

Press Release



Sex, Mobile Phones, and Winnipeg: Berlinale Forum opens with Guy Maddin and Isabella Rossellini

The 38th *Forum* opens on February 8, 2008 in the Delphi Filmpalast with Guy Maddin's new film *My Winnipeg* and Isabella Rossellini's short films *Green Porno* as international premieres. *My Winnipeg* is a grim but loving homage to Maddin's Canadian home city, an autobiographical fairytale that cleverly combines documentary footage with reenactments, family photos, and excerpts from old films.

In her one-minute *Green Porno* short films, Isabella Rossellini sets off on colorfully costumed expeditions into the microcosm. Disguised as a male insect - as a firefly, dragonfly, and spider - she investigates the illuminating question: How do the insects do it?

Isabella Rossellini directed and co-produced the *Green Porno* shorts as "quickies" for mobile phones and mobile video players. For this reason, they will be shown not only as short subjects before *My Winnipeg*, but also in the framework of *Forum expanded*. An associative installation will expose the three short films to the microscopic gaze of entomology.

Fun in experimentation plays a shaping role in both *Green Porno* and *My Winnipeg*. At the opening in the Delphi cinema, the audience can experience Guy Maddin's play instinct live: this evening, the director will speak the commentary in *My Winnipeg* himself, on stage, as narrator. The Berlinale partner Dolby Laboratories Inc. will ensure the technical realization by providing the Dolby ScreenTalk System.

Guy Maddin is one of the most idiosyncratic and best-known filmmakers in Canada. Isabella Rossellini and Maddin regularly work on joint projects, the two are also already familiar to the Berlinale audience as a creative team. Their joint film *My Dad Is 100 Years Old* could be seen as a *Berlinale Special* in 2006. It was an homage to Roberto Rossellini, the actress' father. Recently, in the Berlinale *Forum* 2007, the two presented a highlight of the festival with the spectacular staging of Maddin's *Brand Upon the Brain!* at the Deutsche Oper.

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Press Office

Potsdamer Straße 5
10785 Berlin

Tel. +49 30 259 20 707
Fax +49 30 259 20 799

press@berlinale.de
www.berlinale.de

Ein Geschäftsbereich der
Kulturveranstaltungen des
Bundes in Berlin (KBB) GmbH

Management:

Dieter Kosslick
(Intendant Internationale
Filmfestspiele Berlin),
Dr. Thomas Köstlin
(Kaufmännischer Geschäftsführer),
Dr. Bernd Scherer,
Dr. Joachim Sartorius

Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats:
Bernd Neumann

Handelsregister: Amtsgericht
Charlottenburg Nr. 96 HRB 29357
USt ID DE 136 78 27 46