

## Press Release



### **“Books at Berlinale”: Twelve International Literary Works in Search of Film Producers**

On February 11, in the scope of “Books at Berlinale”, a co-operation with the Frankfurter Buchmesse, the *Berlinale Co-Production Market* will present twelve new and notable literary works that lend themselves perfectly to adaptation for the screen. At the pitch event, which has been showcasing promising new publications and bestsellers since 2006, film producers can come into contact with the renowned, internationally active publishers and literary agents who hold the rights to these works.

The over 160 submissions received from more than 30 countries this year represent a new record number of applications, topping all previous editions of the event. Festival Director Dieter Kosslick, among those originally responsible for the creation of “Books at Berlinale”, is pleased to note how the initiative has developed: “Our idea was and still is to present a curated selection of excellent books from around the world which are particularly suited to screen adaptation as a basis for bringing producers into contact with representatives from the publishing branch. It is wonderful that ‘Books at Berlinale’ is still continuing to grow and experience even greater popularity in its 14<sup>th</sup> year of existence.”

The selected books, publishing houses and literary agents for the 2019 edition hail from Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Spain, South Korea, Syria and Turkey.

From Norway, guest of honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse later this year, comes the bestseller “**Keep Saying Their Names**” (original title: “Leksikon om lys og mørke”) by Simon Stranger. The rights for the novel were successfully sold for editions in fifteen languages within a very brief period of time. The book, to be presented by the “Oslo Literary Agency”, was honoured with the Norwegian Booksellers’ Prize in November and has delighted critics and readers alike.

The Italian novel “**Sangue giusto**” by Francesca Melandri, which treats Italy’s colonial past, was recently celebrated by the magazine “Der Spiegel” as their “International Novel of the Year” for 2018.

“**Dance or Die**”, the moving true story of Ahmad Joudeh, who held onto his dream of dancing against all odds, faced with the war in Syria and the threat of extremists, is an impressive testament to the power of peaceful resistance through art.

The renowned British agency “The Artists Partnership”, which represents authors, screenwriters and directors, will be presenting South Korea’s

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bestseller of the year with **“The Good Son”**, a thriller from South Korean **“Queen of Crime”** You-jeong Jeong.

Benoîte Groult’s 1988 novel **“Salt on Our Skin”** already became the object of a prominent screen adaptation shortly after its publication. Now that the film rights are once again available, the book, which has sold over one million copies in Germany alone, is ripe for re-adaptation for the cinema.

Also among the selected works is one of the Swiss Diogenes Verlag’s leading spring titles, **“Love in Case of Emergency”** by German author Daniela Krien. Germany is also represented with **“The Wannsee Murder”**, a crime story set in 1968 Berlin which also serves as a portrait of a pivotal moment in German history, and Kathrin Weßling’s novel **“Great, and You?”**.

Film producers who are active in the field of literary adaptation or would like to be - as well as publishers and literary agents - can register to attend the event by writing to [books@berlinale.de](mailto:books@berlinale.de) by February 4, 2019.

“Books at Berlinale” is taking place at Berlin’s House of Representatives (Abgeordnetenhaus) in the scope of the *Berlinale Co-Production Market*. The main partners of the *Berlinale Co-Production Market* are MDM - Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung and the Creative Europe - MEDIA programme of the European Union. The *Berlinale Co-Production Market* is part of the *European Film Market (EFM)*.

**The following works have been chosen to participate in “Books at Berlinale” 2019 (in alphabetical order according to the presenting company):**

**“Dance or Die”** (Ahmad Joudeh, Syria), DeA Planeta Libri, Italy

**“Love in Case of Emergency”** (Daniela Krien, Germany), Diogenes Verlag, Switzerland

**“Salt on Our Skin”** (Benoîte Groult, France), Editions Grasset & Fasquelle, France

**“The Invisible Girl”** (Blue Jeans, Spain), Editorial Planeta, Spain

**“The Wannsee Murder”** (Lutz Wilhelm Kellerhoff, Germany), Elisabeth Ruge Agentur, Germany

**“The Girl with the Leica”** (Helena Janeczek, Germany), Gruppo



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editoriale Mauri Spagnol, Italy

“**The Guest**” (Nermin Yıldırım, Turkey), Kalem Agency, Turkey

“**Keep Saying Their Names**” (Simon Stranger, Norway), Oslo Literary Agency, Norway

“**Play Dead**” (A.F. Th. van der Heijden, Netherlands), Singel Uitgeverijen, Netherlands

“**The Good Son**” (You-jeong Jeong, South Korea), The Artists Partnership, United Kingdom

“**Sangue giusto**” (Francesca Melandri, Italy), The Italian Literary Agency, Italy

“**Great, And You?**” (Kathrin Weßling, Germany), Ullstein Buchverlage, Germany

Press Office  
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