

Press Release



Berlinale 2008: First titles selected for the *Generation* section Babylon is new venue

The youth competition *Generation 14plus* will celebrate its premieres in the Babylon Mitte cinema at Rosa-Luxemburg Platz. The splendid 1920's architecture, designed by Hans Poelzig in the New Objectivity style (Neue Sachlichkeit), will provide the perfect backdrop to an exciting competition. For the first time in *14plus*, not only full length films will compete for a Crystal Bear, short films for youth will also be screened in their own competition. The Zoo Palast, CinemaxX, Cubix and Colosseum will remain venues for *Generation*.

The jury for the competition *Kplus* will face a tough task: a number of promising films are due to contend for the Crystal Bear. Hana Makhmalbaf, the youngest daughter of the Iranian film family, is already well known as a lyricist. Now the 19-year-old will present her debut feature film which was shot in Afghanistan; *Buda az sharm foru rikht*.

An action packed love story amongst insects, the animated film *Cykelmyggen og Dansemyggen* was created by the Danish masters Jannik Hastrup and Flemming Quist Møller.

Cidade dos Homens by Paulo Morelli, the eagerly awaited sequel to the Brazilian cult film *City of God*, will be screened in the *14plus* competition.

Australia is well represented with a total of three feature films so far. In the comedy *Hey Hey it's Esther Blueburger*, the main character is seen searching for her place in the world of teenagers amongst all manners of catastrophes. The leading roles are played by Toni Collette (*Little Miss Sunshine*), Keisha Castle-Hughes (*Whale-Rider*) and the new discovery, Danielle Catanzariti. Toni Collette also features in the *14plus* entry, *The Black Balloon*. This film gives a sensitive portrayal of her character's relationship with her autistic son. In the third entry, *September* by Peter Carstairs, we follow the friendship between two boys in the Australian outback in the late sixties.

The Berlinale will be continuing the school project started four years ago. Around 50 selected teachers who teach all ages at all types of schools in and around Berlin will be advised by two media education experts on how they could utilise the films from the *Generation* section to enhance their lessons. "Together with VISION KINO we are delighted to be able to demonstrate successful concepts for improving media competency in children and young people," explains festival Director Dieter Kosslick.

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The selection process will continue until the beginning of January 2008.
The following films have so far been selected:

Generation Kplus

Buda az sharm foru rikht (Buddha collapsed out of Shame) by Hana Makhmalbaf, Iran/France 2007
Chop Shop by Ramin Bahrani, USA 2007
Cykelmyggen og Dansemyggen (A Tale of Two Mozzies) by Jannik Hastrup and Flemming Quist Møller, Denmark 2007
Flower in the Pocket by Liew Seng Tat, Malaysia 2007
Hey Hey it's Esther Blueburger by Cathy Randall, Australia 2007
Mutum by Sandra Kogut, Brazil 2007
Titanics ti liv (The Lives of Titanic the Cat) by Grethe Bøe, Norway 2007
Waar is het Paard van Sinterklaas? (Where is Winky's Horse?) by Mischa Kamp, The Netherlands 2007

Generation 14plus

32A by Marian Quinn, Ireland/Germany 2007
Ciao Bella by Mani Maserrat-Agah, Sweden 2007
Cidade dos Homens by Paulo Morelli, Brazil 2007
Fighter by Natasha Arthy, Denmark 2007
Munyurangabo by Lee Isaac Chung, USA 2007
September by Peter Carstairs, Australia 2007
The Black Balloon by Elissa Down, Australia 2007

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