

## Press Release

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### 18 World Premieres and 3 Directing Debuts in the Berlinale Competition 2002

The program for the Competition section of the 52nd Berlin International Film Festival 2002 is now complete: a total of 23 films will be running in competition and 9 entries out of competition. In addition to the 14 titles previously announced, the program will include another 18 feature films, 10 of which are world premieres. 10 short films will round off the program.

Lasse Hallström's US competition entry *The Shipping News* is a screen adaptation of Annie Proulx's prize-winning novel of the same name. Kevin Spacey, Judi Dench, Julianne Moore and Cate Blanchett play the main roles in this story of a widower who returns with his little daughter to Newfoundland, the country of his ancestors.

Golden Globe winner *A Beautiful Mind* by Ron Howard will be running out of competition in the Berlinale Competition section. Russel Crowe stars in this drama about the mathematical genius and later Nobel prizewinner Forbes Nash, who was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia.

The Australian film *Beneath Clouds* is screening in competition. Ivan Sen's directing debut will have its world premiere in Berlin. It tells of a young girl who discovers her sense of belonging to two cultures, and features Danielle Hall and Damien Pitt.

With his tragicomic everyday tale *Halbe Treppe* (Grill Point) director Andreas Dresen is participating for the second time in the competition. Steffi Kühnert, Gabriela Maria Schmeide, Thorsten Merten and Axel Prahl co-star in the film.

Another German work running in competition is *Baader* by Christopher Roth. Roth depicts the development of RAF terrorist Andreas Baader from 1967 to 1972. Frank Giering plays the main character, while Laura Tonke and Vadim Glowna can be seen in the other leading roles. In all, four German films are running in competition.

The world premiere of *Brucio nel Vento* (Burning in the Wind), an Italian-Swiss co-production, is also screening in competition. Silvio Soldini depicts the depressing story of young Tobias (Ivan Franék), who flees after committing a crime and then plunges into a hopeless love affair.

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Eine Veranstaltung der  
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Spain will be represented this year by a world premiere: *Piedras (Stones)*, Ramón Salazar's first feature film. It is the unusual chronicle of five women, five men and their relationships. Ángela Molina, Antonia San Juan, Najwa Nimri, Vicky Peña and Mónica Cervera play the leads.

For the first time in years, a Greek film will be participating. The world premiere of *Dekapentavgoustos (One Day in August)* by Constantinos Giannaris tells of the adolescent burglar (Kostas Kotsianidis), who unwittingly uncovers the dark and secret sides of the inhabitants of the homes he breaks into.

The competition entry *Iris* is based on a true story. British director Richard Eyre recounts the dramatic fate of famous writer Iris Murdoch, who is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Academy Award winner Judi Dench plays Iris in her later years, while Kate Winslet plays her in her youth. Jim Broadbent has just received a Golden Globe for his supporting role in *Iris*.

Paul Greengrass' *Bloody Sunday*, an English-Irish production, focuses on a historical-political event. This competition entry recalls the tragic beginning of the armed conflicts in Northern Ireland: exactly 30 years ago – on 30 January 1972 – many died during street battles in Derry, a Northern Irish town. *Bloody Sunday* is based on Don Mullan's novel "Eyewitness Bloody Sunday".

The Ukrainian film *Molitva Za Getmana Mazepu* (A Prayer for Hetman Mazepa) goes back even further in history. A world premiere, it will be running out of competition. In opulent images, director Jurij Illenko tells of the pact between the Ukrainian Hetman Mazepa and the Swedish king against the Czar during the Russian-Swedish War of 1708-1709.

The world premiere of Israeli director Amos Kollek's new film, a French-Japanese co-production, will be running in competition. *Bridget* portrays the desperate efforts of a young woman to rid herself of her past. The film stars Anna Thomson.

From Japan, the animated film *Sen To Chihiro No Kamikakushi (Spirited Away)* by Hayao Miyazaki has been selected for the competition. It was created by the same team that made *Mononoke Hime (Princess Mononoke)*.

Hungarian director Zoltán Kamondi will be showing the world premiere of his film *Kísértések* (Temptations) during the competition. He describes how a sensitive young man (Marcel Miklós) attempts to find his place in the world and his way in life. This is the first time in seven years that Hungary has a film in the Competition program.

*KT* by Junji Sakamoto will also be shown for the first time worldwide during the competition. This Japanese-Korean co-production examines the abduction of South Korean oppositional politician Kim Dae-Jung in 1973.

In a gala screening, Milos Forman's *Amadeus - Director's Cut* will be presented. The director has added scenes to this revised version of his successful film from 1984. It now gives an even more comprehensive picture of Mozart's life, the life of a musical genius.

The presentation of Alexander Kluge's *Die Patriotin* (The Patriot) will also be a film historical event. At a gala screening, the Berlinale will commemorate Kluge's birthday and the 40 years since the "Oberhausen Manifesto" (which Kluge co-authored) with this film, a contemplation of historical events from 1979.

Ten short films are also running in the Competition program: *Bror Min* (My Brother) by Swedish director Jens Jonsson; the US entries *Glaadiator* by Luka Pacel, *Taking the Wheel* by David Ackerman, *Site* by Jason Kilot, as well as *Life on a String* by Steven Lippman out of competition; from Kazakstan, there is *Ergii* (The Fly Up) by Marat Sarulu; from Great Britain *Relativity* by Virginia Heath, and *At Dawning* by Martin Jones; *The Hill* by Tainui Stephens from New Zealand; as well as out of competition, *Sosedi* (The Neighbours) by Russian director Stepan Biryukov.

On 17 February 2002, the 52nd Berlinale will come to a close with the presentation of a new print of Charles Chaplin's film classic *The Great Dictator*. Even today, this cinematographic masterpiece is a potent political statement against racism, the lust for power and war. The presentation will be attended by members of the Chaplin family.

24 January 2002