

## Press Information



### ***“McWitz” to mark the finale of Eat, Drink, See Movies – Celebrating Culinary Cinema***

Top German chefs to serve food to go for young cinema goers.

To round off the new programme, ***Eat, Drink, See Movies – Celebrating Culinary Cinema***, chefs Bobby Bräuer (Die Quadriga in the Brandenburger Hof, Berlin), Mario Lohninger (Silk und Micro Restaurant in the Cocoon Club, Frankfurt) and Stefan Marquard (from TV's "Die Kochprofis") will be preparing delicious, healthy alternatives to fast food classics: the Berlinale Burger, sweet pastries and a three-course chocolate meal. The idea, named "McWitz" after the celebrity chef, Eckart Witzigmann, is particularly special in that everything is produced using fresh organic ingredients. The Ox-Gulasch from which the burgers are made, the potato-buttermilk pastry, the spicy foccacia and the tart chocolate make these dishes a fascinating spectacle, as it were, for the taste buds of young film fans.

Festival Director, Dieter Kosslick commented the "McWitz" event, made possible due to the involvement of Senator Filmverleih and Volkswagen, "Together with the worldwide organisation 'Slow Food', we aim to defy the rotten-meat criminals. The food should be 'good, fair and clean', says Slow Food President, Carlo Petrini, and celebrity chef Eckart Witzigmann has created the 'McWitz' as the Berlinale's contribution to clean and healthy food in schools."

After the pupils of the Sophie-Scholl Oberschule in Berlin have watched the German premiere of Richard Linklater's ***Fast Food Nation*** (2006), starring Silver Bear winner Catalina Sandino Moreno and Bruce Willis, and have been able to gain insight into the more sinister side of fast food production, star chefs Lohninger and Bräuer will demonstrate how good fresh ingredients can be for body and soul.

Lohninger will be serving his food to go as either savoury or sweet. "Giving kids' an awareness of taste and quality is a matter close to my heart," he said, "especially as I watch with horror where our society is heading in terms of diet." Bobby Bräuer opined, "When we say our children are the future, this is not true. We are the future of our children."

Parallel to the "McWitz" event, and inspired by the film ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*** (2005), Stefan Marquard will be preparing a three course meal of chocolate with 200 pupils in the Werbellinsee-Schule in Schöneberg. The "Koch-Profi" and children's cookery book author of "Los, koch mit uns!" ["Come on, cook with us!"] explains his involvement in ***Culinary Cinema*** by stating, "nothing is more important than a healthy diet and exercise for our children."

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## ***Press Information***

The "Culinary Cinema" shall be continued with the Berlinale initiative, "Schule des Essens" ["School of Food"], a prevention project aimed at informing children of the medical consequences of a bad diet and lack of exercise but also helping them to enjoy gardening, cooking and eating. The heart of the project is a model school with its own garden in Berlin, where all pupils learn, amongst other things, how to cook healthily. Teaching material already exists to accompany the film "Fast Food Nation" at [www.fastfoodnation-film.de](http://www.fastfoodnation-film.de) which can assist teachers in addressing the topic of food at school both cinematically and gastronomically.

The "McWitz" event will take place on February 16, 2007 in the cinema at the Martin-Gropius-Bau and in the adjacent "Gropius Mirror" restaurant.

9:00 – ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory***

11:00 – 13:00 - Photo shoot with the pupils and chefs at the Martin-Gropius-Bau

Following this, Stefan Marquard will be cooking at the Werbellinsee-Schule

11:30 – ***Fast Food Nation***

Approx. 13:00 – "McWitz" tasting in "Gropius Mirror" restaurant

Admission for invited pupils and guests only

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