

Press Information



Berlinale 2008: *Culinary Cinema* - Expanding Our Horizons

After getting off to a great start last year, the Berlinale's special programme *Culinary Cinema* will be held for the second time from February 11 to 15, 2008. This series of events connects movies on culinary topics with gastronomical delights inspired by the films. In rounds of talks, filmmakers, food lovers and food experts will strive to expand their horizons. In the movie theater of the Martin-Gropius-Bau, *Culinary Cinema* will screen a selection of recent feature, documentary and short films on food and ecological issues every evening at 7:30 and as of 10 p.m.

"Food products are also a means of survival and communication that combine the pleasures and joys of life with responsibility in a special way", says Festival Director Dieter Kosslick.

Following the screenings at 7:30 p.m., dinners will be served and discussions held in the "Gropius Mirror" - a tent lined with mirrors on the south side of the Martin-Gropius-Bau.

The event will commence on February 11 with a Buñuel classic, *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie* and anglerfish prepared by star chef Bobby Bräuer (Restaurant Quadriga). This surreal satire on bourgeois eating habits will also stimulate two of the most influential food experts of the world, Carlo Petrini, founder of Slow Food, and Ferran Adrià, chef of the legendary El Bulli restaurant, to a dialogue on "The Future of Food". Giovanni di Lorenzo (chief editor of Die Zeit) will host the talk between the champion of good, clean and fair foods and the most celebrated advocate of molecular cuisine.

On the following evenings, other star cooks will prepare *Culinary Cinema* dishes. Cornelia Poletto (Restaurant Poletto) will allow herself to be inspired by the documentary *A Table in Heaven* (directed by: Andrew Rossi) about the New York restaurant Le Cirque: she will make a classic "cacciucco" as homage to its owner Sirio Maccioni, who is from Tuscany. After *Cooking in the Danger Zone* (with Stefan Gates), Thomas Kellermann (Restaurant Vitrum) will serve a "gastronaut's favorite". Kolja Kleeberg (Restaurant Vau) will roast a "Good Luck Pig à la Brazil" in honor of the prize-winning Brazilian film *Estômago: A Gastronomic Story* (directed by: Marcos Jorge).

Alfred Biolek and Jörg Thadeusz will establish ties between culinary and cinematic worlds by hosting talks between filmmakers and food experts. In addition a Spanish fiesta and *The Chicken, The Fish & The King Crab*

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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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(directed by: José Luis López-Linares) will conclude this year's *Culinary Cinema* on February 15.

From February 11 to 14, at the late screenings as of 10 p.m., the following films will also be shown: *Eat and Run* (directed by: Mamoro Oshij); *Decoding Ferran Adria* (with Anthony Bourdain); the multiple award-winning movie *Sharkwater: The Truth will Surface* (directed by: Rob Stewart); as well as *A Day In Eataly* (directed by: students of the University of Gastronomic Science / UNISG), continuing the collaboration that *Culinary Cinema* began with the Slow Food movement in 2006. Slow Food head Carlo Petrini will present this university's short film, which was made under the direction of the internationally renowned cameraman Michael Ballhaus, patron of the project designed to culminate in a multimedia food encyclopedia.

In the "Gropius Mirror" on February 15, organizer of the *Culinary Cinema's* gastronomic events Martin Scharff will cook ratatouille with and for children from a Berlin-Kreuzberg youth project, "die gelbe Villa". The event has been conceived to support initiatives for improving the nutrition of schoolchildren. And, of course, the event would not be complete without a screening of the film *Ratatouille*.

Thomas Struck, head of *Culinary Cinema*, states: "Humans should remember where their cleverness came from - everything began with their palates. Homo sapiens doesn't just refer to the wise but also to those that relish."

Advanced ticket sales start on January 21, 2008 at the Haus der Berliner Festspiele and for an extra charge at all Berlin box offices. More information is available at: <http://www.berlinale.de>.

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