

Film Festivals in Germany

(Updated January 2005)

Berlinale - Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin

www.berlinale.de

Director and Program Director International Competition: Dieter Kosslick
Program Director of Panorama section: Wieland Speck **Program Director of Forum section:** Christoph Terhechte

The Berlinale is the leading festival in Germany and, together with Cannes and Venice, the most important competitive festival in the world. Dieter Kosslick, its director since 2002, introduced a number of changes, ranging from a closer cooperation between the official program and the "Forum des Internationalen Jungen Films", developing a broader platform for German films, the creation of the "Berlinale Talent Campus", the "Berlinale Co-production Meeting" and the new "World Cinema Fund".

Dates: approx. 05 - 16 February

Call for Entries Deadline: Telefilm Canada receives applications for the Berlinale, please refer to Telefilm for deadlines

Cologne Conference - Fernseh- und Filmfest Köln

www.cologne-conference.de

Managing Director: Petra Maria Müller, **Program Director:** Dr. Martina Richter
One of the most prominent German forums for the presentation of international high-quality television productions. Its location in Cologne, home of numerous German TV stations, has helped this event to develop into an important meeting place for the industry, whose national and international representatives also frequent the accompanying seminars and Cologne screenings. Parallel to this event, the "Cologne Screenings", a television exhibition for program marketing and effective business communication, takes place, involving more than 1,300 participants.

Dates: approx. 20 - 25 June

Call for Entries Deadline: March

Exground Filmfest Wiesbaden

www.exground.com

Director: Andrea Wink **Program Directors:** Marion Klomfass, Andrea Wink
As one of Germany's key festivals for independent film, the Exground Filmfest is best known for its presentation of American and Asian productions. However, it also features independent films from other parts of the world, including a competition program of international short films. The festival receives a lot of attention with the cinematic press, and the majority of its audience is made up from the general public.

Dates: approx. 15 - 24 November

Call for Entries Deadline: August

Fantasy Filmfest

www.fantasyfilmfest.com

Directors: Schorsch Müller, Rainer Stefan **Program Directors:** Schorsch Müller, Frederike Dellert

Germany's most important fantasy film festival which tours six major German cities and has consequently attracted up to 100,000 viewers, and enjoys nationwide media coverage. As a festival for the general public, the organizers do not provide

accreditation for representatives from the industry, but the event nevertheless attracts a number of buyers and distributors. Media partnerships and a large amount of press attendance make for very good publicity.

Dates: approx. 24 July - 21 August

Call for Entries Deadline: May

Feminale

www.feminale.de

Directors: Jennifer Jones, Christine Moser, Verena Mund

The festival takes place every second year, alternating with Dortmund's Festival *Femme Totale*, and is the world's second largest women's film festival after Créteil. It enjoys an excellent reputation internationally, as reflected by the prominent guests in attendance and its strong program of films. The festival's focus on films by women results in a highly-concentrated target audience, made up from film, television and the press representatives, as well as cultural associations involved in feminist politics.

Dates: approx. 02 - 06 October

Call for Entries Deadline: please refer to the festival

Femme Totale - Internationales Filmfestival Dortmund

www.femmetotale.de

Director: Silke Johanna Rübiger **Program Directors:** Stefanie Görtz, Silke Johanna Rübiger, Betty Schiel, Helga Wittenborg

Alternating with the Cologne festival *Feminale*, this women's film festival is presented in Dortmund every other year. It showcases films in which women were chiefly responsible for the direction, scriptwriting, sound, camera or editing. Taking place under a different motto every time, the festival's concept allows for a wide variety of programs. Workshops, presentations and, notably, the market serve as persuasive incentives to national independent distributors and filmmakers, which sees them attending in force. It awards various prizes, among others the International Feature Film Competition (€ 25,000).

Dates: approx. 12 April - 17 April

Call for Entries Deadline: November

Filmfest Dresden - Internationales Festival für Animations- und Kurzfilm

www.filmfest-dresden.de

Director and Program Director: Robin Mallick

As former home to the DEFA Animated Film Studios, Dresden has a long tradition as a center for animated film, as reflected by the focus of the Filmfest Dresden. The festival, very popular among the general public, recently introduced its weighty € 50,000 prize.

Dates: approx. 16 - 21 April

Call for Entries Deadline: January

Filmfest Hamburg

www.filmfesthamburg.de

Director and Program Director: Albert Wiederspiel

Independent distributors and producers present highlights from their autumn program here to an audience made up of the general public as well as industry representatives. The festival includes, among others, an international competition

and an important selection of children's films. As a result of Hamburg's central position within Germany's press and media structures, the festival enjoys considerable publicity.

Dates: approx. 23 - 29 September

Call for Entries Deadline: July

Filmfest München

www.filmfest-muenchen.de

Director and Program Director: Andreas Ströhl

This is Germany's second largest film festival after the Berlinale. It provides a valuable insight into new German productions as well as ambitious international films, especially in the international competition category and the various national sections, such as the "American Independents" section. Its associated festival for student films is also of major importance. The Filmfest München receives wide coverage in the national press. A large portion of the German film industry (distributors, producers, promoters) is present; many different conferences, workshops and panel discussions with focus on film and TV take place.

Dates: approx. 29 - 06 July

Call for Entries Deadline: April

FilmKunstFest Schwerin

www.filmkunstfest-schwerin.de

Directors and Program Directors: Hassor Hartmann, Trevor Peters

This small Eastern-German festival presents international as well as German independent films, including documentaries, and a yearly focus on a particular country. Due to its media partnerships with the Norddeutscher Rundfunk television station, the festival receives strong regional press coverage. It awards several prizes and its program also includes concerts, exhibitions, performances, conferences and readings relating to film.

Dates: approx. 23 - 27 April

Call for Entries Deadline: April

Filmtage Tübingen - Französische Filmtage Tübingen/Stuttgart

www.filmtage-tuebingen.de

Directors and Program Directors: Dieter Betz, Stefanie Schneider (due to change in 2005)

This is the largest francophone film festival in Germany with a program that includes an increasingly well-attended selection of African films as well as specials on particular countries, including Canada. Retrospectives of major French filmmakers also form a component of the festival. This event attracts a lot of Francophiles, but is also attended by numerous buyers specializing in francophone films, an important segment of the German film market. The generously endowed prize for the distribution of francophone films, as well as other awards, accounts in part for the large present of film industry professionals.

Dates: approx. 22 - 30 October

Call for Entries Deadline: please refer to the festival

Interfilm

www.interfilmberlin.de

Director: Heinz Hermanns **Program Directors:** Matthias Groll, Heinz Hermanns, Alexander Stein

The Interfilm Festival is a festival of short films, largely geared to the general public. In addition to the main festival in November, Interfilm, which includes film distribution, presents short films in a screening series called "Short Attacks" around the year, and organizes the "Underground Film Festival" which shows short films in the Berlin subway, as well as the "Zebra Poetry Film Festival".

Dates: approx. 05 - 10 November

Call for Entries Deadline: June/July

Internationale Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen

www.kurzfilmtage.de

Director: Dr. Lars Henrik Gass **Program Directors:** Hilke Döring (International Competition), Carsten Spicher (National Competition)

Oberhausen is the oldest short film festival in the world and one of the most competitive, alongside the festivals of Tampere and Clermont-Ferrand, with numerous prizes awarded. Its short film market is the largest in Germany, with about 4,800 submissions every year. Accordingly, it attracts a great number of buyers, as well as other specialists within the field of short film, and profits from considerable international publicity. The competition program offers a first-rate overview of short film productions of all genre, including experimental and animation. Artistic films and music videos are another of the focus of the festival.

Dates: approx. 01 - 06 May

Call for Entries Deadline: January

Internationales Dokumentarfilmfestival München

www.dokfestival-muenchen.de

Director and Program Director: Hermann Barth

The Internationales Dokumentarfilmfestival München concentrates on political and social issues in artistic documentary films. Because of its excellent location in Munich, the festival offers a well-developed infrastructure. Media coverage is regional rather than international, but there is a good presence of industry representatives from the field of documentary cinema.

Dates: approx. 03 - 10 May

Call for Entries Deadline: January

Internationales Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg

www.mannheim-filmfestival.com

Director: Dr. Michael Kötz **Program Manager:** Daniela Kötz

This is one of the most important film festivals in Germany for international debut films as well as independent productions, and its continually expanding market attracts a large number of buyers and distributors. More and more German independent distributors are also getting involved. In addition, an international co-production meeting takes place every year. The festival has a large amount of publicity and a high industry response rate. Several prizes are awarded. It is especially recommended for producers and directors looking for financing and production partners for their projects.

Dates: approx. 07 - 16 November

Call for Entries Deadline: August

Internationales Filmfest Oldenburg

www.filmfest-oldenburg.de

Director and Program Director: Torsten Neumann

This festival is Germany's most significant festival for American independents and thus a good platform for American and Canadian film makers, serving as an entry into the German-speaking film market. Another focus lies on German independent films, but films from other parts of the world are also screened. The festival awards the German Independence Award, among others. The Screenplay Café provides opportunities for young script-writers to present themselves.

Dates: approx. 04 - 08 September

Call for Entries Deadline: June

Internationales Hamburger KurzFilmFestival

www.shortfilm.com

Director: Astrid Kühl **Program Director:** Jürgen Kittel

This well-known short film festival is organized by the KurzFilmAgentur, Germany's major short film distributor. The event attracts a large number of cinema programmers, distributors, and festival curators. The festival awards several prizes. In addition to workshops, the festival includes an international short film market.

Dates: approx. 08 - 15 June

Call for Entries Deadline: February

Internationale Hofer Filmtage

www.hofer-filmtage.de

Director and Program Director: Heinz Badewitz

Having played an important role in the festival scene from early on, the Hofer Filmtage is among the most highly acclaimed festivals in Germany, and looks back on a long tradition. The most important feature here is the focus on German film, with numerous premieres being selectively scheduled for Hof. Several prizes are awarded. The relaxed small town atmosphere makes for a lively and popular meeting place for the German film and television industry. One of its special events is the annual soccer game with prominent figures from the film business.

Dates: approx. 23 - 27 October

Call for Entries Deadline: September

Internationales Trickfilm-Festival Stuttgart

www.itfs.de

Managing Director: Gabriele Röthemeier **Program Director:** Ulrich Wegenast

This festival, which takes place every two years, is the second largest festival for animation film worldwide (after Annecy). Due in part to its cooperation with the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg (which has a long tradition in animation film), and the Medien- und Filmgesellschaft Baden-Württemberg (the provincial film board), the festival is visited by many key members of the international animation industry, including a large number of international buyers. Numerous highly prized awards are given, such as the Südwestrundfunk Audience Award (€ 12,000), the International Sponsorship Prize for Animated Film for the best graduation film (€ 12,500), among several others.

Dates: approx. 22 - 27 March

Call for Entries Deadline: December

Kasseler Dokumentarfilm- & Videofest

www.filmladen.de/dokfest

Directors: Wieland Höhne, Gerhard Wissner **Program Directors:** Wieland Höhne, Gerhard Wissner

This festival focuses on documentaries, short films and videos, and also showcases new media and visual art in the exhibition section "Monitoring". Its strength lies in its interdisciplinary, and strongly content-oriented programming. Its industry conference "interfiction", draws a professional audience from all areas of new media, film and visual arts. Several prizes are awarded, both for the film section and the media installation section "Monitoring".

Event Dates: approx. 12 - 17 November

Call for Entries Deadline: August

Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film

www.dokfestival-leipzig.de

Director and Program Director: Claas Danielsen

Before the end of the GDR, the Leipzig festival was one of its most important cultural events. It has developed into Germany's most important festival for documentary films, and its animation section is also of major importance. Several prizes are awarded.

Dates: approx. 3 - 9 October

Call for Entries Deadline: July

Lesbisch-Schwule Filmtage Hamburg

www.lsf-hamburg.de

Directors: Ronald Behm, Gesine Claus, Joachim Post **Program Director:** Joachim Post

This festival presents the work of gay and lesbian filmmakers and, despite its being a festival largely for the general public, it is meeting with increasing interest on the part of the press and industry. The festival includes workshops and panel discussions on gay and lesbian related issues, and awards several prizes.

Dates: approx. 15 - 20 October

Call for Entries Deadline: August

Regensburger Kurzfilmwoche

www.regensburger-kurzfilmwoche.de

Director: Sandi Meyerhofer **Program Directors:** Yolanda Hernandez-Esponda, Medard Kammermeier, Sandi Meyerhofer, Susi Seewald

Regensburg serves as an annual meeting place for representatives from national and international short film festivals. Despite the relatively small size of the festival, its strong affiliation with the Bayerischer Rundfunk television station (also involved in other capacities in the promotion of short films), the establishment of a film market, and the proximity to Munich draw a considerable number of buyers. The festival is also very popular among the general public. A number of prizes are awarded at the festival.

Dates: approx. 19 - 26 November

Call for Entries Deadline: please refer to the festival

SehSüchte - Internationales Studentenfilmfestival

www.sehsuechte.de

Directors: Stefan Tiedemann, Lars Verspohl **Program Directors:** Markus Eisele, Philipp Engelhardt, Valentina Grazi, Karoline Marschler, Alexandra Schmidt, Lars Verspohl

The festival was founded by the former GDR as a festival of the FDJ (Free German Youth) at the filmschool "Konrad Wolf". It has developed into Europe's most important competitive festival for student films, due in part to its affiliation with the renowned film school and its ties to the classic production location Babelsberg. Many buyers in search of young talents are present at this festival, which includes pitching workshops, podium discussions, production workshops and a screenplay lounge.

Dates: approx. 30 April - 05 May

Call for Entries Deadline: February/March

**Verzaubert - International Queer Film Festival,
Munich/Frankfurt/Cologne/Berlin**

www.verzaubertfilmfest.com

Program Directors: Frederike Dellert, Rudi Fürstberger

This festival focuses on mainstream gay and lesbian films and receives broad media coverage. It is presented by the organizers of the *Fantasy Filmfest* and functions according to a similar touring concept. The festival takes place in four of the biggest towns in Germany (Munich, Cologne, Frankfurt, Berlin) and is in fact a national event. It offers no accreditation service, the festival's objective primarily being to attract the general public. This being said, it does also attract the attention of a number of buyers and specialists in the gay and lesbian film scene. Several prizes are awarded.

Dates: approx. 17 November - 12 December

Call for Entries Deadline: October