

Press Release



The Berlinale's Second Competition Entry from Germany: *Gegen die Wand (Head-On)* by Fatih Akin

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The Berlinale has now confirmed the second *Competition* entry from Germany: director Fatih Akin will present the world premiere of his latest film *Gegen die Wand (Head-On)* in competition.

Press Office

Potsdamer Straße 5
10785 Berlin

With his new film, the director – who was born in Hamburg and still lives there – returns to his filmmaking roots and depicts the world of second generation Turkish immigrants.

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

In *Gegen die Wand*, Akin follows his young protagonist as she desperately attempts to escape from the constraints of her culture. After attempting suicide, Sibel meets Cahit, who is also of Turkish descent. She comes to see a fictitious marriage as an opportunity to get away from her strongly religious family. Cahit agrees to her scheme, so from then on they share a flat – though little more. Or at least to begin with. The film stars Sibel Kekilli, Birol Ünel and Catrin Striebeck.

press@berlinale.de
www.berlinale.de

30-year-old Fatih Akin made his debut in 1995 with *Sensin – Du bist es! (Sensin ... You're the One!)*, which he directed while still studying at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Hamburg. After *Kurz und Schmerzlos (Short Sharp Shock)*, *Im Juli (In July)* and *Solino*, *Gegen die Wand* is his fourth feature film. Fatih Akin was a member of the Berlinale's International Jury in 2000.

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

Management:

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