

Press Release

Barrier-free, Inspiring, Window on the World:

Programme Finalised for the 29th FILMFEST DRESDEN

- With more than 200 events, 28 special programmes, the Festival Open-Air and further highlights luring short film fans to Dresden, the State Capital of Saxony

- Advance tickets sales now starting at ...

Dresden, 07.03.2017 – This year's FILMFEST DRESDEN is ready to roll and is now presenting its programme for the 29th edition. From 4 to 9 April, the audiences and short film fans have more than 200 festival sections, panel discussions and numerous events about all aspects of short film waiting for them to enjoy. And for the first time ever this year, a selection of the film programmes and events are accessible barrier-free. Tickets to events are now available for purchase online or from the usual advance ticket agencies.

The centrepiece of this year's festival edition are the International and National Competitions: With 63 short films competing here for the "Golden Horsemen" awards and special prizes. In addition to the competition sections, the 29th FILMFEST DRESDEN has an extensive range of 28 further special programmes. These include the five age-specific short film programmes for young audiences with films from throughout the world. And parents with toddlers will be tempted by the select programme being screened in the new "Soother Movies" section. Yet again this year, short film entertainment is being provided outdoors in the Festival Open-Air event with international shorts being screened on Neumarkt square. Including a special programme for families this year over the festival weekend.

Barrier-free Cinema – Making a Start

For the first time ever this year, Filmfest Dresden is screening selected programmes barrier-free, permitting people with sight, hearing and walking disabilities access to the festival. Two competition programmes, as well as two thematic programmes

entitled "(Im-)Possible!", are being presented with subtitles for the hearing impaired and a German audio description. In addition, sign-language translators will be present at the events. At the related panel discussion, international experts will talk about the pros and cons of inclusive filmmaking. In order to provide support in arranging the inclusive events, FILMFEST DRESDEN has established a committee specifically for this purpose. For both this and next year, twelve cineastes from Dresden who themselves live with impairments are providing advice and consulting with the festival organisers on how to achieve a barrier-free festival.

Further information and the related programmes are available here: [LINK](#)

In cooperation with the Look & Roll Festival. With kind support of the Saxon Regional Management Body and the Dresden State Capital Social Welfare Office

Syrian Film – Past and Present

A further programme section this year is focusing on and exploring Syrian film. This consists of three film programmes, ranging from the beginnings of Syrian auteur cinema in the 1970s through to films from the latest generation of Syrian artists, which have been made since the outbreak of the civil war there. The screenings are being accompanied by a panel discussion entitled "Film in War – Life in Exile", as well as a masterclass with the renowned Syrian director Ossama Mohammed. With a large number of Syrian artists expected to attend the festival. Likewise, this year's Retrospective section has a Syrian theme. Under the title of "Fitting Work in Syria", two documentaries and weekly cinema newsreels reports from the GDR from 1955 to 1980 are being screened here, revealing for the first time the wide array of relations East Germany had with Syria.

Further information and the related programmes are available here [LINK](#)

With kind support of the German Federal Foreign Office, the Saxon State Chancellery and the Dresden State Capital Local Programme of Action.

Rounding off the film programmes is the *etc. – events.trainings.connections* section, with its exhibitions and rounds of discussions, such as the Forum Visegrád in Short(s), intended for all visitors to the festival. In addition, masterclasses open to the public as well as workshops for media professionals, headed by Michael Achtman,

Max Hattler and Denis Côté among others, will provide deep insights into the filmic oeuvres of these internationally renowned individual filmmakers.

Free download of festival programme flyer: [LINK](#)

Details of tickets and admission prices available at: [LINK](#)

Main Media Partner: Sächsische Zeitung

Partner: AOK Plus - Saxony and Thuringia

Main Partner: Saxon State Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Arts;
City of Dresden, Amt für Kultur und Denkmalschutz

About FILMFEST DRESDEN – International Short Film Festival:

FILMFEST DRESDEN (www.filmfest-dresden.de), which was founded in 1989, is counted among the most renowned and best endowed short film festivals in Europe. Each year over the six festival days in mid-April, it brings the latest short film productions from Germany, Europe and the world to the cinema screens in the capital of Saxony, and attracts about 25,000 visitors, including 550 accredited media professionals. Prize money totalling €66,000 is awarded in the National and International Competitions for animated and fiction films, together with four special prizes. These include the DEFA Promotion Prize Animation, the ARTE Short Fiction Film Prize, the "Golden Horseman" Sound Design, as well as the Saxon State Ministry for Science and the Fine Arts Promotion Prize, which is endowed with €20,000.

Each year, more than 2,000 short films from 100 countries are submitted for selection to the National and International Competition sections.

In addition to the competitions, the festival also has an extensive range of special programmes which focus on specific themes and countries, as well as retrospectives and film programmes for children and adolescents. Since 2012, the festival's "etc. - events.trainings.connections" section has also organised panel discussions, talks, workshops, exhibitions and receptions for media professionals attending the festival as an addition to the film programmes.

FILMFEST DRESDEN is listed as an official reference festival by Germany's main film funding body, the FFA. It is a member of AG Kurzfilm, the federal German short film association, the European Film Academy and the Filmverband Sachsen e.V., the film association in Saxony, as well as being involved in the Netzwerk Kultur Dresden local culture network, the WOD initiative for a cosmopolitan Dresden and the Kulturloge Dresden, which brings culture to low income individuals.

The 29th FILMFEST DRESDEN is being held from 4 to 9 April 2017.

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