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Berlinale 2017: International Jury

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

Once again an illustrious International Jury will decide who will receive the Golden and Silver Bears at the Berlinale 2017. Eighteen films are vying in this yearâ??s *Competition* for the Golden and the Silver Bears. The winners will be announced at the Berlinale Palast on February 18.

Director and screenwriter Paul Verhoeven will serve as Jury President. The other members of the International Jury are producer Dora Bouchoucha Fourati (Tunisia), artist Olafur Eliasson (Denmark), actress Maggie Gyllenhaal (USA), actress Julia Jentsch (Germany), actor and director Diego Luna (Mexico), and director and screenwriter Wang Quanâ??an (Peopleâ??s Republic of China).

Paul Verhoeven, Jury President, Director, Screenwriter (The



The Dutch director and screenwriter Paul Verhoeven began his directing career in 1969 with the successful Dutch television series *Floris*. After his feature film debut *Business is Business* in 1971, came the erotic thriller *Turkish Delight* in 1973, a big hit in the Netherlands that also garnered a nomination for Best Foreign Language Film at the 1974 Academy Awards. Following his

international breakthrough *Soldier of Orange* (1977) and *The Fourth Man* (1983), Paul Verhoeven moved to Hollywood to focus on an evolution of style in his work. Large productions featuring lots of action and special effects, like *RoboCop* (1987), and especially *Total Recall* (1990), were big box-office hits that revolutionised the science fiction film genre while maintaining credibility as auteur films. The provocative, erotic thriller *Basic Instinct* (1992), which was nominated for two Academy Awards, saw Paul Verhoeven return to themes prevalent in his Dutch works. In 1997 and 2000, he once again focused on science fiction with *Starship Troopers* and *Hollow Man*. After nearly 20 years in Hollywood, Paul Verhoeven returned to the Netherlands in 2006 to film *Black Book* (2006). Starting in 2007, he moved his attention to writing. In 2016 he returned to the screen with *Elle*, which not only won the Golden Globe for Best Motion Picture in the category Foreign Language, but also earned Isabelle Huppert the Golden Globe for Best Actress in a Motion Picture â?? Drama.



ha Fourati, Producer (Tunisia)

Tunisian producer Dora Bouchoucha Fourati is something of an institution in the film world. The English literature graduate started off as a teacher and translator of screenplays. In 1992, she launched the Carthage Film Festival â??Projectsâ?? Workshopâ?• to assist Arabs and Africans in developing their scripts and the follow-up initiative â??Takmilâ?• to support post-production in 2014. In 1995, she founded her own production company Nomadis Images. The many fiction and documentary features, and short films she has produced and co-produced include: Raja Amariâ??s multiple award-winning *Satin Rouge* (2002), *Barakat!* (dir: Djamila Sahraoui, Berlinale *Forum* 2006), Raja Amariâ??s *Buried Secrets* (2009) and *Foreign Body* (Berlinale *Forum* 2017). She produced all of Mohamed Ben Attiaâ??s short films and his full-length debut *Hedi*, which screened in the Berlinale *Competition* in 2016 and won the Best First Feature Award and Silver Bear for Best Actor (Majd Mastoura). Dora Bouchoucha also founded the screenwriting workshop SUD ECRITURE for Arab and African scripts in 1997 which has launched many award winning films to date. She was festival director of the Carthage Film Festival in 2008, 2010, and 2014. She was appointed president of the Fonds Sud CinÃ©ma of the CNC in 2010; and president of the follow-up institution, Aide aux Cinemas du Monde, in 2014.

Olafur Eliasson, Artist (Iceland)



Born in Denmark of Icelandic parentage, Olafur Eliasson quickly garnered international attention after completing the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. He participated in the Berlin Biennale in 1998 and the Venice Biennale in 2003, and his piece â??The weather projectâ?•, which was installed in the Turbine Hall of the Tate Modern, attracted over two million visitors. Today, with his sculptures, installations, paintings, photographs and films that often focus on physical phenomena in nature as well as climate change, he has become one of the worldâ??s most important contemporary artists. Eliasson, who founded his studio in Berlin in 1995, has received countless awards. Besides being involved in art, he is the founder of a global sustainable energy project and social business called Little Sun, as well as the international architectural firm Studio Other Spaces. His latest artworks include a number of installations at the Palace of Versailles in 2016.

ıaal, Actress (USA)



Celebrated American actress Maggie Gyllenhaal is one of the outstanding talents of her generation. After studying literature at Columbia University in New York and acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, she became known for her roles in *Donnie Darko* (dir: Richard Kelly, 2001) and in Spike Jonzeâ??s Berlinale *Competition* entry *Adaptation* (2002). Her big breakthrough came when she played the lead in the film *Secretary* (dir: Steven Shainberg, 2002). For it she received her first Golden Globe nomination and won several awards, including an IFP/Gotham Award for Breakthrough Performance. She went on to star in, e.g., Mike Newellâ??s *Mona Lisa Smile* (2003), Marc Forsterâ??s *Stranger than Fiction* (2006), Oliver Stoneâ??s *World Trade Center* (2006), Christopher Nolanâ??s *The Dark Knight* (2008), Sam Mendesâ??s *Away We Go* (2009), and Roland Emmerichâ??s *White House Down* (2013). For her role in Scott Cooperâ??s *Crazy Heart* (2009) she

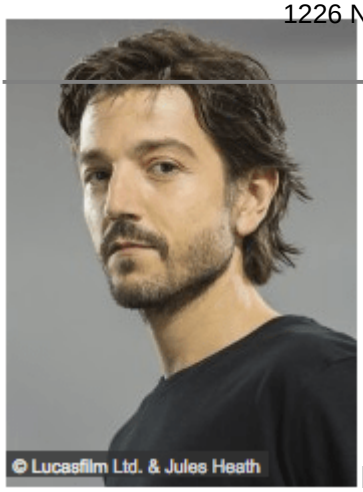
was nominated for an Oscar. In 2014 she headlined the British TV series *The Honourable Woman*, for which she garnered a Golden Globe Award and an Emmy nomination. Gyllenhaal, who in recent years has performed on Broadway, is currently cast to star in *The Deuce*, a new HBO series that she is also producing.



ctress (Germany)

After finishing her studies at the Ernst Busch Academy of Dramatic Arts, Julia Jentsch, who was born in Berlin, began her career on the stage. In 2002 â??Theater heuteâ?• magazine rated her the best female debut of the year. Her breakthrough on the screen was in *The Edukators* (2004, dir: Hans Weingartner) and in *Sophie Scholl â?? The Final Days* (Berlinale *Competition* 2005), for which she won not only the Berlinaleâ??s Silver Bear, but also both the German and European Film Awards. The film itself, which was directed by Marc Rothemund, was nominated for the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. Since then Julia Jentsch has starred in a number of works, including *33 Scenes from Life* by Polish director MaÅ?gorzata Szumowska, *Hannah Arendt* by Margarethe von Trotta, and *I Served the King of England* by JiÅ?Ã Menzel. With *Effie Briest* (*Berlinale Special* 2009, dir: Hermine Huntgeburth) and *24 Weeks* (Berlinale *Competition* 2016; dir: Anne Zohra Berrached), Jentsch was again invited to the Berlinale. Most recently she performed in front of the camera in Hans-Christian Schmidâ??s mini-series *Das Verschwinden*, which will be released in 2017.

Diego Luna, Actor, Director (Mexico)



Diego Lunaâ??s breakthrough role came with Alfonso CuarÃ³nâ??s *Y tu mamÃ¡ tambiÃ©n*, for which he shared the Marcello Mastroianni Award with Gael GarcÃa Bernal at the Venice Film Festival in 2001. His feature film acting credits include *Frida* (dir. Julie Taymor, 2002), *The Terminal* (dir: Steven Spielberg, 2004), *Rudo y Cursi* (dir: Carlos CuarÃ³n, 2008), *Milk* (dir: Gus van Sant, Berlinale *Panorama* 2009), *Contraband* (dir: Baltasar KormÃ¡kur, 2012) and *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (dir: Gareth Edwards, 2016). Next fall he will star in *Flatliners* (dir: Niels Arden Oplev). Lunaâ??s directorial debut, titled *Abel*, premiered at the film festival in Cannes in 2010. This was followed by *CÃ©sar ChÃ¡vez* (*Berlinale Special* 2014) and *Mr. Pig*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2016. He and Bernal co-founded â??Ambulanteâ?• in 2005, a charity organization dedicated, among other things, to promoting documentary film. Luna is also a member of the board of the Washington Office on Latin America.

Wang Quanâ??an, Director, Screenwriter (Peopleâ??s Republic



The director and screenwriter trained first as an actor before he turned to filmmaking. After studying at the Beijing Film Academy, Wang Quanâ??an, who was born in Yanâ??an in Shaanxi province, presented his debut film *Lunar Eclipse* in 1999. It screened in the Berlinaleâ??s *Forum* section in 2002 after making various award-winning appearances at festivals around the world. He was selected with *Tuyaâ??s Marriage* for the *Competition* in 2007 and, as the third Chinese filmmaker in the festivalâ??s history, won the Golden Bear. Three years later, *Apart Together* was chosen as the Berlinaleâ??s opening film and went on to win the Silver Bear for Best Script, which Wang co-wrote with Jin Na. He returned to the Berlinale *Competition* in 2012 with *White Deer Plain*, an

adaptation of the historical novel of the same name, where his director of photography, Lutz Reitemeier, won the Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution.

(Source: Berlinale Press Office)

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