

Press Release



Forum 2012: Everyday Life and Fantasy

Differing life plans, generational conflicts and the ambivalence of so-called progress are at the centre of numerous films in the 2012 *Forum* programme.

As such, Ann-Kristin Reyels' film *Formentera* follows a young couple on holiday who run into the '68 ideals of their parents' generation and come to realise the extent to which their own ideas about life diverge from one another. *Sleepless Knights* by Stefan Butzmühlen and Cristina Diz is also set in Spain, telling a story of gay love in the provinces and presenting the co-existence of different generations as an alternative to urban dislocation.

Beziehungsweisen (Negotiating Love) by Calle Overweg also explores the complicated set of compromises involved with living together on a daily basis, blending documentary means and staging techniques to observe different clients attending couples' therapy. *What Is Love* by Ruth Mader tackles a similar theme, tracing the various different manifestations of love in five vignettes from the Austrian provinces.

Present-day nomads form the focus of two films in this year's programme: *Habiter / Construire (Living / Building)* by Clémence Ancelin, which documents a road construction project in Chad and the effect it has on the local desert population, and *Hiver nomade (Winter Nomads)* by Manuel von Stürler, a portrait of two shepherds in French-speaking Switzerland in the depths of winter.

European cinema as a whole is particularly strongly represented in the *Forum 2012* programme with additional titles from France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Poland, the Czech Republic, Russia, Romania and Turkey.

The Jordanian film *Al Juma Al Akheira (The Last Friday)* by Yahya Alabdallah tells the story of a taxi driver in Amman who is forced to bring some level of order into his failed existence. The documentary *Bagrut Lochamim (Soldier / Citizen)* confronts us with the uncompromising views of young Israelis about their Arab compatriots and neighbours. Mani Haghighi's *Paziraie Sadeh (Modest Reception)* is an intelligent provocation in which a rich couple distributes plastic bags full of money in the Iranian provinces - a handout aimed purely at degradation.

Rodrigo Plá's moving Uruguayan film *La demora (The Delay)* tells the story of a woman driven by her desperate situation to abandon her senile father. Mariano Luque's directorial debut *Salsipuedes* is a visionary look at domestic violence that serves as a calling card for the new generation of young filmmakers working in Córdoba in Northern Argentina. For its part, the documentary *Escuela normal (Normal School)* by Celina Murga observes a

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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:

Prof. Dieter Kosslick
(Intendant Internationale
Filmfestspiele Berlin),
Charlotte Sieben
(Kaufmännische Geschäftsführung),
Prof. Dr. Bernd M. Scherer,
Dr. Thomas Oberender

Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats:
Bernd Neumann

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



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secondary school in Parana, Argentina where the pupils imitate the political structures of the adult world.

American independent cinema also has a strong presence in this year's *Forum* programme. David Zellner's fairytale-like *Kid-Thing* explores the day-to-day life and fantasies of a neglected little girl. Brian M. Cassidy and Melanie Shatzky's *Francine* follows a shy woman (played by Oscar-winning actress Melissa Leo) recently released from jail and her overwhelming affinity for animals. And So Yong Kim's *For Ellen* shows the final attempts made by a neglectful rock-musician (played by Paul Dano) to build a relationship with his young daughter.

Three films from Japan deal with the tsunami of 11 March 2011 and the meltdown at Fukushima nuclear power station. In *No Man's Zone (Mujin chitai)*, Fujiwara Toshi advances like a Tarkowskian Stalker into the contaminated zone around the nuclear reactors and evokes images of an invisible apocalypse. Iwai Shunji discusses the political, economic and social situation of a country in a state of dependence in *friends after 3.11*. And Funahashi Atsushi's *Nuclear Nation* creates a portrait of a mayor without a town, who is desperately trying to keep together a community scattered across different emergency shelters in the Tokyo suburbs and is brought to question old certainties in the process.

The 42nd Berlinale *Forum* will be showing 38 films in its main programme, including 26 world premieres and 8 international premieres. This year's special screenings will be announced in a second press release.

Main Programme

Al Juma Al Akheira (The Last Friday) by Yahya Alabdallah, Jordan/United Arab Emirates - IP

Ang Babae sa Septic Tank (The Woman in the Septic Tank) by Marlon N. Rivera, The Philippines

Avalon by Axel Petersén, Sweden

Bagrut Lochamim (Soldier / Citizen) by Silvina Landsmann, Israel - WP

Bestiaire by Denis Côté, Canada/France

Beziehungsweisen (Negotiating Love) by Calle Overweg, Germany - WP

La demora (The Delay) by Rodrigo Plá, Uruguay/Mexico/France - WP



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Escuela normal (Normal School) by Celina Murga, Argentina - WP

Espoir voyage by Michel K. Zongo, France/Burkina Faso - IP

For Ellen by So Yong Kim, USA - IP

Formentera by Ann-Kristin Reyels, Germany - WP

Francine by Brian M. Cassidy/Melanie Shatzky, USA/Canada - WP

friends after 3.11 by Iwai Shunji, Japan - IP

Habiter / Construire (Living / Building) by Clémence Ancelin, France - WP

Hemel by Sacha Polak, The Netherlands/Spain - WP

Hiver nomade (Winter Nomads) by Manuel von Stürler, Switzerland - WP

Jaurès by Vincent Dieutre, France - WP

Kashi (Choked) by Kim Joong-hyun, Republic of Korea - IP

Kazoku no kuni (Our Homeland) by Yang Yonghi, Japan - WP

Kid-Thing by David Zellner, USA - IP

Koi ni itaru yamai (The End of Puberty) by Kimura Shoko, Japan - IP

Die Lage (Condition) by Thomas Heise, Germany - WP

No Man's Zone (Mujin chitai) by Fujiwara Toshi, Japan/France - IP

Nuclear Nation by Funahashi Atsushi, Japan - WP

Parabeton - Pier Luigi Nervi und römischer Beton (Parabeton - Pier Luigi Nervi and Roman Concrete) by Heinz Emigholz, Germany - WP

Paziraie Sadeh (Modest Reception) by Mani Haghighi, Iran - WP

Příliš mladá noc (A Night Too Young) by Olmo Omerzu, Czech Republic/Slovenia - WP

Revision by Philip Scheffner, Germany - WP

Salsipuedes by Mariano Luque, Argentina - WP



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Sekret (Secret) by Przemysław Wojcieszek, Poland - WP

Sleepless Knights by Stefan Butzmühlen/Cristina Diz, Germany - WP

Le sommeil d'or (Golden Slumbers) by Davy Chou, France/Cambodia

Spanien (Spain) by Anja Salomonowitz, Austria - WP

Tepenin Ardi (Beyond the Hill) by Emin Alper, Turkey/Greece - WP

Tiens moi droite (Keep Me Upright) by Zoé Chantre, France - WP

Toată lumea din familia noastră (Everybody in Our Family) by Radu Jude, Romania/The Netherlands - WP

What Is Love by Ruth Mader, Austria - WP

Zavtra (Tomorrow) by Andrey Gryazev, Russia - WP

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