

Press Release



A POWERFUL KINDERFILMFEST AT THE BERLINALE 2003

The *Kinderfilmfest* programme for the Berlinale 2003, according to its new director Thomas Hailer, promises to be both diversified and extraordinary. Beginning this year, the films are again to be selected by a committee whose members include Thomas Hailer, assistant director Maryanne Redpath, actress Beate Jensen and script consultant Beate Völcker. With over 200 full-length feature and short films, a powerful range of international works is up for selection for the 26th *Kinderfilmfest* (Feb. 7 –16, 2003). And as the year draws to an end, seven titles for the programme are certain.

Hailer says, "it is striking how films from all round the globe are focusing ever more intently on children's real lives. The trend for fantastic stories is unbroken, but they are increasingly related to true-to-life situations." In a time of great upheaval and general insecurity, some questions seem to be more urgent than others: Where do I belong? And what can I still believe in?

In the Canadian film *SAINT MONICA* by Terrance Odette, a girl finds surprising answers. Driven by her desire to become an angel, she discovers a totally unknown world only a few blocks away. She achieves her goal after much effort and in a way she would never have imagined possible.

With hilarious humor and ease, Japanese director Yuji Nakae depicts a chaotic but functioning family in *HOTEL HIBISCUS*. At the heart of the film is nine-year-old Mieko, who masters her rather difficult life boldly and fearlessly.

In overpowering images, *DONG SUNG (The Little Monk)* by South Korean director Joo Kyung-Jung portrays how a nine-year-old Buddhist monk seeks warmth and security. He judges the rigid routine of monastery life by deeply human standards. And so the boy comes into conflict with his surroundings and has to make an important decision all on his own.

Arto Koskinen's *KAHLEKUNINGAS (The Handcuff King)*, a Finnish film, takes the audience back into the Seventies. Two boys strike up a friendship that defies all barriers and which is tested many times over, right up until the end. With the power of their imaginations and enormous strength of will, they succeed in living out their dreams, overcoming all barriers and doubts.

ELINA - SOM JAG INTE FANNS (Elina) is Finnish director Klaus Härö's first full-length feature. At the *Kinderfilmfest* 2000 his short film *NATTFLYKT* was

**53. Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
6. – 16.02.2003**

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

Seit dem 17.07.2002 ist die Haus der Kulturen der Welt GmbH (HKW) mit der Berliner Festspiele GmbH (BFS) zur Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin (KBB) GmbH rückwirkend zum 01.01.2002 verschmolzen. Alle Rechte und Pflichten der Berliner Festspiele GmbH gehen auf die Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin GmbH über.

Geschäftsführung:
Dieter Kosslick (Intendant Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin),
Jürgen Maier (Kaufmännischer Geschäftsführer)
Dr. Hans-Georg Knopp,
Dr. Joachim Sartorius

Vorsitzende des Aufsichtsrats:
Dr. Christina Weiss

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



Press Release

awarded a Special Mention by the children's jury. This Swedish-Finnish co-production captivates the audience with its terrific imagery and the actors' outstanding performances.

MISS ENTEBBE examines the ever escalating conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Set against the Entebbe airplane hijacking in 1976, a group of children becomes involved in a dangerous adventure that quickly develops a life of its own and suddenly becomes deadly serious. With guts and breathtaking suspense, ignoring all taboos, the young Israeli director Omri Levy explores possibilities for ending the vicious spiral of violence.

The German entry *DER ZEHNTE SOMMER* (*The Tenth Summer*) will have its world premiere at the *Kinderfilmfest*. Tenderly and with a great love for detail, director Jörg Grünler tells the story of Kalli, who in the claustrophobic atmosphere of a small town in the Fifties burdens himself with more secrets than a child can possibly bear.

The complete *Kinderfilmfest* programme will be announced in January.

December 18, 2002