

PRESS RELEASE

The DFFB's new executive management team: a woman duo



Marie Wilke & Catherine Ann Berger (© Mathias Bothor)

Berlin, June 4, 2021.

As of today, the Advisory Board of the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (DFFB) has appointed a new executive management team proposed by the search committee. We are delighted to announce the arrival of Catherine Ann Berger as Managing Director and Marie Wilke as Artistic Director. They will begin their positions on August 1, 2021.

In deciding on a dual leadership, the Advisory Board has strategically chosen the original path taken by the DFFB in its founding years: dividing the responsibilities of the DFFB's artistic and business management between two individuals. For the first time in the history of the DFFB, the executive management team will consist of two women.

Christian Gaebler, Head of the Senate Chancellery and Chairperson of the Advisory Board and the Search Committee:

“We are very pleased to have found an extraordinarily competent leadership duo in Ms. Berger and Ms. Wilke. This new management team will further strengthen the profile of the DFFB and set a decisive course for the future. The division of responsibilities should help to appropriately distribute the high workload and therefore allow the DFFB to better support teaching activities.”

The decision to appoint a dual leadership was made by the Advisory Board in November 2020. The call for applications and the selection process for both positions took place from January to May, 2021. There were many high-caliber applicants and the selection process had multiple stages, including presentations and structured interviews. The six-member search committee, with representatives from the Advisory Board, staff, faculty and students, proposed Ms. Marie Wilke as Artistic Director and Ms. Catherine Ann Berger as Managing Director. On June 4, 2021, the Advisory Board unanimously appointed Ms. Wilke and Ms. Berger. In addition to their respective roles, the two executive directors are jointly responsible for the overall strategy of the DFFB.

“We are both very pleased to take over the executive management of the DFFB together. We are convinced that our profiles complement each other perfectly in terms of professional experiences and competencies. The DFFB is a film school with a strong tradition and signature, which we want to honor, while also leading it towards a bright future with new opportunities.” – Catherine A. Berger and Marie Wilke

The Advisory Board thanks Sandra Braun for serving as interim director from April 2020 to July 2021 during a very difficult time – in addition to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Braun was instrumental in the change process that has led to the appointment of the dual leadership.

About Marie Wilke

Marie Wilke studied film in Bolzano (Italy) and at the Berlin University of the Arts. She worked as an editor and as a lecturer for directing and story development, among other subjects, at the Film University Babelsberg Konrad Wolf from 2004 to 2014. In 2019 and 2020, Wilke was a member of the selection committee for the directing program at DFFB. She has written and directed feature-length films, including AGGREGAT (Forum Berlinale 2018) and the documentary television series HÖLLENTAL (ZDF 2021).

About Catherine Ann Berger

Catherine Ann Berger studied theater and film studies in Vienna, worked as an editor and film critic at Swiss Television, and was a member of numerous expert commissions for theater and film in Switzerland, Austria and Germany. From 1997 to 2003, Berger hosted the program "Kulturzeit" on 3sat. From 2013 to the beginning of 2021, she was director of the promotion agency Swiss Films and was on the Board of European Film Promotion (EFP). She is a member of the Swiss Film Academy and the European Film Academy and has Swiss-British citizenship.

About the DFFB

Founded in 1966, the DFFB is one of the oldest film schools in the German-speaking sphere. Numerous outstanding filmmakers have graduated from the DFFB over the past 55 years. DFFB graduates regularly participate in the most important international film festivals and receive awards. Most recently, for example, the DFFB graduation film "WHAT DO WE SEE WHEN WE LOOK AT THE SKY?" by Alexandre Koberidze premiered in competition at the Berlinale 2021. In addition, two DFFB alumnae, Melanie Waelde and Anna Sofie Hartmann, won the German Film Critics' Prize 2020, which was awarded in February 2021, with "GIRAFFE" and "NAKED ANIMALS".

Material

You can download the logo kit and selected images of the DFFB [here](#).

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