

Press Release



Welcome to Reality – First Films Selected for the *Perspektive Deutsches Kino*

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Stories from everyday life, figures filled with resignation, aggression and passion, entwined in family conflicts and love affairs. In the fourth year of the Berlinale's *Perspektive Deutsches Kino* section, the preference of young filmmakers for the nuances and challenges of the realities of life in Germany is already becoming apparent. "The breadth of themes and characters in these films covers everything from social hardships under the current wave of reforms to the tenderness of heartfelt moments. What's being dealt with is always authentic – no matter whether it involves financial worries or emotional outbursts", section head Alfred Holighaus comments on the trend evident in the five films selected for the series so far.

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Two of the feature films concentrate on the relationship between a father and a son, although they develop in totally different directions. Whereas in *Netto*, a tragicomical film made by Robert Thalheim while studying at the HFF Potsdam, the roles between the parent and child are temporarily swapped, in *Das Lächeln der Tiefseefische* (*Do Fish Smile?*) by Till Endemann, a family sorts itself out as a result of the conflict between generations.

Blackout, a 30-minute movie by Maximilian Erlenwein, a student at the dffb, is the story of a fatal lack of bonds. Throughout the film, guitarist Tom Schulze is the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of Berlin's night scene. When the sensitive musician is intoxicated he turns into a brutal thug who ruins relationships and lives – including his own.

Two documentary films, focusing on entirely different milieus, venture a particularly intense look at young people's circumstances and attitude toward life in this country. Teresa Renn's *Janine F.* examines a case which caused a stir and appalled not only the art scene in Berlin two years ago. In talks with friends and family, who veer between guilt and ignorance, the film investigates the suicide committed by the artist Janine F. at Tacheles, an arts centre in Berlin. Bettina Braun's *Was lebst du?* (*What's your life like?*) also tells in a very personal manner about the world of four Muslim friends of different nationalities who live in Cologne.

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