

INTERNATIONALES FRAUEN FILM FEST DORTMUND+KÖLN

Internationales
Frauen Film Fest
Dortmund+Köln

c/o Kulturbüro
Stadt Dortmund
Küpferstraße 3
D – 44122 Dortmund

T +49(0)231 50 25 162
F +49(0)231 50 25 734
info@frauenfilmfest.com
www.frauenfilmfest.com

Filmhaus Köln
Maybachstraße 111
D – 50670 Köln

Dortmund, April 01st, 2023

Accomplices in Film

Internationales Frauen Film Fest Dortmund+Köln
celebrates its 40th anniversary from 18 to 23 April

IFFF Dortmund+Köln, Germany's largest and longest-running international women's film festival, is drawing on unlimited talent again in 2023. Taking place in Dortmund between 18 and 23 April, it will showcase around 130 films in seven sections, host a range of special events, award four film prizes and welcome around 60 special guests from around the world.

The international success of female film-makers will be a central theme again at the 40th edition of IFFF. The festival presents, discusses and celebrates the films of a new global generation of women directors. It also turns to the heritage of feminist cinema, drawing inspiration and gaining an understanding of present times from the radicalism and creativity of early films.

Our **Focus: Accomplices** section presents films from 1902 to 2023 that inspire feminist solidarity across cinema history – from film pioneers such as Léontine and Helke Sander. **Panorama** offers current documentaries and experimental films, while **desired! – filmlust and queer** shows films of all genres that deal with sexual identity and diversity. Eight top-class current films will be shown in the **International Feature Film Competition**.

A selection of films can also be seen at cinemas in Cologne and via the festival's online platform: www.frauenfilmfest.com

The power of self-determination: Eight inspiring films in the International Feature Film Competition

Stories about the emboldening, transformative possibilities of unexpected friendships; about self-determination and the power of personal freedom, about loss and the wisdom gained from it, about (re)discovering the meaning of life in an environment of solidarity and collective action – these are some of the themes shared by the eight outstanding films nominated for this year's International Feature Film Competition. The festival's centrepiece – worth €15,000 – showcases compelling films by award-winning directors.

Dortmund will host the award ceremony for best feature film by a woman director for the tenth time. Eight new international feature films from Brazil, Germany, France, Indonesia, Mexico, Palestine and Spain will compete for the winning prize. These include films by award-winning directors such as Angela Schanelec, Júlia Murat and many more.

The prize will be awarded by the **international jury** at the special award ceremony. This year's jury consists of producer and actor **Sara Fazilat**, actor, producer and co-founder of the MaLisa-Foundation **Maria Furtwängler** and director and author **Helke Sander**.

The nominated films are:

- **BEFORE NOW & THEN** by Kamila Andini, ID 2022, 103'
- **MEDITERRANEAN FEVER** by Maha Haj, PS / DE / FR / CY / QA 2022, 108'
- **MOTHER AND SON** by Léonore Serraille, FR 2022, 117', German première
- **MOTHERHOOD** by Pilar Palomero, ES 2022, 123'
- **MUSIC** by Angela Schanelec, DE / FR / GR / RS 2023, 108'
- **RULE 34** by Júlia Murat, BR / FR 2022, 100', German première
- **THE REALM OF GOD** by Claudia Sainte-Luce, MX 2022, 73'

Focus: Accomplices

For over 130 years, women have contributed to creating images for the cinema. Stories of self-empowerment lie at the heart of all important feminist movements. Cinema enables us as film-makers and audiences to show solidarity with people of yesteryear and perhaps even fall rapturously in love with them. In all decades – since the silent films of the 1910s – radical, anarchic heroines have inspired us, and we can connect with them as accomplices through time and across generations. Valuable clues into current feminist practices lurk in the archive. The Focus section will present many treasures from the silent era but also more recent films by Kurdwin Ayub, Sadie Benning, Angelina Maccarone, Jodie Mack, Yoko Ono, and many more. The programme also includes the world premiere of the documentary **HELKE SANDER: CLEANING HOUSE** about the legendary German feminist film-maker Helke Sander – directed by Claudia Richarz.

Invisible – Panorama

Absence too leaves traces: in the people who struggle to live with it or fight against it. How can something that takes place out of sight be portrayed? What images can convey something that seems intangible? A 3D camera for a change of perspective, archive material as a historical document, new sounds to represent the invisible radiation of uranium, or the reconstructed model of a place whose horrors you don't want to be reminded of, but must in order to change something. And while some voids and blanks are transformed, others show that we only become aware of them by looking hard enough. The programme will present films by Alex Gerbaulet, Steffi Niederzoll, Laura Poitras, Nataša Urban, amongst others.

Movements about searching – desired! - film lust & queer

The graffiti on walls in Brazilian streets are traces of a movement that have remained in a public space. They become symbols. How do we produce meaning together? What is meaningful right now, in the face of so much senselessness and violence? The films depict moments of searching. What questions can we ask now? What connections can we make? What stories can be told? The films invite us to ask questions together. In doing so, they remain in smaller contexts and closer proximity, rather than large sweeping narratives. Day-to-day life is brought into focus and is the starting point for further discussion. This programme includes films by LeAnn Erickson, Su Friedrich, Chase Joynt, Clara Stern, Cláudia Varejão, and many more.

IFFF Revisited

Film artist Cana Bilir-Meier has dedicated this programme to the artist belit sağ. The films by sağ undertake a form of media archaeology relating to the power of images. She asks a lot of questions in her short films: Can an image capture a soul? Can I monitor someone by recording his/her image? Is censorship something that impairs my use of speaking? Through these questions, sağ thinks about the ideas she produces through the impact of images, namely ones of conflict or violence. Images can be images of violence, but they can also become an extension of the same violence.

Spot on, NRW!

Spot on, NRW! brings the Dortmund film scene together and showcases newly discovered talent. The work of Dortmund University of Applied Sciences and Arts is shown alongside independent productions. The programme features current short films that will blow you away, enchant you and move you. Experimental and narrative, searching for something, documentary and sexy. The screening is presented by Freie Szene Film Dortmund, an emerging network.

Shoot! KHM & IFFF DORTMUND+KÖLN AWARD FOR FEMALE ARTISTS OF THE ACADEMY OF MEDIA ARTS COLOGNE

Introduced four years ago, this award acknowledges the artistic development of a female graduate of KHM. This year's award goes for the first time to an installation artist, **Hanna Noh**. The jury stated: "South Korean Hanna Noh won over the jury with the thematic depth and artistic diversity of her film and paper installations. Noh's works broach the taboo subject of the DMZ, the demilitarised zone between South and North Korea, making the subject accessible to the (art) world. The reconciling, harmonising force of this atmospheric video work testifies to a

particularly courageous approach to a subject that, despite its geopolitical significance, rarely gets any artistic articulation.”

Programme for Kids and Young Adults

We are delighted to be able to present children and young film fans in Dortmund and Cologne with a selection of films specially curated for young audiences. Feature films, documentaries and animated films from different parts of the world cater to all age groups. All screenings are accompanied by an experienced film mediator and in some cases followed by discussions with the film-makers.

Specials

The Specials are special events that are separate from the festival's daily film programme. And this year we are again hosting a range of formats, including a workshop on sustainable film-making, various series of large- and small-format feminist-themed talks, a group walk through the city and a film evening held at the Football Museum. Most importantly for us, after the last two years with the pandemic, we enable our festival visitors to interact as much as possible and in a variety of ways – with our guests, with local cultural professionals, with the city and, of course, with each other.

Still Home: Ukrainian Films from the Occupied Territories

Still Home is a series of Ukrainian films shown throughout NRW about the Russian-occupied Ukrainian territories of the Donbas, Kherson and Crimea. Still Home means: these areas are still home. The title signifies resistance – the films show how Ukrainians are coping with their daily lives and managing to keep their traditions alive in the face of adversity. Curated by Anna Melikova and Victoria Leshchenko. The festival will present the documentary PUSHING BOUNDARIES by Lesia Kordonets.

Round Table »Hurdlers: 50 years of feminist film work« With Helke Sander, Sara Fazilat, Maria Furtwängler

“If they take your sword, grab the cudgel” is an introductory text written by Helke Sander, which was published in the first issue of the magazine »Frauen und Film« in 1974. Europe's first feminist film magazine in Europe also inspired the launch of *femme totale*, the women's film festival in Dortmund, in 1987. We will read selected passages from the militant text to examine current positions and establish links between »Frauen und Film« and the impact of *Pro Quote Film* and the *MaLisa Foundation*. The »hurdlers« themselves describe the obstacles they had to overcome in feminist film work at that time and those they still have to overcome today. This year's jury members are record-breakers in the field of feminist film production: **Helke Sander, Maria Furtwängler and Sara Fazilat**. Three

INTERNATIONALES FRAUEN FILM FEST DORTMUND+KÖLN

generations of activists who campaign for equality in the film industry, talk about power redistribution, production conditions, political movements, female imagery, knowledge transfer and the passing on of the feminist legacy.

The complete festival programme can be found at www.frauenfilmfest.com

Press team

Stefanie Görtz, ++49 170 2037198,
Maxi Braun, ++49 178 5478784
Marlon Miketta
presse@frauenfilmfest.com

www.frauenfilmfest.com
www.facebook.com/IFFF.Dortmund.Koeln
www.instagram.com/frauenfilmfest

Promoters and sponsors

Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, City of Dortmund / Kulturbüro, City of Cologne, Film- und Medienstiftung NRW; Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth; Sparkasse Dortmund; Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media

Internationales Frauen Film Fest Dortmund+Köln

Organiser: IFFF Dortmund | Köln e.V.
c/o Kulturbüro Stadt Dortmund
Küpferstraße 3
D - 44122 Dortmund