



## Berlin Panorama 2017 Program Complete

### Description

Posted by [Larry Gleeson](#)

## **Powerful European Auteur Cinema / Three Surprising Indie Gems from China and Hong Kong / Brazil Well-Represented with Five Films**

With the invitation of 24 further feature films, the selection for the *Panorama* 2017 program has been completed. 51 works from 43 countries have been chosen for screening in the section, including 21 in *Panorama Dokumente* and 29 feature films in the main program and *Panorama Special*. 36 of these films will be celebrating their world premieres at the Berlinale, while the program also features six international and nine European premieres



*Vaya* by Akin Omotoso

The German production *Tiger Girl* by Jakob Lass will open this year's edition of *Panorama Special* at Berlin's Zoo Palast cinema, along with the previously announced Brazilian production *Vazante*.

In *Tiger Girl*'s fast-paced narrative, a strong friendship develops between two women, one in which conventional value systems begin to unravel, in what amounts to a veritable moral portrait of the underbelly of today's German republic. Daniela Thomas' *Vazante* represents for its part the programme focus 'Black Worlds', which is also reinforced by the freshly confirmed inclusion of the South African production *Vaya* by Akin Omotoso, which offers an immersion in the urbanity of Johannesburg.

The fourth film from Brazil is *Como Nossos Pais (Just Like Our Parents)* by Laís Bodanzky, who depicts the everyday lives of three generations in Sao Paulo as a pyrotechnic display of individual passions and existential delusions staged with a sublime naturalness. The short animated film *Vênus é Filly a fadinha lésbica (Venus é Filly the Lesbian Little Fairy)* by Sílvia Leite rounds off Brazil's strong presence at this year's edition of *Panorama*.

With *Discreet*, US indie director Travis Mathews, a chronographer of a gay Western modernity, is showing his second film in *Panorama*. An eerie soundscape floats atop his often elliptically edited story, which revolves around a man approaching middle age who gets caught up in the darker depths of his past.

The original style of Moroccan filmmaker Hicham Lasri was already apparent at *Panorama 2015* in *The Sea is Behind* and on display again last year in *Starve Your Dog*. Now he returns for the third time with *Headbang Lullaby*, a visually stunning psychedelic fairy tale swimming in vibrant color and full of absurd situations, which also takes a long socially critical look at the history of Lasri's native Morocco.

Naoko Ogigami already enchanted audiences in Berlin with *Megane* in 2008 and *Rentaneko* in 2012. In her most recent film *Karera ga Honki de Amu toki wa (Close-Knit)*, the Japanese director employs contemplative, focused imagery to honor a potential matter-of-factness for non-normative sexuality and the value of families that are defined by love and care and not by conventions.



*Bing Lang Xue (The Taste of Betel Nut) von Hu Jia*

Three modern arthouse films from China and Hong Kong shed some fresh light on the complex upheavals afoot throughout the vast country. Establishing alternatives for one's self within authoritarian systems is a great step towards individual freedom: In *Bing Lang Xue (The Taste of Betel Nut)*, we experience the whirlwind of young love on a resort island, while in *Ghost in the Mountains* and *Ciao Ciao*, a French co-production, we bask in the breath-taking landscapes of the Chinese highlands through the power of adept cinematography.

In his New Zealand film *One Thousand Ropes*, Samoan director Tusi Tamasese creates mythic images full of tension and concentration to relate the story of Maea, the baker and male midwife with the healing hands, whose personal demons play an integral role in his everyday life.

Today whole hordes of young cosmopolitans are drawn to Berlin by the promise of happiness that the city has come to represent – three films that pay tribute to this vision in extremely different manners are gathered at *Panorama*: the psycho thriller *Berlin Syndrome* by Australian director Cate Shortland, featuring Teresa Palmer, Max Riemelt and Matthias Habich; the feminist fairy tale *The Misandrists* by Berlinale regular Bruce LaBruce; and the para-pornographic work of underground science fiction *Fluid*, by Taiwanese-American artist Shu Lea Cheang.

## Europe

Thirteen more films have been confirmed for the final selection from Europe alone. These include works like the Spanish debut feature *Pieles (Skins)* by Eduardo Casanova, *Rekvijem za gospodju J. (Requiem for Mrs. J.)* by Serbia's Bojan Vuletić, Ferenc Tásár's *1945* from Hungary and *God's Own Country*, Francis Lee's feature-film debut from United Kingdom. Teona Mitevska returns with a bitter depiction of Macedonian adolescents trying to get their bearings in *When the Day Had no Name*. Also returning to *Panorama* are Norwegians Ole Giæver, with the emancipatory and philosophical self-examination *Fra balkongen (From the Balcony)*, and Erik Poppe with *Kongens Nei (The King's Choice)*, which deals with the Norwegian king's resistance to the German armed forces in World War II.

The Belgian-French-Lebanese co-production *Insyriated* by Philippe Van Leeuw is an intense chamber drama featuring Hiam Abbass as a woman trapped in the family's apartment while a war rages on outside. *KaygÄ± (Inflame)* by Ceylan ÅzgÄ¼n ÅzÅşelik tells the story of the incremental roll-out of wide-spread censorship of the press in Turkey and its effect on the work of a young female journalist. And finally there is Georgian director Rezo Gigineishvili's *Hostages*, in which a longing for freedom and independence escalates into a readiness to use violence for young Soviet citizens during an airplane hijacking set in 1983.

For the fifth time, the Heiner Carow Prize will be awarded to a documentary, fiction feature or essay film in *Panorama* in co-operation with the DEFA Foundation for the Promotion of German Film Culture. Following the presentation of the award on February 16 in Kino International, the Heiner Carow film *Bis dass der Tod euch scheidet* (*Until Death Do Us Part*, GDR 1979) will be shown.

With Péter Rudolf, Bence Tasnádi, Tamás Szabó Kimmel, Dóra Sztarenki, Eszter Nagy-Kálmány  
European premiere

With Teresa Palmer, Max Riemelt  
European premiere

With Zhao Bing Rui, Yue Ye, Shen Shi Yu  
World premiere

With Armie Hammer, Timoth e Chalamet, Michael Stuhlbarg, Amira Casar, Esther Garrel, Victoire Du Bois  
European premiere

With Liang Xueqin, Zhang Yu

World premiere

***Como Nossos Pais (Just Like Our Parents)*** ??? Brazil

By LaÃs Bodanzky

With Maria Ribeiro, Clarisse Abujamra, Paulo Vilhena, Felipe Rocha, Jorge Mautner, Herson Capri, Sophia Valverde, Annalara Prates

World premiere

***Discreet*** ??? USA

By Travis Mathews

With Jonny Mars, Atsuko Okatsuko, Joy Cunningham, Bob Swaffar

World premiere

***FluidÃ***, ??? Germany

By Shu Lea Cheang

World premiere

***Fra balkongen (From the Balcony)*** ??? Norway

By Ole Gjaever

World premiere

***Ghost in the Mountains*** ??? People's Republic of China

By Yang Heng

With Tang Shenggang, Liang Yu, Shang Meitong, Xiang Peng, Zhang Yun

World premiere

***God's Own Country*** ??? United Kingdom

By Francis Lee

With Josh O'Connor, Alec Secăreanu, Gemma Jones, Ian Hart

European premiere

***Headbang Lullaby*** ??? Morocco / France / Qatar / Lebanon

By Hicham Lasri

With Aziz Hattab, Latefa Ahrrare, Zoubir Abou el Fadl, El Jirari Benaissa, Salma Eddlimi, Adil Abatorab

World premiere

***Hostages*** ??? Russian Federation / Georgia / Poland

By Rezo Gigineishvili

With Merab Ninidze, Darejan Kharshiladze, Tina Dalakishvili, Irakli Kvirikadze

World premiere

***Insyriated*** ??? Belgium / France / Lebanon

By Philippe Van Leeuw

With Hiam Abbass, Diamand Abou Abboud, Juliette Navis, Mohsen Abbas, Moustapha Al Kar

World premiere

***Karera ga Honki de Amu toki wa (Close-Knit)*** ??? Japan

By Naoko Ogigami

With Toma Ikuta, Rinka Kakihara, Kenta Kiritani  
World premiere

**KaygÄ± (Inflame)** â?? Turkey  
By Ceylan Å?zgÄ¼n Å?zÅšelik  
With AlgÄ± Eke, Å?zgÄ¼r Å?evik  
World premiereâ?? Debut film

**Kongens Nei (The Kingâ??s Choice)** â?? Norway / Sweden / Denmark / Ireland  
By Erik Poppe  
With Jesper Christensen, Anders Baasmo Christiansen, Karl Markovics, Tuva Novotny, Katharina SchÃ¼ttler, Juliane KÃ¶hler  
European premiere

**The Misandrists** â?? Germany  
By Bruce LaBruce  
With Susanne Sachsse, Kembra Pfahler  
World premiere

**One Thousand Ropes** â?? New Zealand  
By Tusi Tamasese  
With Ueese Petaia, Frankie Adams, VÃ¼le Sima Urale, Ene Petaia, Beulah Koale, Anapela Polataivao  
World premiere

**Pieles (Skins)** â?? Spain  
By Eduardo Casanova  
with Ana Polvorosa, Candela PeÃ±a, Carmen Machi, Macarena GÃ³mez, Secun de la Rosa, Jon Kortajarena, Antonio Duran â??Morrisâ?•, Eloi Costa  
World premiere â?? Debut film

**Rekvijem za gospodju J. (Requiem for Mrs. J.)** â?? Serbia / Bulgaria / Macedonia / Russian Federation / France  
By Bojan VuletiÄ?  
With Mirjana KaranoviÄ?, Jovana GavriloviÄ?, Danica NedeljkoviÄ?, VuÄ•iÄ? PeroviÄ?  
World premiere

**Tiger Girl** â?? Germany  
By Jakob Lass  
With Ella Rumpf, Maria Dragus  
World premiere

**Vaya** â?? South Africa  
By Akin Omotoso  
With Mncedisi Shabangu, Zimkhitha Nyoka, Nomonde Mbusi, Sihle Xaba, Warren Masemola, Zimkhitha Nyoka, Nomonde Mbusi, Azwile Chamane  
European premiere

### ***When the Day Had no Name*** ??? Macedonia / Belgium / Slovenia

By Teona Mitevska

With Leon Ristov, Hanis Bagashov, Dragan Mishevski, Stefan Kitanovic, Igorco Postolov, Ivan Vrtev Soptrajanov

World premiere

### **Supporting Film**

### ***Vãanus*** ??? ***Filã³ a fadinha IÃ©sbica (Venus*** ??? ***Filly the Lesbian Little Fairy*** ??? Brazil

By SÃ¡vio Leite

### **Already Announced Titles**

***Centaur*** ??? Kyrgyzstan / France / Germany / The Netherlands, by Aktan Arym Kubat

***Honeygiver Among the Dogs*** ??? Bhutan, by Dechen Roder

***Pendular*** ??? Brazil / Argentina / France, by Julia Murat

***The Wound*** ??? South Africa / Germany / The Netherlands / France, by John Trengove

***Vazante*** ??? Brazil / Portugal, by Daniela Thomas



(Source: Berlinale Press Office)

### **Category**

1. #Berlinale
2. #BIFF
3. Berlin Film Festival
4. Venice International Film Festival

### **Tags**

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