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Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin

The Berlinale Festival profile

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

Berlin: an exciting, cosmopolitan cultural hub that never ceases to attract artists from around the world. A diverse cultural scene, a critical public and an audience of film-lovers characterize the city. In the middle of it all, the Berlinale: a great cultural event and one of the most important dates for the international film industry. More than 335,000 sold tickets, more than 20,000 professional visitors from 122 countries, including more than 3,800 journalists: art, glamour, parties and business are all inseparably linked at the Berlinale.



The entire world of film

The public program of the Berlin International Film Festival shows about 400 films per year, mostly international or European premieres. Films of every genre, length and format find their place in the various sections: great international cinema in the *Competition*, independent and art house in *Panorama*, films for young audiences in *Generation*, new discoveries and promising talents from the German film scene in *Perspektive Deutsches Kino*, avant garde, experimental and unfamiliar cinematography in the *Forum* and *Forum Expanded*, and an exploration of cinematic possibilities in *Berlinale Shorts*. The *Berlinale Special*, including *Berlinale Special Gala*, is showing new and extraordinary productions and honours great cinema personalities. *Berlinale Special Series*, which began in 2015, presents selected international series. The program is rounded out by a *Retrospective* as well as an *Homage*, which focuses on the Å?uvre of a great personality of cinema, curated by the Deutsche Kinemathek â?? Museum fÃ¼r Film und Fernsehen. Beginning in 2013, the *Retrospective* expanded to include presentations of *Berlinale Classics*. They show current restorations of film classics as well as rediscovered films.

Furthermore the Berlinale has regularly organized a program of special presentations that open up new perspectives, provide insight into key themes, make new connections and explore realms where film intersects with other creative disciplines. Food, pleasure and the environment â?? these are the topics that lie at the centre of the *Culinary Cinema*. *Berlinale Goes Kiez* is traveling from arthouse cinema to arthouse cinema within the city to present selected films from the Berlinale program and *NATIVe â?? A Journey into Indigenous Cinema* is devoted to the cinematic story-telling of Indigenous peoples worldwide.



The *European Film Market* in the Martin-Gropius-Bau

The film industry at the Berlinale

The Berlin International Film Festival is a source of inspiration in the global film community: film programs, workshops, panel discussions, joint projects with other social and cultural actors â?? the forms of cooperation and the possibilities for creative interaction are countless.

The most important meeting point is the *European Film Market* (*EFM*). Around 550 companies and more than 9,000 professionals from 110 countries build and foster contacts here, strengthen their position in the industry or negotiate film rights.

The *Berlinale Co-Production Market*, affiliated to the *EFM*, offers fertile ground for international co-productions.

Berlinale Talents brings high profile professionals attending the Berlinale to workshops and discussions with 250 promising young film talents from all over the world. Both sides benefit. The talents profit from the experience of the professionals, who in turn gain fresh ideas from taking part.

The *World Cinema Fund* (*WCF*) provides financial support to film projects in countries with weak film infrastructure thereby helping strengthen the regionsâ?? position on the international film market.

The *Berlinale Residency* program offers international directors a grant to come to Berlin for several months. Working in close contact with individually selected mentors and market experts, the directors can take a decisive step toward placing their next film project on the way to a successful theatrical release.

The close connection between the festival and market is a unique characteristic of the Berlinale and always results in exceptional synergies.



(Source: Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin)

Category

1. #Berlinale
2. #BIFF
3. Berlin Film Festival

Tags

1. Art
2. Berlin International Film Festival
3. Berlinale Classics
4. Berlinale Co-Production Market
5. Berlinale Residency program
6. Cinema
7. Competition
8. Conversation
9. creativity
10. European Film Market
11. Film
12. Film Festival

13. Filmmaking
14. Generation
15. inspiration
16. Larry Gleeson
17. marketing
18. Media
19. News
20. Panorama
21. Perspektive Deutsches Kino
22. platform
23. Programming

Date Created
January 11, 2017
Author
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