Luca tanzt leise (2016)**

by Philipp Eichholtz | Germany | 81 Minutes | Drama, Comedy

Luca wants to graduate from high school after dark years of depression. Her little dog Mata helps her to find motivation and zest for life. To prevent failing because of math, Luca concludes a deal with Kurt: English for math. He becomes a reliable friend, even when things get really bad for her. When will this "life" actually be achieved? If you understand math and pass the exams? Knowing how to get on sick leave to postpone exams? When you find the right guy who loves and desires you and isn't an asshole?

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