



11-31 JAN

PROGRAMME
2022

fokus
films from Germany

WELCOME

Fokus: Films from Germany, now in its seventh edition, is a partnership between Goethe-Institut (Glasgow) and Filmhouse (Edinburgh). Variety is something we always strive for with this annual snapshot of contemporary German cinema, and this year is no exception. Daniel Brühl gets a timely lesson in the downside of gentrification, and social inequality, in his local Berlin bar in his directorial debut, *Next Door*; Germany's role in the 'false prospectus' that led to the Iraq War is the subject of the surreal, comic *Curveball*; disturbing and vivid, *Sleep* is a vital slice of Lynchian dream-horror from feature debut director Michael Venus. Two documentaries round off the selection: *The Case You* reconstructs the systematic abuse that five actresses fell victim to during a casting session; and *The Guardian* follows a Syrian Orthodox nun in remote south east Turkey as she endures the hostility of the local community.

Rod White, Head of Filmhouse

Welcome to the seventh edition of Fokus: Films from Germany! Film is the contemporary expression of the arts that probably excites us most. Films from Germany are movies with passion, humor, emotion and empathy. Films that, in their vitality and timeliness, are to build a bridge from continental Europe to the United Kingdom. We invite audiences all across Scotland to explore Germany as a multifaceted country with a distinct artistic language and place within European film. I am particularly delighted that this event has been realized in close collaboration with many partners, in Scotland and abroad.

Hans-Georg Thönges
Director, Goethe-Institut Glasgow

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FILMHOUSE

Media Partner

THE SKINNY

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the seventh edition of *Fokus: Films from Germany!*

We are more than happy to go back into cinemas for the seventh *Fokus: Films from Germany* edition, after the sixth was a fully online affair. We had great experiences and learned many things, but nothing can fully replace the experience and atmosphere of a physical screening and face-to-face interaction.

Nevertheless, as a result of the shortened online festival we decided to include some changes also in this edition. We reduced the festival time to three weeks instead of nearly three months and moved the screenings into January 2022, to make a fresh start in the new year with some exciting and diverse snapshots of the contemporary film scene in Germany.

Alongside a selection of documentaries, we also present some interesting new feature films, and we are happy that screenings will take place in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Inverness, Ayr, Dundee, St Andrews and even up north in Shetland!

We are starting our festival in Berlin, in the Prenzlauer Berg district with the feature film *Next Door (Nebenan)* by Daniel Brühl - who also plays the main character in a deliciously self-deprecating manner.

A confrontation of opposites, local versus global, victim versus winner of the gentrification, roller-bag take-off versus eavesdropping via the window to the courtyard. An overlooked man, one of reunification's losers versus the celebrated German-Spanish actor.

Our documentaries, *The Case You* and *The Guardian*, present courageous and fearless women in very different environments, with different backgrounds and in different stages of their lives.

In *The Case You*, Alison Kuhn brings, including herself, five actresses together in a theatre hall where the women are breaking their silence and exploring together the systematic assaults of a sexual and violent nature (which actually did happen) in a joint casting four years ago and how that influenced their present lives. We are particularly excited to have an online post-screening at the Filmhouse Edinburgh with Aileen Lakatos and Isabelle Bertkes from the cast of *The Case You*.

In the film *The Guardian (Die Wächterin)*, which is the winner of the Goethe-Institut Documentary Film Prize - DOC Leipzig, the camera follows the Syrian Orthodox nun Dayrayto through her everyday life of protecting the church in Zaz, a dilapidated and abandoned Assyrian village in southeastern Turkey.

INTRODUCTION

The camera captures her daily struggle, confronted with a hostile environment and no support from her local communities. But even after her companion dies and with the hardship of loneliness and fear, she still faces the task and does not give up.

The documentary *TRANS - I got life* takes a different perspective. Directors Imogen Kimmel and Doris Metz gained the trust of seven people who decided to go their own way. From their stories, the film distils the broad spectrum of trans identity. With a subtle and multi-layered approach, the film also transports the trans experience on a unique visual and sound level.

In *Copilot (Die Welt wird eine andere sein)*, director Anne Zorah Berrached portrays a great love during the 90s - and the radical terror that separates it (Frankfurter Rundschau). Inspired by real stories of the life of terrorists' wives, the film shows Asli and Saeed's relationship, promising and full of dreams, which soon will be divided through ideology, political polarisation, and religious beliefs.

A more captivating and absurd approach is taken by the film *Curveball*, which is based on a true story – unfortunately. A political drama which veers into the grotesque, *Curveball* recounts the story about Rafid Alwan's testimony, which was not only misused for personal career advancement and political power plays but also as the key arguments to justify the 2003 war in Iraq.

The psychological thriller *Sleep (Schlaf)* tells the story of three generations of women, fatefully bound together and a well-kept family secret, which not only haunts the inhabitants of a remote village but also threatens the lives of Marlene and her 19-year-old daughter.

The films will be screened in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Inverness, Ayr, Dundee, St Andrews and in Shetland!

Come and join us for one or more of the screenings and discover some of the contemporary and historical ideas and obsessions driving artistic and cultural expression in Germany.

Nicole Fryns

Programme Co-ordinator
Goethe-Institut Glasgow

Nora Laraki

Programme Assistant
Goethe-Institut Glasgow

Marjolein den Bakker

Programme Officer
Filmhouse Edinburgh



NEXT DOOR (Nebenan)

FILMHOUSE TUE 11 JAN 22 | 17:50

DUNDEE CONTEMPORARY ARTS TUE 11 JAN 22 | 20:30

GLASGOW FILM THEATRE WED 12 JAN 22 | 18:30

EDEN COURT: THU 13 JAN 22 | 20:15

BELMONT SUN 16 JAN 22 | 15:30

Daniel Brühl | Germany 2021 | 92 min | German with English subtitles

Cast: Daniel Brühl, Peter Kurth, Rike Eckermann, Aenne Schwarz

Berlin, the Prenzlauer Berg district. Daniel is a movie star accustomed to success. His loft apartment is stylish and so is his wife, and the nanny has the children under control. Everything is tip-top, bilingual and ready for him to jet off to an audition in London where a role in an American superhero film awaits the celebrated German-Spanish actor. Popping into the local bar on the corner, he finds Bruno sitting there. As transpires by the minute, Bruno has been waiting for this moment for a long time. And so this eternally overlooked man – one of reunification's losers and a victim of the gentrification of what was once East Berlin – takes his revenge.

And Daniel is his target...





DOCUMENTARY

THE CASE YOU

FILMHOUSE WED 19 JAN 22 | 18:00
GOETHE - INSTITUT THU 20 JAN 22 | 18:00 ONLINE
BELMONT SUN 30 JAN 22 | 15:30

Alison Kuhn | Germany 2020 | 80 min | German with English subtitles | Documentary

Five actresses spend a few days together in a theatre hall. They are all in their twenties and took part in a casting over four years ago, during which there were systematic assaults of a sexual and violent nature.

Alison Kuhn was also one of the applicants at the time. Like many of her colleagues, she tried to forget that day as quickly as possible. However, since the director who led the casting continued the abuse by editing his own film from the filmed material, a legal dispute is currently burning between the production company and the actresses. Hardly anything has been made public.

In the protected space, the women are now breaking their silence and exploring together what happened back then and what the events mean for their present.





DOCUMENTARY

THE GUARDIAN (Die Wächterin)

EDEN COURT WED 26 JAN 22 | 11:00 | 20:15
FILMHOUSE THU 27 JAN 22 | 18:00
BELMONT SAT 29 JAN 22 | 15:30
GOETHE - INSTITUT MON 31 JAN 22 | 18:00 ONLINE

Martina Priessner | Germany 2020 | 87 min | Kurdish, Turkish with English subtitles

For 18 years, the Syrian Orthodox nun Dayrayto lives on the grounds of a church in Zaz, a dilapidated and abandoned Assyrian village in southeastern Turkey. Together with the monk Abuna she cared for the church for fourteen years. Ever since the monk died four years ago Dayrayto lives alone with her two dogs, a cow, chicken, and three cats. She is vulnerable to multiple threats. Her presence in the region is a thorn in the side of many local actors. There has always been hostilities from the Muslim side and little support from her own community. Lately, the situation is getting worse and Dayrayto fears for her dog's life, which she believes has been deliberately poisoned. The camera follows Dayrayto through her everyday life and observes her struggle for survival, her worries and hardships as fear and loneliness are her constant companions. And yet, Dayrayto is a courageous and fearless woman - she promised Abuna to never leave this holy place and to protect the church, no matter what.



COPILOT (Die Welt wird eine andere sein)

MAREEL SHETLAND ARTS SUN 16 JAN 22 | 13:30
MAREEL SHETLAND ARTS WED 19 JAN 22 | 19:00
AYR FILM SOCIETY THU 20 JAN 22 | 16:30
EDEN COURT MON 31 JAN 22 | 20:15

Anne Zohra Berrached | Germany/France 2021 | 118 min | German, English, Arabic, Turkish with English subtitles

Cast: Canan Kır, Roger Azar, Jana Julia Roth, Ceci Chuh as Julia, Nicolas Chaoui, Özyay Fecht

In the mid 90's, Asli meets Saeed. Asli's first love changes her life forever - before shaking the whole world to the core.

When sharp science student Asli meets charismatic Saeed in the mid 90's, it's love at first sight. The lovers marry, and Asli swears to be true to Saeed and never betray his secrets. Their future looks bright, but as the twenty-first century dawns, Saeed makes a decision that will not only shatter Asli's dreams, but shake the whole world to the core.





CALENDAR

JANUARY

TUE 11 JAN	Next Door Next Door	FH DCA	17:50 20:30
WED 12 JAN	Next Door	GFT	18:30
THU 13 JAN	Next Door	EC	20:15
SUN 16 JAN	Curveball Copilot Next Door	BEL SA BEL	12:00 13:30 15:30
MON 17 JAN	Curveball Curveball	EC EC	14:00 20:15
TUE 18 JAN	Curveball Sleep Sleep	DCA BT GFT	18:00 18:30 20:30
WED 19 JAN	The Case You Copilot	FH SA	18:00 19:00
THU 20 JAN	Copilot The Case You (ONLINE)	AFS GI	16:30 18:00



AFS AYR FILM SOCIETY
BEL BELMONT FILMHOUSE
BT BYRE THEATRE
DCA DUNDEE CONTEMPORARY ARTS
EC EDEN COURT THEATRE
FH FILMHOUSE
GFT GLASGOW FILM THEATRE
GI GOETHE - INSTITUT
SA MAREEL SHETLAND ARTS

JANUARY

THU 20 JAN	Curveball	AFS	19:30
SAT 22 JAN	Sleep	BEL	15:30
SUN 23 JAN	Curveball	FH	15:20
TUE 25 JAN	Sleep Sleep	DCA FH	20:30 20:30
WED 26 JAN	The Guardian TRANS The Guardian	EC GFT EC	11:00 18:15 20:15
THU 27 JAN	The Guardian Curveball (ONLINE)	FH GI	18:00 18:00
SAT 29 JAN	The Guardian	BEL	15:30
SUN 30 JAN	The Case You	BEL	15:30
MON 31 JAN	The Guardian (ONLINE) Copilot	GI EC	18:00 20:15





CURVEBALL - A TRUE STORY. UNFORTUNATELY (Curveball-Wir machen die Wahrheit)

BELMONT SUN 16 JAN 22 | 12:00

EDEN COURT MON 17 JAN 22 | 14:00 | 20:15

DUNDEE CONTEMPORARY ARTS TUE 18 JAN 22 | 18:00

AYR FILM SOCIETY THU 20 JAN 22 | 19:30

FILMHOUSE SUN 23 JAN 22 | 15:20

GOETHE-INSTITUT THU 27 JAN 22 | 18:00 ONLINE

Johannes Naber | Germany 2020 | 108 min | German with English subtitles

Cast: Sebastian Blomberg, Dar Salim, Virginia Kull, Thorsten Merten, Michael Wittenborn

Bioweapons expert Wolf of the German Federal Intelligence Service BND is obsessed with the idea that, despite the UN inspections, anthrax is still being produced in Iraq. Back home in Germany, his superior Schatz assigns him as case officer for the Iraqi asylum seeker Rafid Alwan - because Alwan claims to have worked as an engineer for Saddam Hussein's secret bioweapons program. It's a rare triumph for a secret service not exactly spoiled by success: finally they have a piece of intelligence that would put them one step ahead of the CIA. What they are missing, though, is proof. The search for which proves difficult, as *Curveball* is well aware of his value to the agency. His claims, meanwhile, end up serving a number of decidedly different interests - the CIA, the German government, everyone is trying to use his incredible story for their own purposes. Thus, bit by bit, a construed story becomes reality and a lie becomes the truth. A truth, which sets in motion a chain of events that for-ever changes the global political landscape.





DOCUMENTARY

SLEEP (Schlaf)

GLASGOW FILM THEATRE TUE 18 JAN 22 | 20:30
BYRE THEATRE TUE 18 JAN 22 | 18:30
BELMONT SAT 22 JAN 22 | 15:30
DUNDEE CONTEMPORARY ARTS
TUE 25 JAN 22 | 20:30
FILMHOUSE TUE 25 JAN 22 | 20:30

Michael Venus | Germany 2020 | 101 min | German with English subtitles

Cast: Gro Swantje Kohlhof, Sandra Hüller, August Schmörlzer, Marion Kracht, Max Hubacher

Tormented by recurring nightmares of a place she has never been, Marlene cannot help but investigate when she discovers the place is real. Against the advice of her daughter Mona, she drives to the place, where she suffers a breakdown and is admitted to a psychiatric ward. Determined to discover what happened to her, Mona follows and finds herself in Stainbach, an idyllic village with a dark history. What is it that so tormented her mother, and the people of Stainbach? What is the source of the nightmares she suffers? And who is the mysterious Trude that lives in the forest?

For Mona, a rollercoaster ride into the abyss begins, playing with fairytale elements and blurring the boundaries between dream and reality.



TRANS - I GOT LIFE

GLASGOW FILM THEATRE WED 26 JAN 22 | 18:15

Doris Metz, Imogen Kimmel | Germany 2019 | 96 min | German with English subtitles | Documentary

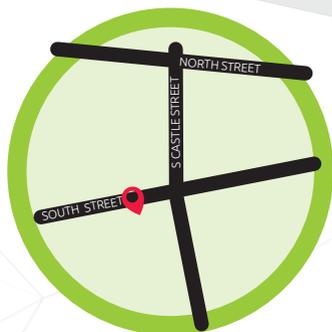
"TRANS is not a curse or a disease"

The documentary accompanies the renowned doctor and transgender surgeon Dr Schaff, who has been performing gender reassignment surgeries for many years and is also constantly developing the available surgical methods. At the same time, the film also focuses on some of his patients, who are each in very different phases of their transition. The spectrum of those portrayed ranges from San Francisco, where the focus is on the future of transgender surgery, to Russia, where operations and other measures can only be carried out in secret.

The film offers rarely seen insights into trans people's often torn sense of life and the complex psychological, hormonal and often also surgical aspects of their transition.

TICKET AND VENUE INFO

Please contact participating venues for ticket bookings and access information.



Byre Theatre

Abbey Street, St Andrews KY16 9LA

w: byretheatre.com

t: 0141 332 6535



Eden Court

Bishops Rd, Inverness IV3 5SA

w: beden-court.co.uk

t: 0146 373 2732



Goethe-Institut

3 Park Circus, Glasgow G3 6AX

w: goethe.de

t: 0141 332 2555

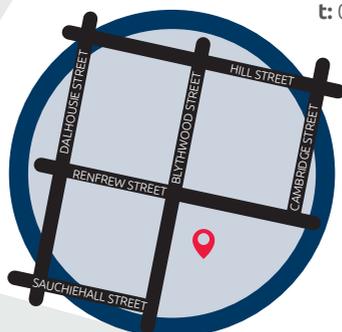


MAREEL SHETLAND ARTS

Mareel, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0WQ

w: shetlandarts.org

t: 0159 574 5500



Glasgow Film Theatre

12 Rose St, Glasgow G3 6RB

w: glasgowfilm.org/theatre

t: 0141 332 6535

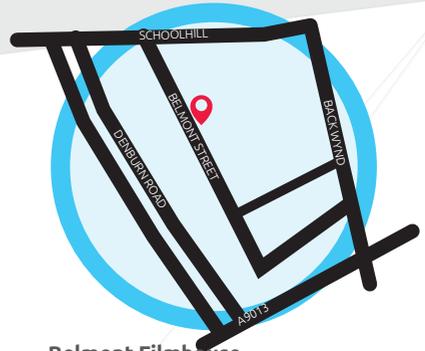


Ayr Film Society

Ayr Town Hall, 5-9 High Street, Ayr KA7 1LU

w: ayrfilmsociety.co.uk

t: 01292 281 085 or 283 435



Belmont Filmhouse

49 Belmont Street, Aberdeen AB10 1JS

w: belmontfilmhouse.com

t: 01224 343 500



Dundee Contemporary Arts

152 Nethergate, Dundee DD1 4DY

w: dca.org.uk

t: 01382 909900



Filmhouse

88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9BZ

w: filmhousecinema.com

t: 0131 228 2688

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

Filmhouse is Scotland's foremost independent cinema, the programme of which includes over 700 films and events annually. In recent years, Filmhouse has led several touring programmes, including Fokus: Films From Germany. Others have included: Adapting Miss Highsmith, Martin Scorsese Presents Masterpieces of Polish Cinema and Cinema of Childhood. Since 2013 Filmhouse has been an independent film distributor. Our most recent releases include Mouly Surya's *Marlina the Murderer in Four Acts* and *1945* by Ferenc Török. It also provides DCP encoding as part of CMI Digital Cinema Services. Filmhouse is part of the Centre for the Moving Image, which incorporates the Edinburgh International Film Festival and Aberdeen's Belmont Filmhouse.

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Media Partner: The Skinny

The Skinny is Scotland's leading culture magazine. Every month The Skinny showcases the very best in Scottish arts and culture, in a free magazine available at venues across Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee as well as a regular email newsletter highlighting the best events taking place across the country.

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide. We promote the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. As one of the few cultural institutes with a permanent presence in Scotland, the institute in Glasgow has conveyed comprehensive information about the cultural, social and political life in Germany for more than 40 years. Our cultural and educational programmes, realized in close collaboration with Scottish partner institutions, encourage intercultural dialogue and involvement. Fokus: Films from Germany is just one of the institute's cultural events in Scotland. For more info about our activities get in touch with us:

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