PRESS INFORMATION

DFFB at the Berlinale 2020

TWO FILMS BY GRADUATE DIRECTORS FEATURED IN THE SECTIONS GENERATION AND PERSPECTIVE GERMAN CINEMA; TWELVE PROJECTS BY DFFB ALUMNI FEATURED IN THE 70TH BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

BLUE EYES AND COLORFUL MY DRESS (c) Polina Gumiela/DFFB

Berlin, February 14, 2020. This year, the DFFB will once again be present at the 70th Berlin International Film Festival (February 20–March 1, 2020). The DFFB is contributing to an exciting festival with a documentary and a feature film created by women graduates in two sections as well as twelve projects featuring alumni.

“After four years of consolidation and hard work, it’s wonderful for the DFFB to have such a strong presence in the Berlinale” says DFFB Director Ben Gibson. “We have had exciting debuts in the last twelve months in Munich, Hof, and Saarbrücken plus three DFFB films opening for the German public in theatres. The Berlinale, our own city’s international celebration of film art, is especially important to us.“

DFFB Films at the Berlinale

The DFFB graduation film BLUE EYES AND COLORFUL MY DRESS by Polina Gumiela—a documentary following 3-year-old Zhan on her forays through her neighbourhood in Plovdiv/Bulgaria—will celebrate its world premiere in the Generation Kplus section. A FISH SWIMMING UPSIDE DOWN by Eliza Petkova—a graduation film about an unusual love triangle in which the participants expect more from each other than they can handle—screens in Perspektive
Deutsches Kino. These two films will also be presented during the EFM market on the 26th of February at the DFFB cinema.

BLUE EYES AND COLORFUL MY DRESS is nominated for the Crystal Bear for Best Film and the Grand Prix of the Generation 14plus International Jury for the Best Film, endowed with €7,500.

A FISH SWIMMING UPSIDE DOWN is nominated for the Compass-Perspektive-Award and the Heiner Carow Award from the DEFA Foundation, each worth €5,000.

Events During the Festival

The DFFB will also be present during various events throughout the Berlinale: The Filmnetzwerk Berlin is participating in the opening conference of the Critics’ Week on February 19th during the workshop “Film gegen Rechts” (Film against the Right). Serial Eyes, the postgraduate programme for the development of television series, will be present at the Berlinale Series Market in the Zoopalast at “Hot Contenders 2020: Discover the Next Generation.”

On the 26th of February, graduates will present a selection of daring projects, which will then be discussed with top-level industry players. That evening, the DFFB invites you to its annual reception on the 9th floor of the Filmhaus. NEXT WAVE, the DFFB’s new programme on the future of European film markets, focuses on the topic “Challenges of New Distribution” at EFM Horizon, where solutions for challenges in the areas of film festivals, VOD, and microdistribution will be developed.

DFFB students will also partake in the festival: currently in its 10th edition, “Couchsurfing the Berlinale” has invited 25 film students from around the world to Berlin, providing them with a sofa to sleep on and the opportunity to explore the festival together with DFFB students.

Additionally, four DFFB students and alumni belong to this year’s Collective of Berlinale Talents: cinematographer Constanze Schmitt, director Borbála Nagy, director Lukas Feigelfeld, and producer Clemens Köstlin.

DFFB Alumni

DFFB alumni will also be represented in large numbers at the Berlinale 2020. We are particularly pleased that Christian Petzold will be premiering his feature film UNDINE in competition. In the newly created Encounters programme, Melanie Waelde will present her debut film NAKED ANIMALS, produced by CZAR Film and based on the writer/director’s DFFB graduation screenplay. Furthermore, two films are celebrating their premieres in the Panorama section: ONE OF THESE DAYS by Bastian Günther, who worked on this project with Michael Kotschi (cinematographer), and Martin Heisler (producer), and DAYS OF CANNIBALISM by Teboho Edkins, which is based on his graduation screenplay. WAGENKNECHT by Sandra Kaudelka will be screened in Perspektive Deutsches Kino; VEINS OF THE WORLD, co-produced by Alumna Eva Kemme, in Generation. This section also presents KIDS RUN and WALCHENSEE FOREVER, co-produced by Martin Heisler. The Forum’s anniversary programme includes SOMETHING SELF-EXPLANATORY (15x) by Harun Farokci and Hartmut Bitomsky and A BONUS FOR IRENE by Helke Sander. Alumna Ana-Felicia Scutelnicu’s new project TRANSIT TIMES, co-produced by Weydemann Bros, is selected for the
Co-Production Market; the Berlinale Series Market will feature the series DARK CITY, for which alumni Emre Erkmen was cinematographer.

**Material**

Download images and press kits of the DFFB films, screening dates of all films, and the DFFB logo [here](https://www.dffb.de/service/presse/).

**Press contact**

If you would like further background information on the individual films and filmmakers and the events, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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