

Press Release



Berlinale Classics:

Presenting six newly-restored films from Germany, Japan, Taiwan and the USA

The Berlinale Classics series of the 66th Berlin International Film Festival will present premieres of six films, two German and four international productions, five of them world premieres.

Heiner Carow's semi-autobiographical film *Die Russen kommen* (*The Russians are Coming*, East Germany, 1968) is set in the waning days of World War II. For 16-year-old Günter Walcher, the defeat of the Nazis is a catastrophe that brings his world to collapse. But a film about fascism without anti-fascist heroes was a no-go for the East German regime, and the film was banned before completion. In 1987, it was reconstructed based on a severely damaged work print, as only small sections of the negative had survived. Digital technology has now enabled the DEFA Foundation, in cooperation with the German Federal Film Archive, to produce a new restoration by combining footage from disparate source elements that varied in optical quality.

The American film *The Road Back* directed by James Whale in 1937, also references a slice of German history. It is based on the eponymous Erich Maria Remarque novel about four German infantrymen who face a difficult road back to civilian life. Like all of Remarque's books, "The Road Back" was banned in Nazi Germany. In response to German protests extensive cuts were made to the film. The festival is showing a reconstruction of James Whale's original 1937 theatrical release version, preserved by the Library of Congress in collaboration with NBCUniversal and Martin Scorsese's The Film Foundation. David Stenn and the UCLA Film & Television Archive provided skills and film footage.

"It's particularly fascinating that two of the Berlinale Classics movies are closely linked to censorship in Germany's past", says Rainer Rother, section head for the Retrospective and artistic director of the Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek foundation. Heiner Carow's *The Russians are Coming* is among the films that were banned or censored in East Germany for political reasons. We are showing several of those films in this year's Retrospective "Germany 1966. Redefining Cinema". Another illuminating example of the interference to which those films were subjected is *The Road Back*. It is proof that the political influence of the Nazi authorities was not restricted to Germany."

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

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

Vorsitzende des Aufsichtsrates:
Staatsministerin
Prof. Monika Grütters MdB

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



Press Release

With the digitally restored version of *Bakushu (Early Summer)*, *Berlinale Classics* is once again presenting a work by Japanese master director Yasujiro Ozu. The 1951 film, about a young woman named Noriko whose family is trying to marry her off, is one of Ozu's later works. Noriko is played by Ozu's favourite actress, Setsuko Hara, who died in September 2015 at the age of 95. The 4K digital restoration project by the well-known Japanese production company Shochiku was led by Ozu's former assistant cameraman Takashi Kawamata and cinematographer Masashi Chikamori, known for his work as a DP on Yoji Yamada films.

Also from Asia is the Taiwanese film *Ni Luo He Nu Er (Daughter of the Nile)* by Huo Hsiao-hsien, made in 1987. It is the director's first film focusing on a female protagonist, and also notable for its depiction of Taipei in the 1980s. The digital restoration was based on the original 35 mm negative and was done under the aegis of the Taiwan Film Institute with Chen Huai-en, the film's cinematographer, overseeing the 4K-restoration.

Another digitally restored film from the US in the *Berlinale Classics* section is John Huston's classic *Fat City*, made in 1972 with virtuoso cinematography by DP Conrad Hall. It features Jeff Bridges in one of his first screen roles, as the talented boxer Ernie. The melancholy tone of the film is set by Kris Kristofferson's hit "Help Me Make It Through the Night". The film was restored from an original 35 mm negative and digitised in 4K by Sony Pictures, under the supervision of Grover Crisp.

The *Berlinale Classics* section will open with Fritz Lang's 1921 silent film classic *Der müde Tod (Destiny)*. The digitally restored version, made possible by the Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau Foundation, will premiere on February 12, 2016 in the Friedrichstadtpalast. Broadcasters ZDF / ARTE commissioned new music for the film from composer Cornelius Schwehr, which will be played by the Radio Symphony Orchestra Berlin (RSB), with conductor Frank Strobel at the podium.

Berlinale Classics programme

Bakushu (Early Summer)

By Yasujiro Ozu, Japan, 1951

Monday Feb. 15, 2016, CinemaxX 8

World premiere of the digitally restored version in 4K DCP

Fat City

By John Huston, USA, 1972

Friday Feb. 19, 2016, CinemaxX 8

International premiere of the digitally restored version in 4K DCP



Press Release

Destiny

By Fritz Lang, Germany, 1921

Friday Feb. 12, 2016, Friedrichstadtpalast

World premiere of the digitally restored version in 2K DCP

Music by the Radio Symphony Orchestra Berlin (RSB)

conducted by Frank Strobel

Ni Luo He Nu Er (Daughter of the Nile)

By Hou Hsiao-hsien, Taiwan, 1987

Sunday Feb. 14, 2016, CinemaxX 8

World premiere of the digitally restored version in 4K DCP

The Road Back

By James Whale, USA, 1937

Tuesday Feb. 16, 2016, CinemaxX 8

World premiere of the restored version in 35mm

Die Russen kommen (The Russians are Coming)

By Heiner Carow, East Germany, 1968/1987

Saturday Feb. 13, 2016, CinemaxX 8

World premiere of the digitally restored version in 2K DCP

Press office

January 14, 2016