

Press Release



Berlinale 2009: Academy Award-Winner Tilda Swinton will be Jury President

The Scottish actress Tilda Swinton will be President of the International Jury at the Berlinale 2009.

Tilda Swinton is one of the most prominent and versatile acting talents of her generation. She has received numerous international film awards for her exceptional work - most recently the 2008 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, for her role in *Michael Clayton*. Also this year, she founded, co-curated and produced a film festival in her hometown of Nairn, Scotland: "The Ballerina Ballroom Cinema of Dreams" is dedicated to the discovery and rediscovery of classic world cinema treasure.

"I'm pleased that the wonderful Tilda Swinton will be our Jury President in 2009," says Dieter Kosslick, director of the Berlinale. "Her commanding screen presence has made an indelible impression in contemporary, innovative filmmaking."

Tilda Swinton made her screen debut in 1986 in Derek Jarman's *Caravaggio*, which received a Silver Bear in the *Competition* of the Berlin International Film Festival. She maintained a close artistic friendship with Jarman until his death in 1994, appearing in all of his films (including *The Last of England*, *Edward II* and *Wittgenstein*). Earlier this year, she wrote and coproduced a film portrait of Jarman - *Derek* - directed by Isaac Julien, which was presented at the Berlinale in the *Panorama*.

In 1992 she gained international recognition in *Orlando*, based on the novel by Virginia Woolf, which she developed with director Sally Potter over five years. Tilda Swinton has since become one of the most sought-after actresses, playing a wide range of roles, switching effortlessly between large Hollywood productions (e.g. Andrew Adamson's *The Chronicles of Narnia*) and European art house films (e.g. Béla Tarr's *The Man From London*).

Tilda Swinton's film career also has close ties with the Berlinale. Since her debut in *Caravaggio*, she has graced the screen in 14 Berlinale films, including the *Competition* films *Julia* (2008) by Eric Zonca, *Thumbsucker* (2005) by Mike Mills and *Adaptation* (2003) by Spike Jonze. She is also a regular screen presence in the *Panorama* and *Forum* sections.

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Press Office

Potsdamer Straße 5
10785 Berlin

Phone +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 M. Scherer,
Dr. Joachim Sartorius

Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats:
Bernd Neumann

Amtsgericht Charlottenburg
HRG Nr. 96 · HRB 29357
UST ID DE 136 78 27 46