

## Press Release



### *Culinary Cinema 2009*

A taste for the truth is the common theme of the films in the *Culinary Cinema* of the Berlinale, which is taking place for the third time from February 8-13, 2009. This year, the programme comprises five feature films, five documentaries and four short films which are to be shown accompanied by culinary highlights and discussions.

On February 8, events will begin with hard facts on the food industry served up by the American documentary *Food, Inc.* by Robert Kenner in the new Berlinale cinema Friedrichstadtpalast. The protagonists and best-selling authors Michael Pollan and Eric Schlosser will take part in the discussion following the film.

“People are finally beginning to talk about food as the most important factor in our survival. Many people are not aware of what is happening around the world on a daily basis in terms of food poisoning, speculation with grain crops and the creation of potentially disastrous monocultures.” After the discussion, top Berlin chef Tim Raue will prepare a delicious - culinarily correct - dish for us to get a taste for.

After this opening event, Michelin starred cuisine and culinary cinema will be on offer in the Martin-Gropius-Bau and the neighbouring ‘Gropius Mirror’ restaurant. The melancholic comedy, *Pranzo di Ferragosto* directed by and starring Gianni Di Gregorio, portrays the slightly strained relationship between a mother and her 59 year old son whose fish dish has inspired the Luxemburg chef, Lea Linster. The Spanish comedy, *Dieta Mediterránea* by Joaquín Oristrell, about a romantic love triangle set between the bedroom and the kitchen inspires Kolja Kleeberg to make a hot Venus mussel dish. The new star in the Vitrum restaurant, Hendrik Otto, will prepare braised Lamb according to a recipe handed down from his grandmother for the Bosnian film *Snijeg*, an Aidi Begic film about the hope of women in a destroyed village. The meeting of thousands of farmers from all over the world, organised by Slow Food, was the impulse for the Italian master director Ermanno Olmi to make the documentary *Terra Madre*. The film will have its world premiere in the official *Berlinale Special* programme on 6 February in the Cinema Paris and will be shown on 12 February in the *Culinary Cinema*. The international Slow Food movement shares many common values with *Culinary Cinema*.

After the late screening at 10 p.m., the “Gropius Mirror” restaurant will be serving à la carte food and drinks. The sweet opening is provided by the gay comedy *Antique* by Min Kyo-Dong about love in a small Korean confectionery. A bitter-sweet love story in the sugar plantations is told by

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the feature-length documentary *Haiti Chérie* by Claudio del Punta. ‘How far is an environmental activist allowed to go?’ is the question posed by the militant anti-whaling activist, Paul Watson, in Ron Colby’s *Pirate for the Sea*. The documentary *Nos Enfants Nous Accuseront* by Jean-Paul Jaud shows how children make the best activists for environmental protection.

Pupils of the Berlin John F. Kennedy School will be invited, on the *Culinary Cinema*’s children’s day, to a screening of *What’s On Your Plate* by Catherine Gund. Two Afro-American girls investigate food on offer in New York. After the film, the children will cook a vegetarian lunch with the help of the gastronomic head of the *Culinary Cinema*, Alf Wagenzink of Catering’s Best by InterContinental. The Kreuzberg youth project “die gelbe Villa” is supporting this project.

Thomas Struck, director of the third *Culinary Cinema*, comments on the programme, “Food and drink is not only a question of taste but also politics. In addition to casting your ballot, you can ‘vote with your fork’ and through what you buy. People who are not starving can decide, three times a day, what they eat. What is eaten and how has consequences for mankind and the biological and cultural diversity on the planet. Every bite counts.”

Tickets will be available from 19 January 2009 online at [www.berlinale.de](http://www.berlinale.de) and at all Berlin box offices.

For further information visit: <http://www.berlinale.de>

### Films in *Culinary Cinema* 2009

#### *Antique* Republic of Korea

By MIN Kyu-Dong

With JU Ji-hun, KIM Jae-wook, Andy GILLET, YU Ain, CHOI Ji-ho

#### *Dieta mediterránea (Mediterranean Food)* Spain

By Joaquín Oristrell

With Olivia Molina, Paco León, Alfonso Bassave

#### *Food, Inc.* USA

Documentary by Robert Kenner

With Eric Schlosser, Michael Pollan

European premiere



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### *Haiti Chère* Italy

By Claudio Del Punta

With Juan Carlos Campos, Yeraini Cuevas, Jean Marie Guerin, Valentin Valdez

### *Pirate for the Sea* USA

Documentary by Ron Colby

### *Pranzo Di Ferragosto* Italy

By Gianni Di Gregorio

With Marina Cacciotti, Maria Calì, Gianni Di Gregorio, Valeria De Franciscis, Grazia Cesarini Sforza

### *Snijeg (Snow)* Bosnia and Herzegovina

By Aida Begić

With Jasna Beri, Emir Hadžihafisbegović, Zana Marjanović, Vesna Masić, Sadzida Setić  
(also showing in *Generation*)

### *Terra Madre* Italy

Documentary by Ermanno Olmi (*The Tree with the Wooden Clogs*)

World premiere

(also showing in *Berlinale Special*)

### *Nos enfants nous accuseront (That Should Not Be - Our Children Will Accuse Us)* France

Documentary by Jean-Paul Jaud

### *What's on Your Plate?* USA

Documentary by Catherine Gund

World premiere

## Short Films

### *Buono come il pane* Italy

By Giancarlo Matcovich

With Ursula Heinzemann, Peter Klann, Heinz Weichardt

### *La Cuisine* USA

By François Vogel



## Press Release

*Lo que trae la lluvia (Along came the rain)* Chile  
By Alejandro Fernández Almendras  
With Olga Muñoz, Antonio Guajardo

*Pasta Connection* Italy  
By UniSG

*Plac* Croatia  
By Ana Husman

*Silent Snow* The Netherlands  
By Jan van den Berg  
With Pipaluk Hammeken, Sarah Lyberth

Press Office,  
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