



PRESS RELEASE

Film|Neu: New Films from Germany, Austria and Switzerland

Opening with Thriller *Who Am I: No System is Safe*

November 6-12, 2015

**Landmark's E Street Cinema
555 11th St. NW
Washington, DC 20004**

**Goethe-Institut Washington
812 7th St. NW
Washington, DC 20001**

www.filmneu.org

Download Dropbox images [here](#).

(Washington, DC, October 15, 2015) – From the pre-dawn streets of Berlin's Mitte district in *Victoria* to the sun-dappled expanse of Spain's Torremolinos beach in *The Whole Shebang* by way of the sinister digital world of *Who Am I: No System is Safe*, the 23rd annual edition of Film|Neu, running November 6 – 12, 2015 at Landmark's E Street Cinema and the Goethe-Institut, is a week-long tour of worlds known and unexplored as well as a snapshot of the best new films from Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

This year's program boasts new work from two of German cinema's most respected filmmakers, Margarethe von Trotta (*The Misplaced World*) and Doris Dörrie (the aforementioned *The Whole Shebang*). Of the remaining nine films, five are from first-time feature directors; the final four are second or third films. This is the decisive sign of healthy film industries.

The festival kicks off a Red Carpet Party following the Friday, November 6, 7 pm screening of *Who Am I: No System is Safe*, which transforms the hotly-debated topic of internet hacking into a gripping cyber thriller.

Note: All films have English subtitles.

Film|Neu is a project of Goethe-Institut Washington, the Austrian Cultural Forum, and the Embassy of Switzerland, with support from German films and Friends of the Goethe-Institut.

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Who Am I: No System is Safe
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Opening Night

Friday, November 6, 7 & 9:30 pm

Saturday, November 7, 10 pm

Who Am I: No System is Safe (Who Am I – Kein System ist sicher)

Winner: Bavarian Film Prize 2014

Germany, 2014, 105 min. Director: Baran

bo Odar Screenplay: Jantje Friese, Baran bo Odar With: Tom Schilling, Elyas M'Barek, Wotan Wilke Möhring, Antoine Monot Jr., Hannah Herzprung Sales: TrustNordisk, Hvidovre, Denmark

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Discussion with Nick Skelsey, HacDC Meetup member, co-founder of Soapbox Systems and an open government advocate, follows the first screening. Followed by Red Carpet Party with DJ at the Goethe-Institut.

A garden-variety contemporary nerd, Benjamin (Tom Schilling) has no friends at school and few social skills, but there's one thing he understands: computers. Before long, he's part of an anonymous hacking collective. How cutting edge is *Who Am I?* While interviewing director **Baran bo Odar** (b. 1978, Olten, Switzerland) recently, Warner Bros. brass screened the film and acquired remake rights on the spot. His feature debut, *The Silence*, appeared at Film|Neu 2011.

Saturday, November 7, 1:15 pm

Sunday, November 8, 4:15 pm

The Misplaced World (Die abhandene Welt)

Berlin Film Festival 2015

Germany, 2015, 100 min., Director/Screenplay: Margarethe von Trotta Producer: Markus Zimmer With: Katja Riemann, Barbara Sukowa, Matthias Habich, Robert Seeliger, Gunnar Moller Sales: Wild Bunch, Paris

After German lounge singer Sophie (Katja Riemann) loses her mother, father Paul (Matthias Habich) discovers that New York opera singer Caterina (Barbara Sukowa) could have been her identical twin. **Margarethe von Trotta** (b. 1942, Berlin, Germany) was inspired to make this film after her own late-in-life discovery of a half-sister. Other recent films by one of Germany's most distinguished talents and a champion of women's issues and rights include *Rosenstrasse* (2003) and *Hannah Arendt* (2012).



Wacken © ICS Festival Service GmbH,
Photo: Kai Swillus

Saturday, November 7, 2:30 pm

Wacken 3D

Germany, 2014, 95 min., Director/Screenplay: Norbert Heitker With: Anthrax, Alice Cooper, Deep Purple, Henry Rollins, Motörhead, Rammstein Sales: Outlook Filmsales, Vienna

3D Screening at the Goethe-Institut Washington

Maybe you've heard of Wacken Open Air, the world's largest heavy metal festival, now in its 25th year. No? Well, you'll certainly hear it during this special 3D screening. Every year, some 80,000 entirely peaceful but distinctive fans gather in northern Germany during three days in August. **Norbert Heitker** (b. 1971, Aschendorf, Germany) has been making music videos and documentaries since 1997. A partial list of the bands with which he's worked includes Rammstein, Die Toten Hosen, Die Ärzte, Farin Urlaub Racing Team and Donots.

Saturday, November 7, 3 pm

Monday, November 9, 7 pm

Ma Folie

Austria, 2015, 100 min., Director/Screenplay: Andrina Mračnikar Producer: Lukas Stepanik With: Alice Dwyer, Sabin Tambrea, Gerti Drassi,, Oliver Roskopf, Petra Morzé Sales: Coccinelle Film Placement, Rome

On vacation in Paris, child therapist Hanna (Alice Dwyer) meets fellow Austrian Yann (Sabine Tambrea), but ends the relationship due to his jealousy and manipulation. As her own life sinks into paranoia and fear, she begins to question her decision. **Andrina Mračnikar** (b. 1981, Hallein, Austria) studied art history in Vienna, directing in Ljubljana and directing/screenwriting with Michael Haneke. In this feature-length directorial debut, she proves herself adept at depicting the full range of young emotional experience.

Saturday, November 7, 5 pm

Sunday, November 8, 12 pm

The King's Surrender (Wir waren Könige)

Bavarian Film Prize 2015

Germany, 2014, 104 min., Director/Screenplay: Philipp Leinemann Producers: Tobias Walker, Philipp Worm With: Ronald Zehrfeld, Mišel Matičević, Mohammed Issa, Tilman Strauss, Oliver Konietzny Sales: Walker+Worm Film, Munich

In the less desirable sections of an unnamed, graffiti-strewn metropolis, an efficient, perpetually underfunded SEK (*Sondereinsatzkommando*, or SWAT team) is having a run of bad luck in this sweeping criminal character study. **Philipp Leinemann** (b. 1979, Braunschweig, Germany) makes his feature-length directorial debut in this set of stories about the current, fluid state of law enforcement in Germany, and societies around the world

Saturday, November 7, 7 pm

Victoria

German Film Award 2015

Germany, 2015, 138 min., Director: Sebastian Schipper Screenplay: Sebastian Schipper, Olivia Neergaard-Holm, Eike Frederick Schulz Producers: Sebastian Schipper, Jan Dressler, Anatol Nitschke, Catherine Baikousis, David Keitsch With: Laia Costa, Frederick Lau, Franz Rogowski, Burak Yigit, Max Mauff US Distributor: Adopt Films, Long Island City, New York Sales: Match Factory, Cologne, Germany

Photographed in a single, uninterrupted take on 22 locations with actors improvising dialogue from the framework of the story arc, this thriller set in Berlin's Mitte district features genial young Madrid-based waitress Victoria (Laia Costa) ensnared as an accomplice in a desperate deed. In pushing these boundaries, director Sebastian Schipper has delivered a remarkable technical, dramatic and audience-pleasing achievement. **Sebastian Schipper** (b. 1968, Hanover, Germany) studied acting in Munich and appeared in a number of Tom Tykver's films (*Winter Sleepers*, *Run Lola Run*). His films as director include *A Friend of Mine* (2006) and *Sometime in August* (2009).

Sunday, November 8, 2 pm

Monday, November 9, 9 pm

From Caligari to Hitler: German Cinema in the Age of the Masses

(Von Caligari zu Hitler. Das Deutsches Kino im Zeitalter der Massen)

Germany, 2014, 118 min., Director: Rüdiger Suchsland Screenplay: Rüdiger Suchsland Producer: Martina Haubrich With: Fatih Akin, Elisabeth Bronfen, Thomas Elsaesser, Volker Schlöndorff, Eric D. Weitz Narrators: Rüdiger Suchsland, Hans Henrik Wöhler Sales: Kino Lorber

The clip's the thing in this exciting feature-length documentary adaptation of Siegfried Kracauer's pioneering and still essential 1947 critical history *From Caligari to Hitler*. They illustrate the ideas of "Weimar Cinema," that period of cultural upheaval in Germany between 1918 and 1933. **Rüdiger Suchsland** (b. 1968, Germany) is a film critic writing for many German radio stations and newspapers. This is his first film as director.



Dora © Victoria Schulz

Sunday, November 8, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, November 11, 8:30 pm
Dora or the Sexual Neuroses of Our Parents
(Dora oder die sexuellen Neurosen unserer Eltern)
Cinelab Award 2015

Switzerland/Germany, 2015, 90 min., Director: Stina Werenfels
Screenplay: Stina Werenfels, Boris Treyer, from the play by Lukas

Bärfuss Producers: Samir, Karin Koch, Nicole Gerhards, Stina Werenfels With: Victoria Schulz, Jenny Schilly, Lars Eindinger, Urs Jucker, Inga Busch Sales: WIDE, Paris

Reception with Swiss treats after the Sunday screening.

Shortly after her 18th birthday, the intellectually disabled Dora (newcomer Victoria Schulz) is taken off heavy medication and promptly makes borderline-explicit life choices which raise many troubling questions. **Stina Werenfels** (b. 1964, Basel, Switzerland) touched important nerves at the intersection of art and ability with this film, a contender in this year's foreign language Oscar race which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival.

Sunday, November 8, 8:30 pm
Wednesday, November 11, 6:30 pm

The Drift (Driften)

Swiss Film Award 2015; Best Actress 2015

Switzerland, 2015, 93 min., Director: Karim Patwa Screenplay: Karim Patwa, Michael Pröhl Producers: Olivier Zobrist, Anne-Catherine Lang With Max Hubacher, Sabine Timoteo, Andrea Zogg, Scherwin Amini, Jessy Moravec, Susanne-Marie Wrage Sales: Vinca Film, Zurich

Reception with Swiss treats after the Wednesday screening.

Young car enthusiast Robert (Max Hubacher) is out of prison after unintentionally killing a child during a street race involving an extreme driving technique known as drifting. He develops an intense relationship with Alice, but a revelation will forever change both of their lives. In this feature-length directorial debut, **Karim Patwa** (b. 1968, London, England) largely avoids a sensationalist treatment of the narrative and the sport, resulting in a film of quiet power that hearkens back to a different era.

Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 & 9:30 pm
We are Young. We are Strong. (Wir sind jung. Wir sind stark.)
Signis Award

Germany, 2014, 127 min., Director: *Burhan Qurbani* Screenplay: *Martin Behnke, Burhan Qurbani* Producers: *Jochen Laube, Leif Alexis* With: *Jonas Nay, Trang Le Hong, David Striesow, Joel Basman, Saskia Rosendahl* Sales: *Beta Cinema, Munich, Germany*

Discussion with scriptwriter Martin Behnke follows both screenings.

In August 1992, three years after the wall came down and Germany reunified, anti-immigration rioting jolted the former East German port city of Rostock. This timely drama recreates an event that helped push a calcified society into the modern, multi-cultural Germany of today. **Burhan Qurbani** (b. 1980, Erkelenz, Germany) is an Afghan-German director whose family moved to Germany during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. His films include the prize-winning *Illusion* (2007) and *Faith* (2010).



The Whole Shebang © Mathias Bothor

Closing Night

Thursday, November 12, 6:30 & 9:30 pm

The Whole Shebang (Alles Inklusive)

Germany, 2014, 124 min., Director /Screenplay: *Doris Dörrie*, from her novel With: *Hannelore Elsner, Nadja Uhl, Hinnerk Schönemann, Axel Prah*

Discussion with special guest and closing party (at the Goethe-Institut) follow the first screening.

In this warm, humorous film, lovelorn Apple (Nadja Uhl), with French pug Dr. Freud in tow, follows her mother (Hannelore Elsner) to the Spanish beach of her counter-culture childhood. **Doris Dörrie** (b. 1955, Hanover, Germany) studied film in California, New York and Munich. Her filmography includes the international hit *Men...* (1985), and *Cherry Blossoms* (2008).

Tickets:

\$11.50, \$9.50 for Students and Friends of the Goethe-Institut, \$8.50 for Seniors
Opening Night 7 pm Screening followed by Red Carpet Party with DJ at Goethe-Institut: \$26.50

Closing Night 6:30 pm Screening and Closing Party: \$16.50

Featuring complimentary beer from Gordon Biersch, German wine, and food provided by the Embassy of Switzerland, German Gourmet, Old Europe Restaurant, Cafe Mozart, Heidelberg Pastry Shoppe, and Whole Foods Market.

More: www.filmneu.org

*All film notes courtesy Eddie Cockrell, Film|Neu festival co-curator, and a Washington native and freelance film critic for the trade paper *Variety*. Now living in Sydney, he is a consulting film programmer and movie columnist for the national newspaper *The Australian*.

About the Goethe-Institut:

Founded in 1990, Goethe-Institut Washington, DC is a center for German culture and language. From its location in the lively Downtown, the Goethe-Institut Washington reaches out to both individuals and organizations in the community, bridging the past, present, and future with a variety of high-quality events.