

Press Release



The Berlin International Film Festival mourns the loss of Alain Resnais

Alain Resnais, one of European cinema's most noted auteurs and a founding father of French New Wave, died this weekend at the age of 91 after a long battle with illness.

Alain Resnais was a frequent guest in the Berlinale programme and won a total of three Silver Bears: in 1994 for *Smoking/No Smoking*, in 1998 for *On connaît la chanson* (*Same Old Song*), which was also recognised as an outstanding contribution to modern cinema, and two weeks ago for *Aimer, boire et chanter* (*Life of Riley*), his last and most recent work, which was in *Competition* at the 64th Berlinale.

Aimer, boire et chanter won a Silver Bear, the Alfred Bauer Prize for a feature film that opens new perspectives. Unfortunately Alain Resnais was not able to accept the award in person.

"We mourn a great artist and cinematic innovator, and a radical director who reminded us of the political and human atrocities of the 20th century with works such as *Nuit et brouillard* (*Night and Fog*) and *Hiroshima, mon amour*," said Festival Director Dieter Kosslick.

Press Office
March 3, 2014

**64. Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
06. – 16.02.2014**

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