BERLIN ANNOUNCES GENERATION 2017: PERIL AND PROMISE â?? WALKING FINE LINES AND LIFE ON THE ROAD

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

Selection Process for Feature Film Programme at Halfway Mark

In the two competitions *Kplus* and *14plus*, 15 feature films have already been selected for the 40th edition of *Generation*. Exhibiting an impressive range of cinematic approaches, these productions tell the stories of young people on inner and outer journeys and capture a sense of longing for new and altered horizons. The complete programme for *Generation* will be made public in mid-January.

Opening Film *14plus*

Michael Winterbottom is slated to open the programme of *Generation 14plus* in the newly renovated Haus der Kulturen der Welt with a special screening of his vibrant music documentary *On the Road*. Shot in the characteristic hybrid style that has become the English directorâ??s trademark, his newest outing follows the members of the band Wolf Alice on tour as they travel back and forth across their native Great Britain, where they have caused quite a stir in recent years. The film intimately portrays life on the road, in all its ecstasy and exhaustion. The connection between the musicians and their fans is palpable and there is a fine interplay between watching and listening amongst concert and film audiences

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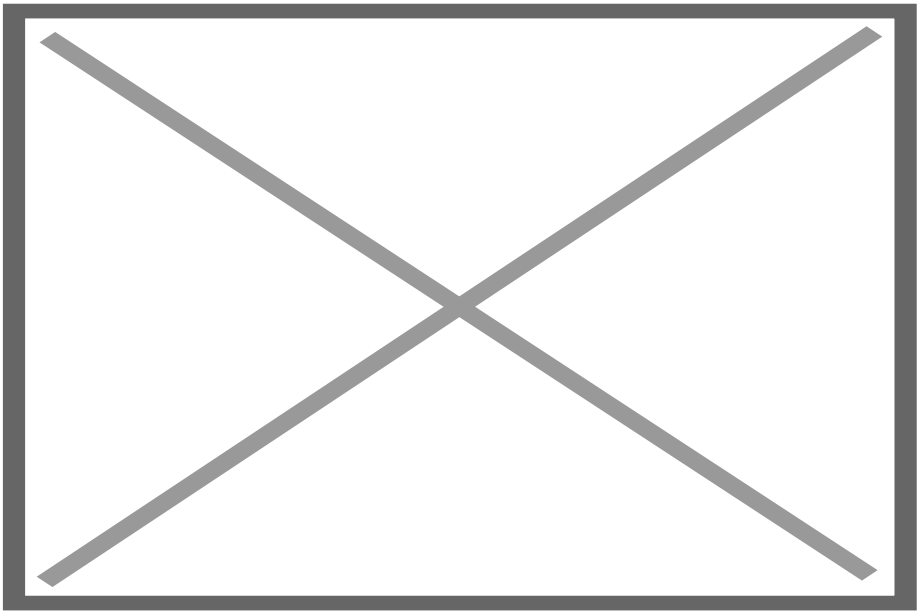

David Darcy Â© Good Dog Enterprises
Red Dog: True Blue by Kriv Stenders

Generation 14plus

Almost Heaven
United Kingdom
By Carol Salter
World premiere
Far from home, 17-year-old Ying Ling practices for her examination to become a mortician at one of Chinaâ??s largest funeral homes. In addition to frequent qualms and farewell ceremonies, the everyday routine of this unusual occupation also serves up both humorous and life affirming moments. Carol Salterâ??s debut outing is an empathetic documentary portrait touching on fears, friendship and coming of age amidst ghosts and the dearly departed.

Butterfly Kisses
United Kingdom
By Rafael Kapelinski
World premiere
Jake and his friends pass their time hanging out in the courtyards of their high-rise development or in pool halls, talking about girls, watching pornos and getting drunk. Jake is burdened by a dark secret that distances him more and more from the others and drives him into dangerous isolation. Rafael Kapelinski stages his debut film in contrasting black and white, moving in respectful proximity to his characters, brought to life vividly here by an ensemble cast of new discoveries and young talents (including Thomas Turgoose â?? *This Is England*, *Generation* 2007).

***Ceux qui font les rÃ©volutions Ã moitiÃ© nâ??ont fait que se creuser un tombeau* (*Those Who Make Revolution Halfway Only Dig Their Own Graves*)**
Canada

By Mathieu Denis, Simon Lavoie
European premiere
With epic scope and stunning polymorphism, the film follows a group of young people in QuÃ©bec who resolve to form a revolutionary cell together in the aftermath of student protests. This unflinching work from Mathieu Denis (*Corbo*, *Generation* 2015) and Simon Lavoie employs its protagonists to play through what it might mean to instigate a revolution and devote oneâ??s life to a cause in todayâ??s world.

Emo the Musical
Australia
By Neil Triffett
International premiere
The forbidden high school love between Ethan, the shy Emo kid with suicidal tendencies, and chipper Christian activist Trinity previously delighted *Generation* audiences as a short film in 2014. Director Neil Triffett is back with his heartbreakingly funny musical grotesque, now in feature-film length, and chock full of even more colourful characters to light up the big screen.

***Mulher do pai* (*A Woman and the Father*)**
Brazil / Uruguay
By Cristiane Oliveira
International premiere
After the death of her grandmother, 16-year-old Nalu is left to care for her father alone. Any hope of leaving her dismal village now seems to have receded far off into the distance. Cristiane Oliveiraâ??s coming-of-age drama, a work of slowly paced cinema characterised by respectful intimacy and subtle physicality, paints the complex portrait of a relationship between an adolescent daughter and her blind father.

My Entire High School Sinking into the Sea
USA
By Dash Shaw
European premiere
Heâ??s not exactly popular, heâ??s got friend problems, he wants to make it big with the school paper and he goes by the name of his inventor, Dash. In the school basement, he discovers a secret that rocks the very foundations of his world. Graphic novelist Shaw hopes that his film will reach 15-year-old nerds who are just as crazy about drawings and paintings as he himself was at their age. This work of animation virtually spilling over with ingenuity (and featuring the voice-over talents of Jason Schwartzman, Maya Rudolph, Lena Dunham and Susan Sarandon) is sure to delight young viewers outside of this particular demographic as well.

***Krolewicz Olch* (*The Erlprince*)**
Poland
By Kuba Czekaj
European premiere
The action in *The Erlprince* builds and surges as dramatically as the ballad by Goethe from which it borrows its title. The boundaries between reality, desire and appearance are blurred in this futuristically tinged film about an extraordinarily gifted young man and his ambitious and wondrous mother. Expressed in a form as unconventional as the characters it portrays, the film oscillates between the

poles of both science and nature and love and violence.

Weirdos
Canada
By Bruce McDonald
European premiere
Just after the end of the Vietnam War and in the midst of the American bicentennial celebrations of 1976, runaway Kit and his girlfriend Alice hitchhike their way along the east coast of Canada. Bruce McDonald (*The Tracey Fragments*, *Panorama* 2007) has managed to create a coming-of-age film that shines equally as a road movie, one driven by a fantastic soundtrack composed of deep cuts from the era in question. A rebellious trip in black and white, in which all sense of certainty gets left by the wayside.

Generation Kplus

***As duas Irenes* (*Two Irenes*)**
Brazil
By Fabio Meira
World premiere
In the shimmering heat of Brazil, 13-year-old Irene discovers a dark secret her fatherâ??s been hiding: he has another family and even another daughter with the same name. Irene embarks on a risky game that could blow up in her face at any moment. The languid summer atmosphere of Fabio Meiraâ??s feature film debut canâ??t hide the fact that something is simmering right under the surface.

***Die HÃ¤schenschule â?? Jagd nach dem Goldenen Ei* (*Rabbit School â?? Guardians of the Golden Egg*)**
Germany
By Ute von MÃ¼nchow-Pohl
World premiere
Scrappy city rabbit Max finds shelter in a hidden Easter bunny school after a misadventure with a model plane leaves him stranded far beyond the city limits. Here he encounters the keepers of the legendary Golden Egg, itself the coveted prize of scheming foxes. After an initial bout with boredom, the secret techniques of the Easter bunnies finally arouse Maxâ??s curiosity. This lovingly drawn German animation film, based on the 1924 classic, is a pure delight buoyed by imagination and brisk pacing and graced with the voices of Senta Berger, Friedrich von Thun, Jule BÃ¶we and Noah Levi.

***Primero enero* (*January*)**
Argentina
By DarÃo Mascambroni
European premiere
Primero enero is the directorial debut of Argentinian filmmaker DarÃo Mascambroni. 11-year-old Valentinoâ??s life goes off the rails when his parents get divorced, challenging him to see the world from a different angle. In a tender and moving father-son story, the director takes his protagonists and his viewers out to the countryside, into a world of heightened sensitivity.

Red Dog: True Blue
Australia

By Kriv Stenders
European premiere
Australian director Stenders delighted *Generation* audiences in 2011 with a legendary story about a very special dog. Now, at the centre of this sequel â?? which is also a prequel- the red canine is joined by 11-year-old Mick, who treasures his bond with his four-legged friend above all else. Destiny has brought the duo together on a farm in the Australian outback, where the two partake in mystical adventures and Mick encounters his first true love. With great humour and sensitivity, the film is a tale of growing up in a time of transformation.

Richard the Stork
Germany / Belgium / Luxemburg / Norway
By Toby Genkel, Reza Memari
World premiere
Even though everybody else thinks heâ??s a sparrow â?? Richard himself holds tight to the conviction that he is in fact a stork. In this fast-paced adventure, Toby Genkel and Reza Memari tell the story of a bird who sets off self-confidently on a winter trip to Africa in a literal rite of passage that simultaneously serves as an empathetic tale about otherness and self-discovery. This German-international co-production provides spellbinding entertainment with its fantastic and fanciful fable showcasing top-shelf animation.

Tesoros
Mexico
By MarÃa Novaro
World premiere
Siblings Dylan and Andrea set off with their new friends on a marvellous journey of discovery in search of long lost pirate loot. In refreshingly sunny images, MarÃa Novaro gets up close to her characters to tell a story of children confidently indulging their lust for life and curiosity. In a commune on Mexicoâ??s Pacific coast, they are given space to go their own ways and together find something much more valuable than buried treasure.

***Shi Tou* (*Stonehead*)**
Peopleâ??s Republic of China
By Xiang Zhao
World premiere
10-year-old Shi Tou, the son of a migrant labourer, grows up alone with his grandmother. Itâ??s so hard to tell right from wrong! Sharing a reward with a classmate or waiting until his father returns, obeying his teacher of protecting his friend â?? which one should he choose? With documental authenticity, Xiang Zhao paints a portrait of life in rural China and a society in which an entire generation has too often been left to grow up in the absence of their parents.



(Source: Berlinale Press Office)

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2. Berlin Film Festival

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