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**Berlin International Film Festival
Berlinale Talent Campus**

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“Virtual Cinema” at the Berlinale Talent Campus #5
Tom Tykwer and Kees Kasander explore virtual worlds

These days, no other stories do as well in the cinemas as stories set in fantastical worlds or that take audiences on a journey into the past. Elaborate adventure-fantasy films like *The Lord of the Rings* and *Eragon* and opulent historical epic dramas like *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* and *Kingdom of Heaven* are among the biggest box-office winners. A similar development can be observed in the gaming world. Here, online role-playing games are media trendsetters whose growing number of followers can create a “second self” in virtual realities like “World of Warcraft” and “Second Life”.

“*Virtual Cinema*” is the title of the *Campus* panel that, on 11.02.07, will investigate the course of this media fascination in virtual worlds and time travel. To what extent is this human fascination in “the uncanny” an inherent element of the media productions that have recently seen so much success? What are possible explanations for the parallels in the development of ‘old’ and ‘new’ media, and how closely do film producers and games developers already work together? The podium discussion will include director Tom Tykwer, whose adaptation of the bestseller “The Perfume” by Patrick Süskind recently had a successful run in European cinemas, and producer Kees Kasander (*Prospero’s Books, Ken Park*). Kasander’s current film *Crusade in Jeans*, the story of the young Dolf’s travel through time, will have its German premiere in the section *Generation Kplus* at the Berlinale. The panel will be moderated by Professor Ian Christie, a Scottish film specialist and expert on “the uncanny”. (11.02.07, HAU 1, 17.00-18.30h, open to the public, in cooperation with Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg)

“Whose side is it anyway? Privacy and Politics in Cinema”

Cinema has always been political and it has always been glamorous. That it can be both at the same time is indeed new. Politics has once again found its way into cinema: over the red carpet. The *Campus* panel “*Whose side is it anyway? Privacy and Politics in Cinema*” will explore the political dimensions of filmmaking. What does one need in order to present audiences with a political statement that is both emotionally and cinematically convincing? At what point does a personal story suddenly turn political, what makes a film political at all? Among the podium guests will be the Haitian-born director Raoul Peck (*Lumumba, Sometimes in April*), the US director Gregory Nava, who has been invited to the *Competition* section of the Berlinale with *Bordertown*, a film about human rights violations in Mexico, and the Bosnian filmmaker Jasmila Zbanic, whose *Grbavica: The Land of My Dreams* not only moved audiences but also inspired change in the realities of women in Bosnia-Herzegovina. (12.02.07, HAU1, 17.00 – 18.30h, open to the public)

The panel “*Filming in the eye of the storm - Filmmakers in troubled areas*” will keep up the political tempo. Filmmakers will discuss their personal survival strategies on how to get by economically and artistically in crisis regions. In addition to the Indian filmmaker Rakesh Sharma, who was awarded the Wolfgang-Staudte prize from the Berlinale for his film *Final Solution* 2003 and who, faced with censorship in his home country, successfully initiated the “Pirate and Circulate” campaign, the panel will include Bianca Jagger, who has received numerous international awards for her advocacy of human rights. (13.02.07, HAU2, 19.00-20.30h, open to the public, in cooperation with the Heinrich-Böll Foundation)

The *Berlinale Talent Campus* is an initiative of the Berlin International Film Festival, a business division of the Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin GmbH, in co-operation with MEDIA - Training programme of the European Union, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Skillset and UK Film Council as well as Volkswagen.