



Press Release

Generation 2016: Never Underestimate the Creative Power of Youth

"Young people world-wide are constantly confronted by dystopic realities not of their own making," says Maryanne Redpath, Head of *Generation*. "In the diverse films of this year's programme we see them taking matters into their own hands."

The selected films shed light on and challenge the nature of contradictions such as being child-like and being an adult, what is forbidden and what is permitted or the difference between subjective and objective reality. *Generation's* short film programmes, five in total, also push formal and thematic boundaries and challenge apparent oppositional relationships. Themes such as friendship, loss, gender roles, migration and prejudice find surprising expression in documentary portraits, animated narratives and experimental trains of thought.

Programme Complete

A total of 63 feature-length and short films produced or co-produced in 35 countries have been invited to participate in the two competitions *Generation Kplus* and *Generation 14plus*. The programme was selected from around 2000 feature-length and short films submitted to *Generation* this year, which is more than in any year previously.

Generation 14plus

6A - Sweden

By Peter Modestij

Bullying, skipping school, violent outbursts: something's gone wrong in the 6A class. But are Denise and her friends really to blame for everything, the way most of the parents believe? With impressive realism, the director observes a very uncomfortable encounter with all involved, which ends up revealing the psychological shortcomings of the adults more than anything.

World Premiere

Avant les rues (Before the Streets) - Canada

By Chloé Leriche

Life on the Atikamekw reservation in the Canadian province of Québec is tense and young Shawnouk is stuck in a rut. When his situation escalates, he escapes to the woods. Traditional rituals, fire and smoke, the old trees and the beats of his ancestors come to the boy's aid as he is forced to face up to himself. An authentic and hopeful portrait, filmed in the language of the Atikamekw.

World Premiere

**66. Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
11. – 21.02.2016**

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El Soñador (The Dreamer) - Peru / France

By Adrián Saba

For brief relief from his dreary existence as a petty criminal, Sebastián drifts off into his dream-worlds. It's only there that he can protect himself and his love for Emilia and attempt to escape the real threats in his life. The boundaries between reality and illusion become blurred by the increasing interaction of light and colour compositions.

World Premiere

Es esmu šeit (Mellow Mud) - Latvia

By Renārs Vimba

In order not to lose their home, 17-year-old Raya and her little brother keep their grandmother's death a secret. Raya tries every trick in the book to make it seem like she's still alive, while at the same time fully indulging her feelings for her English teacher. But in spite of her best efforts, things are getting out of control. Raya hopes for help from her mother in far-off London.

World Premiere

Ma Révolution (My Revolution) - France

By Ramzi Ben Sliman

The Arab Spring is blossoming right in the middle of Paris. Marawann celebrates with the singing and dancing immigrants from the Maghreb. The 15-year-old French boy's Tunisian roots never meant as much to him as they do at this moment. Marawann's got butterflies in his stomach, but it's probably because of his feelings for Sygrid.

International Premiere

Royahaye Dame Sobh (Starless Dreams) - Iran

By Mehrdad Oskouei

Murder and theft, drug dealing and addiction: young lives marked by traumatic stories lead to this Iranian "Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre" for girls. Some of the girls feel more at home in prison than they did with their families. A rare documentary glimpse inside a locked-up world and a respectful portrait of young women struggling to recapture some sense of personal dignity.

World Premiere

Valderama - Iran

By Abbas Amini

Who is Valderama? The boy with the conspicuous curls and mischievous grin but without parents or even an identity, at least as far as the authorities are concerned, resolves to leave his hometown behind and escape to distant Tehran. His desire for security and belonging keeps him



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going but he's constantly in trouble with the rules of society, religion and culture.

World Premiere

Zhaleika - Germany

By Eliza Petkova

For Lora, growing up in a Bulgarian village is a mixture of monumental tedium and hesitant desire. Her existence is determined by rigid religious and social customs, until a radical break drives her to the borders of the small community and beyond. The director captures the claustrophobia of a small town and the vastness of a clever young woman's emotional world in images which remain with the viewer long after the credits have rolled.

World premiere

Already announced in the previous Press Release:

Ani ve snu! (In Your Dreams!), Czech Republic / Slovakian Republic / Bulgaria, by Petr Oukropec - WP

Born to Dance, New Zealand, by Tammy Davis - EP

Girl Asleep, Australia, by Rosemary Myers - IP

Las Plantas (Plants), Chile, by Roberto Doveris - IP

Sairat (Wild), India, by Nagraj Manjule - IP

Triapichniy Soyuz (Rag Union), Russian Federation, by Mikhail Mestetskiy - IP

What's in the Darkness, People's Republic of China, by Yichun Wang - IP

Generation Kplus

Jamais contente - France

By Emilie Deleuze

Aurore may not get the best marks, but she's certainly not dumb. She has a keen way of observing and commenting on her surroundings - on her parents, the boys, her French teacher and herself too. Defiantly stubborn, Aurore tests the boundaries and discovers in the process that she can let off steam with music and that she is not actually 'frigid'. The film is based on the popular French trilogy of adolescent novels "Le journal d'Aurore" and features Catherine Hiegel and Alex Lutz.

World Premiere

Little Men - USA

By Ira Sachs

Tony quickly becomes best friends with Jake, who's new in his Brooklyn neighbourhood. Director Ira Sachs (Teddy Award winner Berlinale *Panorama* 2012: *Keep the Lights On*) tells the story of a young friendship



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at odds with the logic of the adult world, with great empathy for his characters and a keen sense of social inequality. *Little Men* will also be presented at *Panorama*. Featuring Jennifer Ehle, Greg Kinnear, Paulina García and Alfred Molina.

International Premiere

Mavi Bisiklet (Blue Bicycle) - Turkey, Germany

By Ümit Köreken

12-year-old Ali lives an austere life in the Anatolian countryside. He's saving up his hard-earned money for his big dream: a brand-new, blue bicycle. When Elif, the girl he is secretly in love with, becomes the victim of a great injustice at school, Ali takes up the passionate fight for democracy and against a system stuck in its ways.

World Premiere

Ottaal (The Trap) - India

By Jayaraj Rajashekar Nair

8-year-old Kuttappayi's life seems blissful, though he's still coping with the loss of his parents. He spends his days living, fishing and laughing with his grandfather, who tends to huge flocks of ducks, in a natural paradise of breath-taking beauty. The boy dreams hopefully about his future and doesn't suspect that he will soon share the fate of the many millions of children around the world who are still being forced into child labour.

International Premiere

Rara - Chile, Argentina

By Pepa San Martín

Being interested in boys, thinking they're stupid, being really close to your best friend and keeping secrets from her, having trouble in school and having annoying parents: these are the kind of problems a 13-year-old girl is faced with. For Sara, all of that has nothing to do with the fact that her mother lives together with another woman. Her father doesn't see it that way though. DAAD Short Film Award winner Pepa San Martín (*Berlinale Shorts 2011: La Ducha*) takes a real-life Chilean custody battle as the inspiration for her feature-film debut.

World Premiere

Solan og Ludvig - Herfra til Flåklypa (Louis & Nolan - The Big Cheese Race) - Norway

By Rasmus Sivertsen

For the cheeky little magpie Solan, there is much more at stake in the cheese race than just personal honour. Together with his two teammates, he pulls up to the starting line full of confidence and clever ideas. But the savvy members of the opposing team, arch-rivals from the



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neighbouring town, are ready to use some dirty tricks. With breakneck pacing and a lot of laughs, this lovingly-executed puppet stop-motion demonstrates that life is not always about winning.
International Premiere

Woorideul (The World of Us) - Republic of Korea

By Yoon Ga-eun

Playing alone in the summertime alleyways, the two 10-year-olds Sun and Jia forge a tender bond of friendship. Alas, the turbulent social dynamics of their school class threaten to break them apart. Crystal Bear winner Ga-eun Yoon (*Berlinale Generation Kplus 2014: Sprout*) returns with her feature-length debut - a powerful but understated portrayal of the experience of a gentle young girl which is nothing short of masterful.
World Premiere

Already announced in the previous Press Release:

ENTE GUT! Mädchen allein zu Haus (Fortune Favors the Brave), Germany, by Norbert Lechner - WP

Genç Pehlivanlar (Young Wrestlers), Turkey / Netherlands, by Mete Gümürhan - WP

Rauf, Turkey, by Barış Kaya, Soner Caner - WP

Siv sover vilse (Siv Sleeps Astray), Sweden / Netherlands, by Catti Edfeldt, Lena Hanno Clyne - WP

Ted Sieger's Molly Monster, Switzerland / Germany / Sweden, by Ted Sieger, Matthias Bruhn, Michael Ekblad - WP

Zud, Germany / Poland, by Marta Minorowicz - WP

Short films *Generation 14plus*

Balcony, Great Britain, by Toby Fell-Holden - IP

Berlin Metanoia, Germany, by Erik Schmitt (*Berlinale Generation 14plus 2013: Nashorn im Galopp*) - WP

Blind Vaysha, Canada, by Theodore Ushev - WP

Carousel, Great Britain, by Kal Weber - WP

Crystal Lake, USA, by Jennifer Reeder (*Berlinale Shorts 2015: Blood Below the Skin*) - WP

El Edén (Eden), Colombia, by Andrés Ramírez Pulido - WP

JACKED, Great Britain, by Rene Pannevis - IP

Kroppen är en ensam plats (The Body Is a Lonely Place), Sweden, by Ida Lindgren - WP

Léchez-nous, Miaou, Miaou! (Lick Us, Meow, Meow!), Switzerland, by Marie de Maricourt - IP



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Mamma vet bäst (Mother Knows Best), Sweden, by Mikael Bundsen - WP
Mushkie, Israel, by Aleeza Chanowitz - WP
O noapte in Tokoriki (A Night in Tokoriki), Romania, by Roxane Stroe - WP
Refugee Blues, Great Britain, by Stephan Bookas, Tristan Daws - WP
Sensiz (Without You), Ukraine, by Nariman Aliev - WP
Spoetnik, Netherlands, by Noël Loozen - IP
That Day, USA, by Stephanie Ard, WP
The Ballad of Immortal Joe, Canada, by Hector Herrera - EP

Short films *Generation Kplus*

Aurelia y Pedro (Aurelia and Pedro), Mexico, by Omar Robles, José Permar - WP
Cats & Dogs, Switzerland / Germany, by Gerd Gockell, Jesús Pérez (Berlinale *Generation Kplus* 2011: *Der große Bruder*) - IP
Chopping Onions, USA, by Adinah Dancyger - EP
El inicio de Fabrizio (Fabrizio's Initiation), Argentina, by Mariano Biasin - IP
En la azotea (On the Roof), Spain, Damià Serra Cauchetiez - IP
Kill Your Dinner, Australia, by Bryn Chainey - WP
Le renard minuscule (The Teeny-Weeny Fox), France / Switzerland / Belgium, by Aline Quertain, Sylwia Szkiladz - IP
Lili, Denmark / Great Britain, by Siri Melchior (Berlinale *Generation Kplus* 2010: *Fløjtelses*) - WP
Little Doll, Ireland, by Kate Dolan - WP
Neiwa, Mexico, by Abraham Cruz Herrera, Javier Vázquez Cervantes - WP
Nina, Belgium, by Emmanuel Elliah, Maria Körkel - WP
Ninnoc, Netherlands, by Niki Padidar - IP
Semele, USA / Cyprus, by Myrsini Aristidou - EP
Simon's Cat: Off to the Vet, Great Britain, by Simon Tofield - IP
Skatekeet, Netherlands, by Edward Cook - IP
Take Your Partners, Great Britain, by Siri Rodnes -WP
The Boyfried Game, Australia, by Alice Englert - EP
Zeezucht (Jonas and the Sea), Netherlands, by Marlies van der Wel - EP

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January 13, 2016