



Press Release

Berlinale Spotlight: World Cinema Fund at the "Around the World in 14 Films" Festival

For many years now, the Berlinale has extended its presence beyond the festival season with specially curated programmes. These activities are known as *Berlinale Spotlight*. On November 25, the *World Cinema Fund (WCF)* - the Berlinale's funding initiative - will be a guest at Berlin's "Around the World in 14 Films" festival.

"I'm delighted about collaborating with 'Around the World in 14 Films', which, like us, is dedicated to world cinema. The *World Cinema Fund* is committed to cultural diversity and endeavours through funding to promote a multiplicity of aesthetics in film and their visibility. The *WCF* presentation at 'Around the World in 14 Films' is a wonderful opportunity to show audiences in Berlin recent *WCF* films and provide them with an idea of cinematic works from several *WCF* regions," says Vincenzo Bugno, project manager of the *World Cinema Fund*.

Since it was launched in October 2004 as an initiative of the Berlinale and the German Federal Cultural Foundation, the *WCF* has been committed to developing and funding cinema in regions with a weak film infrastructure, as well as to boosting cultural diversity in German and European cinemas. Such support aims at promoting the development of local film industries, and collaborations between German and other European producers with partners in *WCF* regions and countries. The *World Cinema Fund* is a manifestation of an innovative European funding policy. Active throughout the year, the *WCF* has so far supported almost 200 film projects. ([See here](#))

"To look at the world from different perspectives and free ourselves of the Eurocentric gaze is becoming more and more important in view of the increasing complexity of reality. This has been the credo of the Berlinale from day one and is also expressed by the work of the *WCF*. I wish the audience an exciting cinematic journey around the world," comments Berlinale Director Dieter Kosslick.

The *Berlinale Spotlight* programme: On November 25, 2018 the *World Cinema Fund* will show five feature fiction and documentary films at "Around the World in 14 Films". They include four productions that had their world premieres at internationally renowned festivals in 2018. *WCF* project manager Vincenzo Bugno will be on hand to present the films.

"Our main focus is to act as a burning glass and annually highlight current filmmaking from around the globe, including cinematographies far removed from Europe and North America. Since the inception of the Berlinale's *World Cinema Fund*, we have seen this idea highly reflected in

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Press Office

Potsdamer Platz 11
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
HGR Nr. 96 · HRB 29357
USt ID DE 136 78 27 46



Press Release

its work. We are proud and pleased to be part of this exciting cooperation," says Bernhard Karl, director of "Around the World in 14 Films".

Berlinale Spotlight: World Cinema Fund programme

[Rafiki](#)

Kenya / South Africa / France / Netherlands / Germany 2018

Directed by: Wanuri Kahiu

Rafiki was a *WCF-Africa* funding project in 2016 and participated in the *Berlinale Co-Production Market* in 2014.

Kena and Ziki are two teenagers from Nairobi, Kenya. They become friends even though their families are political rivals. All the same, the girls stick together and try to pursue their dreams. In the conservative society where they live, the situation gets dangerous when they fall in love.

[Rojo](#)

Argentina / Belgium / Brazil / Germany / France / Switzerland 2018

Directed by: Benjamín Naishtat

Rojo was a *WCF* funding project in 2016 and participated in the *Berlinale Co-Production Market* in 2014.

Argentina in the mid-1970s. An unprecedented wave of political violence is spreading throughout the country. An ordinary man gets into extraordinary circumstances and finds himself having to cover up a terrible crime.

[The Roundup](#) (*aKasha*)

Sudan / South Africa / Qatar / Germany 2018

Directed by: Hajooj Kuka

The Roundup was a *WCF-Africa* funding project in 2017 and its director participated in *Berlinale Talents* in 2016.

A universal love story but set in a time of war in present day Sudan. We follow Adnan, a machine gun-loving rebel, his love interest, Lina, and the army-dodging Absi, over a fateful 24 hours.

[Still Recording](#) (*Lissa Ammetsajjel*) - documentary

Syria / Lebanon / Qatar / France / Germany 2018

Directed by: Saeed Al Batal, Ghiath Ayoub

Still Recording was a *WCF* funding project in 2018.



Press Release

Saeed is a young cinephile teaching filmmaking to young people in Eastern Ghouta, Syria. When his friend Milad joins him in rebel-controlled Douma they set up a radio station and a recording studio. They record everything on camera - until eventually it is them that the camera is filming.

[Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives](#)

Great Britain / Thailand / France / Germany / Spain 2010

Directed by: Apichatpong Weerasethakul

Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives was a WCF funding project in 2010.

Uncle Boonmee is terminally ill and goes to spend his last days with his family in the country. Before long, the spirits of his deceased wife and his lost son join him. Together they set off to seek where he was born in his first life.

The *World Cinema Fund* is an initiative of the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the Berlin International Film Festival, in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office, with further support by the Goethe-Institut.

The special *WCF Europe* programme was launched with the support of the European Commission's Creative Europe MEDIA programme. Thanks to additional funding from the German Federal Foreign Office, the special programme *WCF Africa* was started in 2016.



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