

Press Release



Berlinale Shorts 2014: Noah Is a Woman; and the Darkroom, a Cinema

In 2014, 25 films from 21 countries will be competing for the Golden Bear for Best Short Film and the Silver Bear Jury Prize: fictional, documentary, experimental, essayistic and animated films all have an equal chance. Almost a third of these productions is not digital but was shot on film or focuses on the medium of film as a vehicle. A tendency reflected in the fact that independent laboratories around the world have again begun to develop film themselves. Evidently there is a desire to find reassurance in the “real thing”. Moreover, a sense of mourning pervades the entire programme. The need to deal with death puts inner landscapes on the screen - and they range between extremes: from groups of men clenching pump guns against their chests (*Tant qu'il nous reste des fusils à pompe / As Long as Shotguns Remain*), and naked women running with broad smiles through Macao's pristine nature (*Taprobana*), to parents from the Cuban countryside trying to comprehend their twelve-year-old son's suicide (*Un Paraíso / A Paradise*).

In 1955, Heinz Sielmann won the first Small Gold Medal for Best Short Film at the Berlinale for his work *Die Zimmerleute des Waldes (Woodpecker)*. In 2014, Ulu Braun, winner of the German Short Film Prize 2013 for Best Experimental Film (*FORST, Berlinale Shorts 2013*), will present his new work, *BIRDS*. His poetic approach unites nature and urban life, enabling us to see parallels that would otherwise be lost in the momentum of our lives. Frieder Schlaich, director, producer and distributor (Filmgalerie 451: Schlingensiefel, Klick, Schroeter and many others), travels with Patti Smith to Jean Genet's grave in Laroche to make good a promise. The South African ensemble with Pauline Malefane and Mark Dornford-May, Golden Bear winners with *U Carmen eKhayelitsha* in 2005, are back with a modern adaptation of Benjamin Britten's “Noye's Fludde”: *Unogumbe*. Here Noah is a woman; and the ark's construction, set against the townships. Mahdi Fleifel (*A World Not Ours, Panorama 2013*) will present his hybrid documentary *Xenos*, in which he reunites in Athens with his friends who have fled Lebanon.

The International Short Film Jury awards a Golden and a Silver Bear, the DAAD Short Film Prize as well as the Berlin Short Film Nominee for the European Film Awards. This year's winners will be picked by: the Indonesian director Edwin, who last participated in the Berlinale *Competition 2012* with *Postcards from the Zoo*; Nuno Rodrigues, artistic director of the Vila do Conde short film festival and founder of Agência - Portuguese Short Film Agency; as well as Lebanese curator Christine Tohme.

**64. Internationale
Filmfestspiele
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Amtsgericht Charlottenburg
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Press Release

Members of the International Short Film Jury (in alphabetical order):

Edwin (Indonesia)

The director Edwin was born in 1978 in Surabaya, Indonesia and studied graphic design at Universitas Kristen Petra in Surabaya. He then studied film at Institut Kesenian Jakarta. In 2009 he was a guest at the Berlinale with his short film *Trip to The Wound*. That same year, his feature film debut *Blind Pig Who Wants to Fly* received the Fipresci Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam. *Postcards from the Zoo* is his second feature film for which he also wrote the screenplay. The film celebrated its world premiere at the 62nd Berlinale and was presented in *Competition*. Edwin is now working on his third feature.

Nuno Rodrigues (Portugal)

Curator and festival programmer Nuno Rodrigues is a co-founder and the artistic director of the Portuguese film festival Curtas Vila do Conde. In 1999, he founded Agência - Portuguese Short Film Agency, where he is now a member of the board of directors, and handles the promotion and distribution of Portuguese short films on international markets. Since 2005 he has been the director and coordinator of the Solar Gallery in Vila do Conde, where he has curated numerous exhibits. In recent years, he has also been active as a film producer, and in 2013 he became vice president of Short Circuit, a network for film and video art distribution in Europe.

Christine Tohme (Lebanon)

Christine Tohme is a curator and director of Ashkal Alwan-The Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts, established in 1994. Over the years, the non-profit organization has been committed to the production, facilitation and circulation of artistic practices across a range of disciplines and media. Its platforms include "Home Works", a forum on cultural practices; "Home Workspace Program" (HWP), a free international arts programme at the post-graduate level; and Video Works, a video production grant. In 2006, she received the Prince Claus Award for her work in arts practices and the civic sphere.

Berlinale Shorts 2014:

Afronauts, Frances Bodomo, USA, 13' (IP)

BIRDS, Ulu Braun, Germany, 15' (WP)

La Casona (The Big House), Juliette Touin, Cuba, 25' (IP)

darkroom, Billy Roisz, Austria, 13' (WP)

Do serca Twego (To Thy Heart), Ewa Borysewicz, Poland, 10' (IP)

Im Tekhayekh, Ha'Olam Yekhayekh Elekha (Smile, and the World Will Smile Back), Familie al-Haddad/Ehab Tarabieh/Yoav Gross, Israel / Palestinian Territories, 21' (WP)



Press Release

Kamakura (Snow Hut), Yoriko Mizushiri, Japan, 5' (WP)
LABORAT, Guillaume Cailleau, Germany, 21' (WP)
Marc Jacobs, Sam de Jong, Netherlands, 17' (WP)
Om Amira, Najy Ismail, Egypt, Germany 25' (IP)
Optical Sound, Elke Groen/Christian Neubacher, Austria, 11' (WP)
Person to Person, Dustin Guy Defa, USA, 18' (IP)
Raconte-moi des salades (Salad Days), Olias Barco, Belgium / France, 10' (WP)
As Rosas Brancas (The White Roses), Diogo Costa Amarante, Portugal / USA, 20' (WP)
Sky Lines, Nadine Poulain, Serbia, 10' (IP)
Solo te puedo mostrar el color (I Can Only Show You the Color), Fernando Vilchez Rodríguez, Peru, 26' (WP)
Symphony no. 42, Réka Bucsi, Hungary, 10' (WP)
Tant qu'il nous reste des fusils à pompe (As Long As Shotguns Remain), Caroline Poggi/Jonathan Vinel, France, 30' (WP)
Taprobana, Gabriel Abrantes, Portugal / Sri Lanka / Denmark, 24' (WP)
Three Stones for Jean Genet, Frieder Schlaich, Germany, 7' (WP)
Unogumbe (Noye's Fludde), Mark Dornford-May, South Africa, 35' (EP)
Un Paraíso (A Paradise), Jayisha Patel, Cuba, 14' (WP)
Washingtonia, Konstantina Kotsamani, Greece, 24' (WP)
WONDER, Mirai Mizue, France / Japan, 8' (WP)
Xenos, Mahdi Fleifel, Denmark / United Kingdom, 13' (WP)

(WP = World premiere, IP = International premiere)

Press Office
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