HOLLYWOODGLEE, LLC
1226 N Salsipuedes Unit C 1(805)704-5994 |https://hollywoodglee.com Larry@HollywoodGlee.com

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 yearâ??s edition of *Panorama Special* at Berlinâ??s Zoo Palast cinema, along with the previously announced Brazilian production *Vazante*.

In *Tiger Girl*â??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 todayâ??s German republic. Daniela Thomasâ?? *Vazante* represents for its part the programme focus â??Black Worldsâ?•, 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 LaÃs 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 *VÃªnus â?? FilÃ³ a fadinha lÃ©sbica* (*Venus â?? Filly the Lesbian Little Fairy*) by SÃ¡vio Leite rounds off Brazilâ??s strong presence at this yearâ??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 Lasriâ??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 oneâ??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 â?? 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 *FluidÃ¸*, 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 Serbiaâ??s Bojan VuletiÄ?, Ferenc TÃ¶rÃ¶kâ??s *1945* from Hungary and *Godâ??s Own Country*, Francis Leeâ??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 GiÃ¦ver, with the emancipatory and philosophical self-examination *Fra balkongen* (*From the Balcony*), and Erik Poppe with *Kongens Nei* (*The Kingâ??s Choice*), which deals with the Norwegian kingâ??s resistance to the German armed forces in World War II.

Luca Guadagnino will show his French-Italian account of summer love, *Call Me by Your Name*, featuring Armie Hammer, TimothÃ©e Chalamet, Michael Stuhlbarg and Amira Casar, a screen adaptation of AndrÃ© Acimanâ??s novel of the same name, co-written with James Ivory.

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 familyâ??s apartment while a war rages on outside. *KaygÄ±* (*Inflame*) by Ceylan Ã?zgÃ¼n Ã?zÃ§elik 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 Gigineishviliâ??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.

The *Panorama* Audience Awards for Best Feature Film and Best Documentary will be presented for the 19th time together with radioeins and for the first time in co-operation with rbb television. In 2016, over 30,000 audience members cast their votes. On the Berlinale Publikumstag, February 19, the winning films will be presented in CinemaxX7 following the awards ceremony.

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.

Panorama main programme and *Panorama Special*

1945 â?? Hungary
By Ferenc TÃ¶rÃ¶k
With PÃ©ter Rudolf, Bence TasnÃ¡di, TamÃ¡s SzabÃ³ Kimmel, DÃ³ra Sztarenki, Eszter Nagy-KÃ¡lÃ³zy
European premiere

Berlin Syndrome â?? Australia
By Cate Shortland
With Teresa Palmer, Max Riemelt
European premiere

***Bing Lang Xue* (*The Taste of Betel Nut*)** â?? Hong Kong, China
By Hu Jia
With Zhao Bing Rui, Yue Ye, Shen Shi Yu
World premiere

Call Me by Your Name â?? Italy / France
By Luca Guadagnino
With Armie Hammer, TimothÃ©e Chalamet, Michael Stuhlbarg, Amira Casar, Esther Garrel, Victoire Du Bois
European premiere

Ciao Ciao â?? France / Peopleâ??s Republic of China
By Song Chuan
With Liang Xueqin, Zhang Yu

World premiere

***Como Nossos Pais* (*Just Like Our Parents*)** â?? Brazil
By LaÃs Bodanzky
With Maria Ribeiro, Clarisse Abujamra, Paulo Vilhena, Felipe Rocha, Jorge Mautner, Herson Capri, Sophia Valverde, Annalara Prates
World premiere

Discreet â?? USA
By Travis Mathews
With Jonny Mars, Atsuko Okatsuko, Joy Cunningham, Bob Swaffar
World premiere

FluidÃ¸ â?? Germany
By Shu Lea Cheang
World premiere

***Fra balkongen* (*From the Balcony*)** â?? Norway
By Ole Giaever
World premiere

Ghost in the Mountains â?? Peopleâ??s Republic of China
By Yang Heng
With Tang Shenggang, Liang Yu, Shang Meitong, Xiang Peng, Zhang Yun
World premiere

Godâ??s Own Country â?? United Kingdom
By Francis Lee
With Josh Oâ??Connor, Alec SecÄ?reanu, Gemma Jones, Ian Hart
European premiere

Headbang Lullaby â?? 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 â?? Russian Federation / Georgia / Poland
By Rezo Gigineishvili
With Merab Ninidze, Darejan Kharshiladze, Tina Dalakishvili, Irakli Kvirikadze
World premiere

Insyriated â?? 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*)** â?? Japan
By Naoko Ogigami

With Toma Ikuta, Rinka Kakihara, Kenta Kiritani
World premiere

***KaygÄ±* (*Inflame*)** â?? Turkey
By Ceylan Ã?zgÃ¼n Ã?zÃ§elik
With AlgÄ± Eke, Ã?zgÃ¼r Ã?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 Uelese Petaia, Frankie Adams, VÃ¦le 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 â?? 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 â?? FilÃ³ a fadinha lÃ©sbica* (*Venus â?? Filly the Lesbian Little Fairy*)** â?? Brazil
By SÃ¡vio Leite

Already Announced Titles

Centaur â?? Kyrgyzstan / France / Germany / The Netherlands, by Aktan Arym Kubat
Honeygiver Among the Dogs â?? Bhutan, by Dechen Roder
Pendular â?? Brazil / Argentinia / France, by Julia Murat
The Wound â?? South Africa / Germany / The Netherlands / France, by John Trengove
Vazante â?? Brazil / Portugal, by Daniela Thomas

(Source: Berlinale Press Office)

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hollywoodglee