

## Press Release



### *Perspektive Deutsches Kino 2019: Coming of Age*

*Perspektive Deutsches Kino* is coming of age. For the past 18 years, the Berlinale has dedicated itself with this section to supporting promising German filmmakers and talents who are self-confidently searching for their own form of artistic expression.

"It was a good idea when I took office 18 years ago to devote a new section of the Berlinale called *Perspektive Deutsches Kino* to a young generation of German filmmakers. This commitment to German cinema was first successfully curated by Alfred Holighaus, and later by Linda Söffker," comments Festival Director Dieter Kosslick on the section's history.

A large screen, the thrilling atmosphere of an A-list festival, and 500 viewers in a sold-out premiere cinema provide incentive, energy and tailwind all at once. Directors – including Sonja Heiss, Thomas Stuber, Nicolas Steiner, Anne Zohra Berrached, Dietrich Brüggemann, Nicole Vögele – have all presented their first films here and many of them have gone on to qualify for the Berlinale's *Competition*.

"As with all beginnings, debut films have something magical about them that we try to let shine. For many filmmakers, the hopeful journey into the future of cinema begins with us here," says section head Linda Söffker.

The topics preoccupying young filmmakers have not changed much. Rightly, things often revolve around love, identity, freedom, and self-realisation. Yet over the years the stories and their protagonists have become more international – as borne out by the twelve documentaries and fiction films in this year's programme.

Director and actress Maryam Zaree was born in one of Iran's most notorious political prisons. In her documental debut, *Born in Evin* (prod: Tondowski Films, Berlin), she embarks on a personal search for clues: in an effort to break the silence, she talks with her parents about the violent circumstances surrounding her birth. And she asks other children born in Evin about their experiences and the traumatic consequences. Maryam Zaree's cinematic approach unfolds through her own biography, but beyond this it alerts us to the horrors of persecution and dehumanisation in Iran and the rest of the world.

Director Udita Bhargava was born in India. She returns to her home country with *Dust*, her full-length graduation film (Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF; prod: unafilm, Cologne). In it she tells the

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story of David (Morten Holst) and his journey to the turbulent heart of present-day India to look for traces of his dead girlfriend. Set against the backdrop of a left-wing uprising, *Dust* oscillates between worlds of recollection and foretastes of the future, and shows us Indians caught in an inhuman conflict.

Born in Vienna, Deniz Cooper takes his debut fiction film, *Fisch lernt fliegen* (*Fish Takes Off*, prod: Salka Weber and Deniz Cooper, Berlin) to Italy. A young woman (Salka Weber) stands on the Rialto Bridge in Venice; in a cool box is her dead goldfish. Initially she had planned to let it be carried out to sea. But then an emotion that is even stronger causes her misgivings, and so she packs the fish up again. In the surreal setting of an empty city, she sets out in search of lost meaning.

Stefan Sick's documentary film *Das innere Leuchten* (*The Inner Light*, prod: AMA FILM, Stuttgart) observes in a nursing home the daily life of those affected by dementia and dares a poetic interpretation of this special state. Developing a strong sense of emotional intimacy with the protagonists, the film makes it possible for us to experience their perspective on the world and reveals their aura – their inner light.

Three Berlin films will round off this year's *Perspektive* programme. Director Simona Kostova was born in Bulgaria and in *Dreissig* (*Thirty*) – her debut fiction film for the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (dffb) – she takes us out on the town to party all night. On a Friday in October, six friends, in their early thirties, experience the intensity of the here and now in Berlin Neukölln. Kostova's debut film will first premiere at the International Film Festival Rotterdam; afterwards you'll be able to see it here with us.

David Dietl's *Berlin Bouncer* (prod: Flare Film, Berlin) brings together legendary doormen Frank Künster, Smiley Baldwin, and Sven Marquardt in a documentary about the party metropolis of Berlin. These three striking characters come from quite different backgrounds, yet they all got caught up in the nightlife of the 1990s. Since then they are renowned for being the toughest selectors at the doors of the city's most popular clubs. The film portrays Berlin's cultural history from the fall of the Wall to the pulsating present.

Thomas Moritz Helm's directional debut, which he also produced himself, is also set in Berlin. *Heute oder morgen* (*Before We Grow Old*, prod: CASQUE film, Berlin) is about three young people who just let themselves drift for an entire summer, and, on the count of three, throw themselves into all sorts of love affairs. Contrary to conventional moral reasoning, they don't worry about tomorrow and try to squeeze the most out of life.



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Twelve fiction and documentary films have been invited to compete for the *Compass-Perspektive-Award*, which includes €5,000 in prize money. This year's jury members are FIRST STEPS' programme director Andrea Hohnen, actor and director Jerry Hoffmann, and producer Trini Götze (Trimafilm).

On Friday, February 15 at 7 pm, the award for best film in the programme will be presented in CinemaxX 3.

On February 17, 2019 – Berlinale Publikumstag – *Perspektive* will screen the winner of the Max Ophüls Preis 2019 fiction film competition, as well as the winner of the FIRST STEPS Award 2018 documentary film competition (*Tackling Life*, dir: Johannes List).

### ***Berlin Bouncer***

by David Dietl  
Documentary  
World premiere

### ***Born In Evin***

by Maryam Zaree  
Documentary  
World premiere

### ***Dreissig (Thirty)***

by Simona Kostova  
with Övünç Güvenişik, Pascal Houdus, Raha Emami Khansari, Kara Schröder, Henner Borchers, Anja Langer  
Feature film  
German premiere

### ***Dust***

by Uditā Bhargava  
with Morten Holst, Vinay Pathak, Abu Bakr Golu, Kalyanee Mulay, Babita Goyal  
Feature film  
World premiere

### ***Fisch lernt fliegen (Fish Takes Off)***

by Deniz Cooper  
with Salka Weber, Alessandro Bressanello, Julia Edtmeier, Florian Carove, Dominic Oley  
Feature film  
World premiere



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### *Heute oder morgen (Before We Grow Old)*

by Thomas Moritz Helm

with Paula Knüpling, Maximilian Hildebrandt, Tala Gouveia

Feature film

World premiere

### *Das innere Leuchten (The Inner Light)*

by Stefan Sick

Documentary

World premiere

### Guests of the *Perspektive Deutsches Kino*:

#### *Tackling Life*

by Johannes List

Documentary

Tba.

Award winner Max Ophüls Preis 2019 for Best Feature Film

### Films announced so far:

#### *easy love*

by Tamer Jandali

with Stella Vivien Dhingra, Sophia Seidenfaden, Sönke Andersen, Lenika

Lukas, Pina Felizitas, Niclas Jüngermann

Feature film

World premiere

#### *Die Einzelteile der Liebe (The Components of Love)*

by Miriam Bliese

with Birte Schnöink, Ole Lagerpusch, Andreas Döhler, Justus Fischer

Feature film

World premiere

#### *Die Grube (The Pit)*

by Hristiana Raykova

Documentary

World premiere

#### *Off Season*

by Henning Beckhoff

with Franziska Petri, Godehard Giese

Medium-long feature film

World premiere



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### *Oray*

by Mehmet Akif Büyükatalay

with Zejhun Demirov, Deniz Orta, Cem Göktaş, Ferhat Keskin, Mikael

Bajrami

Feature film

World premiere

Guest of the *Perspektive Deutsches Kino*:

### *6Minuten66 (6Minutes66)*

by Katja Feldmeier and Julius Feldmeier

Documentary

World premiere

Press Office

January 8, 2019