

Press Release

Generation 2011: Opening Films and Programme Highlights

Generation's new premiere venue in the House of World Cultures (Haus der Kulturen der Welt) provides a perfect setting for the section's opening celebrations: seating almost 1.000, it is one of Berlin's biggest and most beautiful cinemas.

Generation 14plus will open with the Australian film *Griff The Invisible*. Director Leon and his leading actor Ryan Kwanten (*Red Hill, True Blood*) and Maeve Dermody (*Beautiful Kate*) will arrive on the red carpet on February 11 at 7:30 pm. Kwanten plays a quite ordinary outsider with very extraordinary fantasies, whose superhero-like alter ego has yet to be discovered.

The world premiere of a racy drama about a first love with outstanding young actors will kick off the competition of *Generation Kplus* on February 11 at 3:30 pm. Norwegian director Anne Sewitsky, who won several awards for her short film *Oh*, *My God!* at *Generation* in 2009, is returning to the big screen with J @ generation = Sant (Totally True Love). Ten-year-old protagonist Maria Annette Tander@ Berglyd makes us feel not only the butterflies in her tummy and her intense jealousy but also her thirst for revenge, which she proceeds to act out.

Generation Extra

In a special screening, *Generation* is honouring the British-South African documentary *Street Kids United* and the aid project Umthombo, which is presented in the film and which provides alternatives for street children. Director Tim Pritchard accompanies a street kids' football team from Durban to the "Street Child World Cup" and recounts their life stories. "The plight of street children in South Africa has in some parts reached epidemic proportions," says producer Mike Downey, "however there are organisations who are working passionately so these children aren't condemned to the scrapheap of South African society." The filmmaker as well as several members of the football team will attend the screening at the House of World Cultures at 3 pm on February 17.

Cross-Section

Films from around the world are increasingly focussing on coming-of-age stories. The Berlinale's cross-section screenings give visitors under the age of 18 a chance to see a selection of such films from other festival sections. This year the *Competition* film *Yelling To The Sky* will be shown, as well as *Tomboy* from *Panorama*, and *Submarine* from *Forum*. Within the scope of

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"Youth Food Cinema", *Culinary Cinema's* day for young audiences, a public re-screening of the German documentary *Taste the Waste* will stimulate a discussion on how food is wasted worldwide, in the House of World Cultures at 10:30 am on February 19. It is also a tradition for *Generation* to collaborate with the *Retrospective* in organizing an educational screening at which a film expert provides valuable information about a film. At this year's screening, Ingmar Bergman's masterpiece *Fanny och Alexander* (*Fanny and Alexander*) will be presented for school children.

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