

Press Release



On-screen Turning Points and Alternative Paths - Jury and First films of Berlinale *Generation*

For this year's anniversary Berlinale, *Generation* has invited five award-winning and renowned individuals into its International Jury: 21-year-old Iranian filmmaker **Hana Makhmalbaf** won a Crystal Bear at the 2008 festival with her debut film *Buda Az Sharm Foru Rikht*. With **Philippe Falardeau**, another award winner will return to Berlin. His film *C'est pas moi, je le jure!* convinced both the Children's Jury and the International Jury in the *Generation Kplus* competition 2009. Also invited is the Australian children's film producer **Kylie Du Fresne**, whose production *The Djarn Djarns* won a Crystal Bear for Best Short Film in 2005. The director of the German Children's Media Festival GOLDENER SPATZ **Margret Albers** is a prominent figure in the children's media scene in Germany. Multiple-award-winning Irish script author and producer **Rowan O'Neill** (*The Race*) will complete the International Jury, who traditionally are charged with awarding a grand total of 10,000 € in prizes from the Deutsche Kinderhilfswerk.

Generation has already selected 19 full-length films for its *Generation Kplus* and *Generation 14plus* competitions, thanks in part to exciting discoveries from Latin America: In recent years, the emergent film industries in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Colombia have been tapping into the rich source of the coming-of-age genre to reflect socially common and relevant subject matters. Having reached a turning point in their lives, the young protagonists feel compelled to take up their own alternative paths, and they challenge the cinema audiences to accompany them along the way.

A number of films in this year's confirmed selection are marked by the indigeneous cinema culture of New Zealand and Australia. New Zealander Taika Waititi (*Two Cars One Night* and *Eagle vs. Shark*) will present his long-awaited new production *Boy*, a tragicomic encounter between father and son in Maori rural society. The highly entertaining musical, *Bran Nue Dae*, takes a fresh look at the lives of young Aborigines in Australia (with Geoffrey Rush).

Representing the familiar multi-layered documentary experience in *Generation* are powerful family portrayals from Mexico and New Zealand. The German documentary *Neukölln Unlimited* tells the explosive story of a family of Lebanese origin, which is deeply rooted in the culture of Berlin's migrant suburb Neukölln and seriously threatened by short notice deportation.

"It is very pleasing that *Generation* is receiving recognition from the international market", says the section's Director Maryanne Redpath, in

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reference to the two US films *Gentlemen Broncos* and *Youth in Revolt* in the *14plus* competition.

Film selection for *Generation* will be completed in early January.
The following films have been confirmed thus far:

Generation Kplus

Alamar (To The Sea) by Pedro González Rubio, Mexico 2009

Boy by Taika Waititi, New Zealand 2009

Iep! (Eep!) by Ellen Smit, Netherlands/Belgium 2009, World premiere

Knerten by Åsleik Engmark, Norway 2009, International premiere

La Pivellina by Tizza Covi and Rainer Frimmel, Austria/Italy 2009

Superbror (Superbrother) by Birger Larsen, Denmark 2009, International premiere

This Way of Life by Thomas Burstyn, New Zealand/Canada 2009

Yeo-haeng-ja (A Brand New Life) by Ounie Lecomte

Republic of Korea / France 2009

Yuki & Nina by Nobuhiro Suwa and Hippolyte Girardot, France/Japan 2009

Generation 14plus

Bran Nue Dae by Rachel Perkins, Australia 2009

Gentlemen Broncos by Jared Hess, USA 2009

Neukölln Unlimited by Agostino Imondi and Dietmar Ratsch
Germany 2010 / World premiere

Os famosos e os duendes da morte (The Famous And The Dead) by
Esmir Filho, Brazil/France 2009

Retratos en un mar de mentiras (Portraits In A Sea Of Lies) by Carlos
Gaviria, Colombia 2009 / World premiere

Road, Movie by Dev Benegal, India/USA 2009

SUMMER WARS by Mamoru Hosoda, Japan 2009

Te extraño (I Miss You) von Fabián Hofman, Mexico/Argentina/Uruguay
2010 / World premiere

Vihir (The Well) by Umesh Vinayak Kulkarni, India 2009

Youth in Revolt by Miguel Arteta, USA 2009

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