



9th

Edition - July 20 - 26, 2013

“OUR MOTHERS, OUR HEROES“

Sponsored by



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Kigali

In cooperation with



Germany at RFF
2013

Program curated by

SONJA HOFMANN

Programmer International Competition

IWFF – Dortmund | Cologne International Women's Film Festival

The German Focus contributes to this year's Rwanda Film Festival theme, "Our Mother's Our Heroes", with a special view on German female filmmakers and female protagonists in cooperation with IWFF – Dortmund | Cologne International Women's Film Festival. Ten feature films will present some of the most well known directors like Hermine Huntgeburth, Sandra Nettelbeck, Pia Marais and Maren Ade and actresses like Martina Gedeck, Nina Hoss, Sandra Hüller and Birgit Minichmayr. Each film had its cinema release in Germany and the lot won several prestigious awards. From classic thriller and drama, to romance and comedy; from films of 'the Berlin School' to documentary, the themes and genres of the German Focus are deeply human and eclectic. They focus on women in different roles and positions in society.

While the documentary **11 FRIENDS** shows the inner life of the girls of the German women's national football team, **MISS STINNES MOTORS ROUND THE WORLD** tells the story of the first woman to circle the world by car, including original footage from her expedition in 1927. Several films deal with topics of Germany's recent history: **BARBARA** is a doctor working in 1980s East Germany who finds herself banished to a small country hospital because she wants to emigrate to the West. The comedy, **ALMANYA**, spans a period of 45 years to portray a Turkish family arriving as "guest workers" at the end of the 60s to Germany, later returning for a journey to their old country. Another comedy, **MOSTLY MARTHA**, tells the story of a female supreme ruler of the kitchen staff, who suddenly has to care for her young niece. Silver Bear-winner, **EVERYONE ELSE**, is an intimate love story of a couple in search of their own identity. Two further films deal with cultural differences in mixed relationships: while the most successful German film of the year 2005, **THE WHITE MASAI**, tells the autobiographical story of a Swiss woman meeting a Samburu warrior in Kenya, the documentary **THE CROCODILES OF THE WANDAOGO FAMILY**, follows the journeys of German director Britta Wandaogo and her daughter Kaddi to her husband's home village in Burkina Faso. Several years later, Kaddi reflects the role she plays in her German and African families in the short film **CROCODILES WITHOUT SADDLES**.

Recently released in German cinemas, the thriller, **LAYLA FOURIE**, is set in South Africa, where director Pia Marais was born and raised. It deals with the problems of society's mistrust and a single mother, whose daily life is affected by paranoia and fear. The film was given a "Special Mention" by the International Jury during this year's Berlin Film Festival.

While those films present a broad spectrum of social themes in today's cinematic work of Germany, the Focus as a special introduction will present the documentary, **GERMANY FROM ABOVE**, which takes the audience on a journey with spectacular aerial shots of nature and cities of Germany, discovering the country from a bird's eye view. Seen from above, you get a wider perspective of the setting, of time and history. We hope to see you all in the cinemas!

Curated by Sonja Hofmann

Sponsored by



In cooperation with



Century Cinema Kigali City Towel (KCT)

GERMANY FROM ABOVE / Petra Höfer, Freddie Röckenhaus (Germany 2012, 110 min.), Documentary with aerial photographs of Germany

Screening time: July 21, 2013 at 8:45 PM

This spectacular film takes the viewer on a journey of a special kind - discovering Germany from a birds-eye-view. Crisp, lavishly produced aerial footage invites the audience to an exciting flight experience. From the Wadden Sea to the mountain Watzmann, from Frankfurt's skyline to the Elbe River, from the smelting plants on the River Rhine near Duisburg to the huge moon-like landscape with its open-pit mines in Eastern Germany, from the mountain goats in the Alps to the baby seals in the dunes of Helgoland. Seen from above, you get a different feeling for the networks and apparently peaceful coexistence of nature, cities, highways, medieval city walls and futuristic skyscrapers, power stations and trashes and tractors in the fields. Germany from Above follows the rhythm of the four seasons, during a year we fly over the Alpine mountains in deep snow to the charming historic towns at the beginning of spring, to Munich and Berlin in summer time, to the stormy winter North Sea. From above you get a clearer view of the country, of its present time and of its history.

THE WHITE MASAI / Hermine Huntgeburth (Germany 2005, 131 min., most successful German film of 2005), Drama / Romance; Cast: Nina Hoss, Jacky Ido, Katja Flint, Janek Rieke

Screening time: July 22, 2013 at 9:00 PM

A true story based on the international bestseller by Corinne Hofmann.

At the end of her holidays in Kenya, Carola (Nina Hoss) meets the Samburu warrior Lemalian (Jacky Ido), who cuts a handsome figure with his weapons and traditional dress. Fascinated, Carola falls head over heels in love with him. The results are fateful: she impulsively cancels her return flight and sends her boyfriend (Janek Rieke) back home alone. She stays in Kenya and sets out in search of Lemalian. After a grueling journey through the African wilderness, Carola meets the German woman Elisabeth (Katja Flint) in Maralal, and the two become friends. There she also runs into Lemalian again and follows him to his village, Barsaloi. Carola decides to turn her back on her old life in Switzerland. With incredible energy, she braves all obstacles and builds a new life for herself in Africa. But what she felt was the biggest love of her life turns into an ordeal, an adventure between heaven and hell, a journey that takes her to her limits...

MISS STINNES MOTORS ROUND THE WORLD / Erica von Moeller (Germany 2009, 90 min.)
Documentary/Feature; Cast: Sandra Hüller, Bjarne Henriksen

Screening time: July 24, 2013, 9:20 PM

"Miss Stinnes motors round the World" tells the incredible story of Clärenore Stinnes, the first woman to circle the world by car. Accompanied by the Swedish cameraman Carl-Axel Söderström she starts the expedition 1927 in an Adler Standard 6. The two fall in love, but they have to deal with social conventions and the difficult circumstances of their journey, before becoming a couple. The documentary features spectacular original footage from Stinnes and Söderström as well as contemporary footage and scenes with the actors Sandra Hüller as Clärenore Stinnes and Bjarne Henriksen as Carl-Axel Söderström. The film tells one of the most extraordinary adventure stories and love stories of the 20th century.

Sponsored by



In cooperation with



New Papyrus

LAYLA FOURIE / Pia Marais (Germany/South Africa 2013; 105 min.), Thriller; Cast: Rayna Campbell, August Diehl, Rapule Hendricks

Screening time: July 23, 2013 at 6:30 PM

Layla is a single mother living with her son in Johannesburg, getting by with casual work. After training as a polygraph operator she manages to secure a job with a company specialising in lie detectors and security. On her way to her new workplace she is involved in an accident which will fundamentally change her life. Layla becomes entangled in a web of lies and deceit. The truth could lead to the loss of her son.

For her third feature film Pia Marais - who lives in Berlin - returned to South Africa where she grew up to make this classic thriller. She uses the genre to take a look at a country which still bears the scars of apartheid. Almost casually, Layla Fourie develops into a political thriller which takes the audience into the paranoia, fear and mistrust of a society that is still profoundly affected by racial conflict.

THE CROCODILES OF THE WANDAOGO FAMILY (Documentary, Germany/Burkina Faso 2003, 61 min., German Short Film Award 2003) & **KROKODILE OHNE SATTEL** / crocodiles without saddles (short documentary, Germany 2012, 15 min.) – Britta Wandaogo

Screening time: July 23, 2013 at 9:00 PM

Once a year Britta Wandaogo makes a journey with her daughter and African husband to his home village in Burkina Faso. For a short time everyday life and family life are shared with the extended African family. With each visit the joy is intense. Along with the children, Kaddi searches for crocodiles, the mascot of the Wandaogo Family. But returning to Salifs roots also provokes conflicts between the parents. „If you wish to get close to a person, you also get closer to yourself.” Just like this, a person in front of a camera can only show so much of himself as you allow with your own presence. In our European world, seeing means recognition and understanding automatically passes for knowledge. In Africa, this is a mistake. When a European speaks about what he sees, an African speaks about that which he does not see. With each journey I get closer to the interconnection of every-day life and myth. The meaning of life and spirit without a safety net. “A person alone cannot see far”, says the village.

Crocodiles without saddles:

Memories do not follow a chronological order – nor does Britta Wandaogo's film.

Her 12-year-old daughter Kaddi thinks about the meaning of life and the role she plays in her German and African families. The filmmaker finds material in her archive which makes long-forgotten qualities and strengths visible to Kaddi. This very personal, almost intimate dialogue between the mother's images and the daughters's words shows how memories can be cultivated to make the here and now more comprehensible.

MOSTLY MARTHA / Sandra Nettelbeck (Germany 2001, 109 min.), Comedy / Romance; Cast: Martina Gedeck (German Film Award), Sergio Castellitto (European Film Award)

Screening time: July 24, 2013 at 6:30 PM

In a German restaurant, Chef Martha Klein is the undisputed supreme ruler of the kitchen staff and woe to any customer who would dare criticize her cooking. Her life is firmly centered around cooking which takes on an obsessive level with stubborn single mindedness. Even when she is ordered to take therapy, she still constantly talks about her work and the iron clad control she relishes in her task. All that changes when her sister dies in a car accident, leaving her 8 year old daughter, Lina. Martha takes her niece in and while making enquiries for her estranged father, she struggles to care for this stubbornly headstrong child. Meanwhile at work, a new chef named Mario is hired on and Martha feels threatened by this unorthodox intruder. The pressures of both her private and work life combine to create a situation that will fundamentally call her attitudes and life choices into question while these interlopers into her life begin to profoundly change it.

Sponsored by



In cooperation with



New Papyrus

BARBARA / Christian Petzold (Germany 2012, 105 min.), Drama, Silver Bear Berlin 2012, German Film Award 2012; Cast: Nina Hoss, Ronald Zehrfeld, Rainer Bock

Screening time: July 24, 2013 at 9:00 PM

Summer in the GDR in 1980. Barbara, a doctor, has submitted an application to emigrate to the West. She is punished by being posted away from the capital to a hospital in a small town. Jörg, her lover in the West, is busy planning her escape via the Baltic Sea. It's a waiting game for Barbara. Her new flat, the neighbours, summer and the countryside no longer hold any charms for her. Although she is attentive to her young patients in the department for paediatric surgery under her new boss, André, she is deliberately cool to her colleagues. Her life, she thinks, will begin later.

André confuses her. First there's his unshakable faith in her professional abilities, then there's way he cares, and his winning smile. What makes him cover up for her when she helps Stella, a young runaway? Is he spying on her? Is he in love? Christian Petzold's new work once again centres on a woman who seems to drift through life like a phantom. Hers is a life in which the fear of surveillance seems to be firmly embedded in all interpersonal relationships.

ALMANYA – WELCOME TO GERMANY / Yasemin Samdereli (Germany 2011, 97 min.), Comedy; Cast: Vedat Erincin, Fahri Yardim, Aylin Tezel, Lilay Huser, Demet Gül, Petra Schmidt-Schaller, Denis Moschitto

Screening time: July 25, 2013 at 6:30 PM

On 10 September, 1964, Germany's one-millionth 'guest worker' was welcomed. Spanning a period of no less than forty-five years, this film by sisters Yasemin Samdereli (director) and Nesrin Samdereli (screenplay) tells the story of guest worker number one-million-and-one – a man named Hüseyin Yılmaz and his family.

'Who or what am I – German or Turk?' asks six-year-old Cenk Yılmaz when neither his Turkish nor his German schoolmates pick him for their respective football teams. In an attempt to comfort Cenk, his 22-year-old cousin Canan tells him the story of their grandfather Hüseyin, who came to Germany at the end of the sixties as a 'guest worker' and who later brought his wife and children to 'Almanya'. Germany had long since become the family's home when without warning one night, Hüseyin surprises his loved ones with the news that he has bought a house in Turkey and now wants to return to the old country. Refusing to brook the slightest opposition, the entire family sets off for Turkey. This marks the beginning of a journey full of memories, arguments and reconciliations ...

Sponsored by

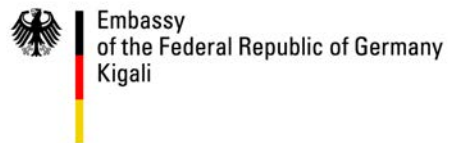


In cooperation with





Sponsored by



In cooperation with



Program curated by

SONJA HOFMANN
Programmer International Competition
IWFF – Dortmund | Cologne International Women's Film Festival