

Press Release



Festival to Honour Ballhaus, Böttcher and Kardish

The *Berlinale Camera* is awarded to film personalities or institutions to which the Berlin International Film Festival feels especially attached and would like to express its thanks. The *Berlinale Camera* has been awarded every year since 1986. It has been sponsored by the Düsseldorf jeweller **Georg Hornemann** since 2004.

At this year's 56th Berlin International Film Festival, German cinematographer Michael Ballhaus, curator of the Museum of Modern Art in New York Laurence Kardish, and German director Jürgen Böttcher, also known as the painter Strawalde, will be honoured for their contributions to film.

Michael Ballhaus

Michael Ballhaus first became internationally known as cinematographer for Rainer Fassbinder. Since shooting *After Hours* in 1985, he has worked as director of photography on Martin Scorsese productions. With a team of his own, he has been responsible for all camera and light effects in these films. Michael Ballhaus has made over 80 cinema movies, working with directors such as Volker Schlöndorff, Wolfgang Petersen, Mike Nichols and Francis Ford Coppola. He has been a regular Berlinale guest and was President of the International Jury at the Berlinale in 1990.

The *Berlinale Camera* will be awarded to Michael Ballhaus on **February 12 at 12 noon in the Filmpalast Berlin**. Swiss film critic Thomas Binotto will present the award to him. Following the ceremony, there will be a screening of *The Color of Money* (directed by Martin Scorsese, 1986).

Laurence Kardish

In autumn, the Museum of Modern Art in New York regularly presents the film series "New German Cinema". The festival was launched in 1972 when, in conjunction with the Goethe Institute, Laurence Kardish invited young German filmmakers to New York. Ever since, Kardish – as curator of the MoMa's Department of Film and Media and coordinator of the series – has selected the programme in close collaboration with German Films (formerly Export Union of German Cinema). One of the most successful programmes was the Fassbinder Retrospective for the 10th anniversary of his death.

Laurence Kardish will receive his *Berlinale Camera* on **February 16 at 9:30 p.m. in the Filmpalast Berlin**. Award presenter and speaker Juliane Lorenz worked

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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



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with Kardish on her documentary *Life, Love & Celluloid*. Following the presentation of the *Berlinale Camera*, Tacita Dean's film *The Uncles* will be screened, in which Kardish participates in a discussion about film pioneers Basil Dean und Michael Balcon.

Jürgen Böttcher (aka Strawalde)

Documentary filmmaker and director Jürgen Böttcher worked until 1991 at the DEFA documentary film studio in Berlin. He belonged to a circle of artists who opposed the former GDR government. Early on Böttcher also devoted himself to painting and attained international recognition in the art world under the pseudonym Strawalde, naming himself after the village of his childhood. In 1994 Jürgen Böttcher was awarded the title of "Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" for his oeuvre by French President François Mitterrand. Retrospectives of his films have been held at the Centre Pompidou in Paris (1986), the Edinburgh 42nd International Film Festival (1988) and the Deutsches Filmmuseum in Frankfurt/Main (1989).

To celebrate the *Berlinale Camera* to be presented to Jürgen Böttcher on **17 February at 9:30 p.m. in the Filmpalast Berlin**, there will be a screening of his documentary *The Wall*. Film historian Enno Patalas will speak in his honour.

Press Office
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