



Press Release

Solidarity with Jafar Panahi

In support of the convicted Iranian director Jafar Panahi, the Berlin International Film Festival is launching a number of initiatives at the upcoming Berlinale.

In his films, Jafar Panahi critically explores the social situation in his homeland. His conviction violates the right to freedom of opinion and expression in the arts.

In 2011 the Berlinale will show several films by Jafar Panahi in a number of its sections and so draw attention to the extraordinary oeuvre for which this artist has been sentenced by the Iranian regime. The first of his films to be screened at this year's Berlinale will be the award-winning film *Offside* (2006, Silver Bear) on February 11 at 4:30 pm in the Berlinale Palast.

On the following days of the Berlinale, other Panahi films will be presented in the *Panorama*, *Forum*, *Generation* and *Berlinale Shorts* sections.

For February 17, 2011 the *Berlinale Talent Campus* and the *World Cinema Fund* are organizing a panel discussion with Iranian filmmakers and artists on censorship, and the restriction of freedom of opinion and expression in Iran. Iranian director and actor Rafi Pitts (*The Hunter*, Berlinale Competition 2010) has already confirmed his attendance. The participation of other filmmakers and artists living in exile as well as of prominent Berlinale guests will be announced soon. The event will take place at the Hebbel am Ufer / HAU1 at 2:00 pm.

Festival Director Dieter Kosslick states: "We invited Jafar Panahi to be on the International Jury in 2011. But then in December 2010 he was sentenced to six years imprisonment and banned from filmmaking for the next 20 years. We are going to use every opportunity to protest against this drastic verdict."

Press Office
January 18, 2011

**61. Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
10. – 20.02.2011**

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),
Charlotte Sieben
(Kaufmännische Geschäftsführung),
Dr. Bernd M. Scherer,
Prof. Dr. Joachim Sartorius

Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats:
Bernd Neumann

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