

Schedule

THURSDAY, 11/14

7:00 pm • OPENING
All About Me (Der Junge muss an die frische Luft), 128 min. Followed by discussion and reception.

FRIDAY, 11/15

7:00 pm
The Reformer. Zwingli: A Life's Portrait, 128 min. Followed by reception.

9:30 pm
25 km/h, 116 min.

SATURDAY, 11/16

12:00 pm
New Short Films from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, 110 min. Followed by discussion.

2:15 pm
Happiness Sucks (Glück ist was für Weicheier), 95 min.

4:15 pm
Special Event: "Film Noise" - On Film with Ruth Toma, David Dietl, and Andreas Höfer

6:00 pm
The Miracle Method (Die Wunderübung), 96 min.

7:45 pm
Berlin Bouncer, 87 min. Followed by discussion.

SUNDAY, 11/17

12:00 pm
All I Never Wanted, 89 min.

2:00 pm
The Goldfish (Die Goldfische), 112 min.

4:15 pm
System Crasher (Systemsprenger), 120 min.

6:15 pm
CLOSING *Gundermann*, 127 min. Preceded by reception and followed by discussion.



OPENING NIGHT

THURS, NOV 14 • 7:00 PM

All About Me (Der Junge muss an die frische Luft)

Germany, 2018, 100 min.

Director: Caroline Link

Screenplay: Ruth Toma

Cast: Julius Weckauf, Luise Heyer, Sonke Mohring

Distribution: Picture Tree International

Prizes: German Film Awards 2019 (Best Feature Film, Bronze; Best Supporting Actress, Luise Heyer; Most-Viewed in Cinemas)

Nominations: German Film Awards 2019 (Best Director, Caroline Link; Best Screenplay, Ruth Toma; Best Cinematography, Judith Kaufmann)

A touching, funny, and uplifting glimpse into the childhood of HaPe Kerkeling, one of Germany's most treasured comedians. Raised in West Germany's Ruhr region in the early 1970s, young Hans-Peter is the light of his large family, helping them through tough times with his abiding determination to make everybody smile and laugh. But when tragedy casts a shadow over the close-knit family, Hans-Peter only sharpens his talent for comedy—something that will one day make him the star he was meant to be.

Caroline Link (b. 1964) in Bad Neuheim, Germany. She first experienced working in the film business in 1984, when she interned at Munich's Bavaria Studios after finishing gymnasium and spending one year abroad in the United States. Beginning in 1986, she studied filmmaking at the University of Television and Film Munich (HFF) and graduated in 1990. Her films include *Beyond Silence* (1996), *Punktchen und Anton* (1999), and the Academy-Award winning *Nowhere in Africa* (2001).

Reception and discussion with screenwriter Ruth Toma follows the screening.

CLOSING NIGHT

SUN, NOV 17 • 6:15 PM

Gundermann

Germany, 2018, 127 min.

Director: Andreas Dresen

Screenplay: Laila Stieler

Cast: Alexander Scheer, Anna Unterberger, Benjamin Kramme, Eva Weïßenborn

Distribution: Pandora

Prizes: 2019 German Film Award in six categories: Best Feature Film, Best Director (Andreas Dresen), Best Screenplay (Laila Stieler), Best Leading Actor (Alexander Scheer), Best Set Design (Susanne Hopf), Best Costume Design (Sabine Greunig); further nominations for Best Supporting Actress (Eva Weïßenborn), Best Cinematography (Andreas Höfer), Best Editing (Jörg Hauschild), Best Make-Up (Grit Kosse, Uta Spikermann)

Gerhard Gundermann may not look like a star – he drives a coal-digger, wears a hardhat and suspenders, and is a humble and loyal family man. But, to his fellow East Germans, he is also a folk hero, a brilliant lyricist, and a talented musician. Andreas Dresen's sensitive biopic, following a passionate and clever everyman who enchanted his country and threatened his regime through song, presents us with a remarkable multifaceted hero: idealistic and rebellious, melancholy and defiant.

Andreas Dresen (b. 1963) is one of Germany's most admired directors, with numerous diverse and award-winning feature films to his name. Born in Gera, East Germany, he began working in theater and making short films in the early 1980s. He studied directing at the HFF "Konrad Wolf" Potsdam-Babelsberg. Since 1992, he has been working as a writer and director for film, TV, theater, and opera. His specific directing style is based on improvisation, which results in extraordinary acting accomplishments and a feeling of almost documentary-like realism.

Reception at 6:15 PM precedes the screening. Discussion with cinematographer Andreas Höfer follows the screening.



New Short Films from Germany, Austria, & Switzerland

SAT, NOV 16 • 12:00 PM

A partnership with DC Shorts International Film Festival

Three generations come together under one roof and develop a new understanding of one another in *Josef Markus Julian*; young dreamer Luna acts out her fantasy of launching into space in the pool of her school gymnasium in *Moonjump*; the absurdity of entertainment cruises on the open ocean is examined in *All Inclusive*. This year, we present seven remarkable short films from German, Austrian, and Swiss filmmakers – both breakout works of ambitious university students still in film school and multiple-award-winning pieces – in cooperation with DC Shorts International Film Festival. Following the film program will be a panel discussion on the medium of the short film, the role of short films in festivals, and the short film as an art form specifically in German-language cinema.

Desert Bloom

Austria, 2016, 12 min., Directors: Peter Kutin & Florian Kindlinger

The urban landscape and lights of the Las Vegas Strip are rendered audible, forming a symphony of electric smog in the middle of the Nevada desert.

Moonjump

Germany, 2019, 6 min., Director: Lasse Holdhus

The final bell at school has rung, all of the other students have gone home, and Major Luna is about to jump towards the moon. In the swimming pool of her empty gymnasium, she acts out her dream to one day float weightlessly in space.

Am Cu Ce - Pride

(Am Cu Ce - Mein ganzer Stolz)

Germany, 2019, 20 min., Director: Hannah Weissenborn

Long-haul trucking might not seem like the most difficult job on the planet. But for those whose livelihoods depend on transporting goods across the country on Germany's fast-paced highways, every second awake counts – and every second asleep.

Josef Markus Julian

Austria, 2019, 24 min., Director: Özgür Anil

Markus and his son Julian go to the countryside to visit Markus's father. After breaking his arm, Josef is barely capable of working on his small farm. He is happy about the rare visit of his son and grandson, but he realizes soon that Markus did not only come to see him.

The Flood is Coming

Switzerland/United Kingdom, 2018, 9 min., Director: Gabriel Böhmer

A forest hermit tries to prepare for a flood, but he becomes distracted by his noisy neighbour – who happens to be the hermit's left eye. *The Flood is Coming* explores our growing anxiety about the state of nature, and our place in it.

All Inclusive

Switzerland, 2018, 10 min., Director: Corina Schwingruber Ilić

A workout on the sun deck, a conga line in the dining hall, a photoshoot with the ship's captain, a beauty pageant for all ages: fun around-the-clock is guaranteed on a cruise, where you float along with your hotel room. The seafaring holiday fortresses have come into vogue and business is booming. In the towering ship's wake, we are left behind with a hoard of digital memories, and a cloud of exhaust fumes on the horizon.

Life is One of the Simplest Things (Das Leben ist eines der Leichtesten)

Switzerland, 2018, 8 min., Director: Marion Nyffenegger

Five people living in Switzerland talk about their childhoods. Security and uprooting become the topics. A collage of voices of people from different cultures and age groups tells about their feeling of home, their roots and origins. A brief look at the liveliness and diversity of lives.

Rude Boys

Germany, 2019, 9 Min., Director: Ken Hagen-Takenaka

Despite his friend Murat's advice, Adam signs up for a triathlon. He's not exactly an athlete, though. He's actually a total slacker who spends his days eating and smoking weed on the couch. As Murat predicts, the day does not go as predicted – neither for Adam, nor for Murat.



NEW FILMS FROM GERMANY
AUSTRIA • SWITZERLAND

November 14-17, 2019

Landmark's E Street Cinema

FilmNeu.org

Film | Neu 2019

Welcome to the 27th edition of Film|Neu, Washington's annual festival of new films from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. This year's critically acclaimed feature films explore the absurd, chasing ambitious dreams, remaining true to oneself in the face of great change, and being an outsider determined to find belonging – or to remain a misfit.

Film|Neu 2019 also welcomes three guests from the German film industry, and presents a short film program in cooperation with DC Shorts International Film Festival.

Further information on our special guests, discussions, receptions, and more can be found on our website. We look forward to another year at **Landmark's E Street Cinema**.

Note: All films have English subtitles.

Tickets

Tickets can be purchased at the **cinema box office** or online at **filmneu.org**.

Tickets: General Admission • \$12.75; Senior/Child • \$9.75;
Student/Military/Friend of the Goethe-Institut • \$11.25*

OPENING Night • Screening followed by reception at E St Cinema
with complimentary wine, beer, and German snacks • \$27.75

CLOSING Night • Pre-film reception at 6:15 pm • \$17.75

*Tickets in this category
can only be purchased
at the cinema box office.
Presentation of proper
identification is required
upon purchase.

FOLD

Festival Venue

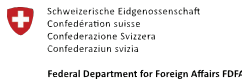
Landmark's E Street Cinema

555 11th St. NW

Washington, DC 20004

Metro: Metro Center

Partners



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FRI, NOV 15 • 7:00 PM

The Reformer, Zwingli: A Life's Portrait

Switzerland, 2019, 128 min.

Director: Stefan Haupt

Screenplay: Simone Schmid

Cast: Maximilian Simonischek,
Anatole Taubman, Sarah
Sophia Meyer

Distribution: Global Screen

Nominations: Swiss Film Award
2019 (Best Actor, Maximilian
Simonischek; Best Actress,
Sarah Sophia Meyer)

After a long period of war,
Switzerland in 1519 is finally at
peace – or so it seems. The Catholic
Church reigns with corruption,
excess, and hypocrisy. When young
priest Huldrych Zwingli leaves the
countryside for Zurich, he realizes
just how unhappy the Swiss people
truly are. His resulting sermons
disturb and fascinate the populace,
delivering a shockwave that rocks
the foundations of the Church.

Stefan Haupt (b. 1961) attended
the Zurich Theatre and Acting
Academy and graduated with
a degree in Theatre Pedagogy.
Since 1989, he has worked as a
director and freelance filmmaker.

Film followed by reception.



FRI, NOV 15 • 9:30 PM

25 km/h

Germany, 2018, 116 min.

Director: Markus Goller

Screenplay: Oliver Ziegenbalg

Cast: Bjarne Mädel, Lars Eidinger,
Sandra Hüller, Franka Potente

Distribution: Beta Cinema

Nominations: German Film
Award 2019 (Best Feature Film)

Although they are brothers, Georg
and Christian could not be more
different. Christian left home
early to become a successful
businessman. Georg, a carpenter
and homebody, remained in their
Black Forest hometown to take care
of their ailing father. Following their
father's death, the brothers are
determined to make their shared
teenage dream come true: a cross-
country road trip on mopeds.

Markus Goller (b. 1969) began his
career as an editor for short films,
commercials, and documentary
films, and later for German and
American feature films. His feature
film *Friendship!* became Germany's
most successful film of 2010.
25 km/h co-stars Bjarne Mädel and
Lars Eidinger both won the 2019
Ernst Lubitsch Award for their
performances in Goller's comedy.



SAT, NOV 16 • 2:15 PM

Happiness Sucks (Glück ist was für Weicheier)

Germany, 2019, 95 min.

Director: Anca Miruna Lăzărescu

Screenplay: Silvia Wolkán

Cast: Emilia Bernsdorf, Ella
Frey, Martin Wuttke

Distribution: Walker Worm Film

Nominations: German Film
Award 2019 (Best Supporting
Actor, Martin Wuttke)

As if all the usual difficulties of being
12 weren't enough, superstitious
and stubborn Jessica is convinced
that only she can save her sister
Sabrina from her terminal illness.
Still reeling from the death of their
mother, Jessica grapples with the
awkwardness of early adolescence
while attempting to treat Sabrina.
Meanwhile, Jessica's father faces his
own grief while holding down a job
and caring for his two daughters.

Anca Miruna Lăzărescu (b. 1979)
was born in Timisoara, Romania,
moving to Germany with her
parents in 1990. She studied at the
University of Television and Film
(HFF) in Munich, attended summer
classes at UCLA in Los Angeles, and
participated in various scriptwriting
workshops. Her debut feature *Die
Reise mit Vater* (2016) premiered
at the Munich International
Film Festival in June 2016.



SAT, NOV 16 • 6:00 PM

The Miracle Method (Die Wunderübung)

Austria, 2018, 96 min.

Director: Michael Kreihsl

Screenplay: Michael Kreihsl,
based on the play *Die Wunderübung*
by Daniel Glattauer

Cast: Aglaia Szyszkowitz, David
Striesow, Erwin Steinhauer

Distribution: Allegro Film

Nominations: SCORE Bernhard
Wicki Prize 2018; Creative
Energy Film Prize 2018

It was love at first sight when they
first dove into the warm, clear
waters of the Red Sea – perfect
harmony, complete trust in one
another, everything calm below
the crystalline surface. Perhaps
they never should have come
back up. Now, after many years of
marriage, Joana and Valentin exist
miserably in a toxic relationship. A
couples therapist is their last resort.
Unsurprisingly, the session is no
walk in the park. But the therapist
is no ordinary therapist, either...

Michael Kreihsl (b. 1958) studied
art history and archaeology
before graduating from a training
program to become an art
restorer. Afterwards, he studied
directing at the Vienna University
for Music and Performing Arts,
Department of Film and Television.
He then completed a postgraduate
study at New York University's
Department of Film and Television.



SAT, NOV 16 • 7:45 PM

Berlin Bouncer

Germany, 2019, 87 min.

Director/Screenplay: David Dietl

Cast: Sven Marquardt, Frank
Künster, Smiley Baldwin

Distribution: Flare Film

Festivals: World Premiere in the
category "Perspektive Deutsches
Kino" at the International Competition
of the 69th Berlinale 2019

The Berlin nightclub scene is perhaps
the most famous in Europe. Intriguing
for the transience of its institutions
and their denizens, notorious for its
selective door policies, and legendary
for its contributions to electronic music,
Berlin nightlife does not follow trends –
it sets standards. David Dietl offers a
glimpse behind the hard outer shell of
three Berlin bouncers, giving us an idea
what it is really like to be the guardians
of the biggest parties in the world.

David Dietl (b. 1979) was born in
Los Angeles and raised in Germany.
After graduating from high school, he
gained extensive experience in the film
industry before studying at the German
Film and Television Academy Berlin.
He directed and wrote his graduation
film and cinema debut, *König von
Deutschland*. In 2016, he directed the
television film *Ellas Baby*, starring Benno
Furmann and Katharina Schüttler. His
comedy *Rate Your Date* was released
in German cinemas in spring 2019.

*Film followed by discussion
with David Dietl.*



SUN, NOV 17 • 12:00 PM

All I Never Wanted

Germany, 2019, 89 min.

Director/Screenplay: Annika
Blendl, Leonie Stade

Cast: Lida Freudenreich, Mareile
Blendl, Annika Blendl, Leonie Stade

Distribution: Karbe Film, Man on Mars

Festivals: World Premiere in
Official Competition at 37th Filmfest
München; Nominee Audience Award
at 15th Festival of German Films

When aspiring documentarians Leonie
and Annika are financed with 100 thousand Euro,
they are determined to make a film that
chronicles the success stories of two differ-
ent women: a young model beginning her
career in Milan, and a middle-aged television
actress hoping to take her work in a new
direction. When the cameras start rolling,
however, all four women learn that success
stories don't come as easily as they thought.

Annika Blendl (b. 1982) and **Leonie Stade**
(b. 1988) are freelance authors, directors,
and producers. After graduation in 2007,
Leonie Stade traveled the world and worked
as a model in Milan and Paris. Annika
Blendl has been working as a film and
television actress since 2001, and went to
the Schauspielhaus Zürich in 2004. The
director duo got to know each other in
2009 at the University of Television and
Film Munich. Both studied documentary
direction and production. In 2018, they
founded the Man on Mars film production
company, along with their colleague Michael
Schmitt. Their first joint film, *Nowhereman*,
ran in competition at the Max Ophüls
Filmfest, while their second joint film,
Mollath – Suddenly Lunatic was released in
2015 in German cinemas after its premiere
at the Munich Film Festival. *All I Never
Wanted* is the pair's feature film debut.



SUN, NOV 17 • 2:00 PM

The Goldfish (Die Goldfische)

Germany, 2019, 112 min.

Director/Screenplay:
Alireza Golafshan

Cast: Tom Schilling, Jella Haase,
Birgit Minichmayr, Axel Stein

Distribution: Sony Pictures

Festivals: Limited premiere in the
Lola Series at the 69th Berlinale,
February 2019; German cinema
release in March 2019; international
premiere at the Shanghai International
Film Festival in June 2019

Cutthroat banker Oliver becomes
paralyzed from the waist down when
he crashes his car. Now living in a
facility for people with disabilities,
he must learn to adapt to his new
circumstances. "The Goldfish," a
group apartment comprised of
four fellow patients and their two
caregivers, form an unlikely bond
with Oliver – who, determined to
retrieve a stash of money from
Switzerland and smuggle it back
over the border, makes them his
partners in crime on a wild road trip.

Alireza Golafshan (b. 1986) was
born in Tehran, Iran. In 1998, he
and his family moved to Germany.
Golafshan first studied philosophy
and art history in Munich; in 2008
he successfully applied to the
Hochschule für Fernsehen und
Film (HFF), where he made several
short films. The 45-minute tragedy
Behinderte Ausländer (2013) brought
him to the attention of producer
Justyna Muesch. The comedy *Die
Goldfische* (*The Goldfish*, 2019)
opened in cinemas at the end of
March 2019 to very positive reviews.



SUN, NOV 17 • 4:15 PM

System Crasher (Systemsprenger)

Germany, 2019, 120 min.

Director/Screenplay:
Nora Fingscheidt

Cast: Helena Zengel, Albrecht
Schuch, Gabriela Maria
Schmeide, Lisa Hagmeister

Distribution: Port au Prince Pictures

Nominations: Chosen in August
2019 as Germany's submission
for "Best Foreign-Language Film"
in the 2020 Oscar selection.

Nine-year-old Benni is full of rage.
Nobody – not her mother, her doctors,
or her teachers – is sure exactly why,
or why her behavior has become so
violent. One thing is certain, however:
Benni cannot continue to grow up in
society the way she is. Determined
not to give up on her, a community
forms around the young girl, intent
on working together to ensure that
she has a future before it's too late.

Nora Fingscheidt (b. 1983) spent
her adolescence in Germany and
Argentina. Between 2008 and 2017
she studied fiction directing at the
Film Academy Baden-Württemberg.
She was nominated for the German
Short Film Award for her second-
year film *Synkope* and participated
in Berlinale Talents in 2012. She
completed her degree with the
documentary *Ohne diese Welt*
which won several awards including
the Max Ophüls Prize in 2017.

SAT, NOV 16 • 4:15 PM

SPECIAL EVENT: **"Film Noise" – On Film with Ruth Toma, David Dietl, and Andreas Höfer**

A conversation about filmmaking and
festivals with screenwriter Ruth Toma
(All About Me), filmmaker David Dietl
(Berlin Bouncer), and cinematographer
Andreas Höfer (Gundermann).

Ruth Toma, born in 1956 in Bad Kötzing,
Lower Bavaria, lives in Hamburg. Toma
has completed a nine-year "wandering"
with the Fliegende Bauten Theater and
just completed her studies at the newly-
founded postgraduate film program
at the University of Hamburg – in the
scriptwriting class of Peter Steinbach.
Today, she is one of the most sought-
after scriptwriters of her generation,
and has quickly created a reputation
for herself as a great writer: Romeo,
Solino, Gloomy Sunday, Emma's Luck,
to name just a few. In her words, "the
more tragic a comedy is, the better."

Andreas Höfer was born in 1964, in the
film city of Potsdam-Babelsberg, where
he studied camera at the Hochschule
für Film und Fernsehen "Konrad Wolf."
At the end of the 1980s, his first short
films appeared on the big screen
at the University, all made with his
fellow student Andreas Dresen. Over
the next few years and decades, the
student projects developed into an
extremely fruitful collaboration with
Dresen. Andreas Höfer's most recent
collaboration was with Andreas Dresen,
the film portrait *Gundermann*. Höfer's
work on the film, demonstrating design
seeking authenticity, was nominated
for the German Film Award 2019.

David Dietl was born in Los Angeles
in 1979 and raised in Germany. After
graduating from high school, he
gained extensive experience in the
film industry before studying at the
German Film and Television Academy
Berlin (dfbf). He directed and wrote
his graduation film and cinema debut,
König von Deutschland. In 2016, he
directed the television film *Ellas Baby*,
starring Benno Furmann and Katharina
Schüttler. His comedy *Rate Your Date*
was released in German cinemas in
spring 2019, and his documentary
Berlin Bouncer premiered at the 69th
Berlin International Film Festival 2019.

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