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**18TH
FESTIVAL OF
GERMAN
FILM**

**OCT
11 — 14
2024**

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,



I am excited about this year's 18th edition of German Currents!

We believe that films have the power to connect us as human beings. They allow us to empathize with others, to step into their shoes, to travel across borders, and even through time. As the new director of the Goethe-Institut in Los Angeles, I am proud to present some of the best new German cinema to you.

German Currents takes place from October 11th – 14th and opens at the Egyptian Theatre, with the exclusive red-carpet LA premiere of Sonja Heiss' festival favorite, WHEN WILL IT BE AGAIN LIKE IT NEVER WAS BEFORE.

The festival weekend continues with the US premiere of the short film showcase NEXT GENERATION SHORT TIGER 2024. The US premiere of BEYOND THE BLUE BORDER depicts the absurdities of life under East German rule and stars Lena Urzendowsky (FRANKY FIVE STAR, Netflix's DARK). Fabian Stumm's relationship drama, BONES AND NAMES, dives into the Berlin art scene and the relationship between two creatives. Come and see them at the Goethe-Institut.

At the Los Feliz 3 theater, German Currents presents the US premiere of writer-director Aslı Özarslan's ELBOW, as well as the LA premiere of the historical drama THE GLORY OF LIFE, capturing the final year and romance of writer Franz Kafka.

The annual children's matinee returns to the Goethe-Institut on October 13th with the US Premiere screening of Soleen Yusef's film WINNERS, followed by a discussion with the director herself.

On behalf of the German Currents team, I would like to thank our partners, supporters, and you, our audience. We look forward to welcoming you all to the festival and sharing the transformative power of cinema.

**Best,
Luisa Rath-John & the German Currents team**

GERMAN CURRENTS

SHOWTIMES

● EGYPTIAN THEATER



**WHEN WILL IT BE AGAIN
LIKE IT NEVER WAS BEFORE**
WANN WIRD ES ENDLICH
WIEDER SO, WIE ES NIE WAR

OPENING NIGHT | LA | GALA RECEPTION
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11th
7:00 PM

● GOETHE-INSTITUT



**NEXT GENERATION
SHORT TIGER 2024**

**US PREMIERE
SHORT FILM SHOWCASE**
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12th
1:30 PM

● LOS FELIZ 3



**THE GLORY
OF LIFE**
DIE HERRLICHKEIT
DES LEBENS

LA PREMIERE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12th
7:00 PM



ELBOW
ELLBOGEN

US PREMIERE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12th
10:00 PM

● GOETHE-INSTITUT



WINNERS
SIEGER SEIN

US PREMIERE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th
11:00 AM



**BEYOND THE
BLUE BORDER**
JENSEITS DER
BLAUEN GRENZE

US PREMIERE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th
3:00 PM



**BONES AND
NAMES**
KNOCHEN UND
NAMEN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th
5:30 PM

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EGYPTIAN THEATER

OPENING NIGHT | LA | GALA RECEPTION
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11TH | 7:00 PM | EGYPTIAN THEATER

WANN WIRD ES ENDLICH WIEDER SO, WIE ES NIE WAR

WHEN WILL IT BE AGAIN LIKE IT NEVER WAS BEFORE



For Josse Meyerhoff (Loup Moltzen/von Bülow/Rose), growing up is anything but typical. His family lives on the grounds of Germany's largest psychiatric hospital, where his father, Richard (Striesow), is the director, and the boundaries between the patients and the family's private lives are blurred. His mother, Iris (Tonke), ignores the signs of her crumbling marriage by painting Italian vistas and escaping into memories of her youth. The youngest of three boys, Josse is prone to emotional outbursts and sadness but often finds comfort and a sympathetic ear among the clinic's patients. As Josse grows from his childhood in the 1970s to adolescence, his first love, a taste of freedom abroad, tragic losses in the 1980s, and finally into adulthood and his return to his family in the 1990s, the search for a sense of belonging and a feeling of home travels with him. Multi-award-winning writer-director Sonja Heiss and co-writer Lars Hubrich's skillful adaptation of Joachim Meyerhoff's best-selling autobiographical novel blends tragedy and comedy, coming to life through powerful performances by Tonka, Striesow, Geiger, and Loup Moltzen/von Bülow/Rose, who portray Josse throughout the years.



Germany (2023) 116 min. DCP Projection.
German/English with English Subtitles

Director: Sonja Heiss
Screenplay: Sonja Heiss, Lars Hubrich, based on Joachim Meyerhoff's novel of the same name
Cinematography: Manuel Dacosse
Cast: Laura Tonke, David Striesow, Pola Geiger, Camille Loup Moltzen, Casper von Bülow, Merlin Rose
Producers: Maren Ade, Jonas Dornbach, Janine Jackowski
Co-producers: Jean-Yves Roubin, Cassandre Warnauts, Peter Schauerte, Magdalena Prostedter
Production Company: Komplizen Film GmbH, Warner Bros. Entertainment GmbH

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

- German Film Award 2023 Nominated for Best Feature Film, Best Director
- Günter Rohrbach Filmpreis 2023 Preis des Oberbürgermeisters, Best Performance – Laura Tonke

WORLD SALES

Beta Cinema
www.betacinema.com



Sonja Heiss is a screenwriter, novelist, and director based in Berlin. Raised in Munich, where she attended the University of Television and Film Munich, her student films KARMA COWBOY and CHRISTINA WITHOUT KAUFMANN have received numerous awards at international festivals. Her debut feature film HOTEL VERY WELCOME premiered in the Perspektive Deutsches Kino section of the Berlinale, winning several prizes including the First Steps Award. Her second feature, HEDI SCHNEIDER STECKT FEST premiered in the Forum section of the Berlinale, winning several awards, including the Hessian Film Award. Her first book, a collection of short stories named "Das Glück geht aus," was published in 2011. Her critically acclaimed novel "Rimini" was released in 2017 and made it onto the Spiegel bestseller list. She is an alumna of the Villa Aurora (2011).



• GOETHE-INSTITUT

US PREMIERE | SHORT FILM SHOWCASE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH | 1:30 PM | GOETHE-INSTITUT

NEXT GENERATION SHORT TIGER 2024



Presented by German Films and the German Federal Film Board (FFA), the 14th edition of this beloved annual showcase presents the year's most promising young directors and outstanding student short films to international audiences and the film industry. The program combines new talents – the NEXT GENERATION of German Cinema – together with the best German shorts under 7 minutes – the winners of the FFA's SHORT TIGER Award 2024. The 11 short films for NEXT GENERATION SHORT TIGER 2024 were selected by an expert jury: director Sophie Linnenbaum (THE ORDINARIES), Alexandra Gramatke (Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg) and Dr. Christian Bräuer (Yorck Cinemas, CICAIE). They had to choose from 98 submissions from 19 German film schools and 18 additional shorts (up to 15 min) by independent producers that were preselected by members from the AG Kurzfilm. Representing Germany's diversity of forms, genres, and skillful filmmaking talent that international audiences have come to expect from German shorts, these deeply personal and universal stories confirm the notion that short film is an independent art form deserving of the big screen and the awareness of audiences worldwide.



Germany (2024), 97 min.
Various Languages with English Subtitles

**THE BARD'S CURSE
DES SÄNGERS FLUCH**
Scarlett Unverricht (Animation, 2023, 7 min.)

BLACK YOUTH
Isaac Martínez (Fiction, 2023, 4 min.)

DON'T LET | GO LASS NICHT LOS
Antonia Lindner (Fiction, 2024, 14 min.)

ENJOY YOUR MEAL
Sofie Kienzle, Christian Manzke
(Animation, 2023, 3 min.)

GOOD FOR ME
Hannah Wolny (Fiction, 2023, 15 min.)

THE HIDDEN DIMENSION
Ben Galster (Documentary, 2023, 04:22 min.)

**I MAY ALWAYS ASK HER ANYTHING
ICH DARF SIE IMMER ALLES FRAGEN**
Silke Schönfeld (Documentary, 2023, 04:22 min.)

IT'S JUST A WHOLE
Bianca Scali (Animation, 2023, 11 min.)

SENSITIVE CONTENT
Narges Kalhor (Experimental, 2023, 9 min.)

SUPERBUHEI
Josef Brandl (Fiction, 2023, 7 min.)

WEEDING | KASSIEREN
Amelie Vierbüchen, Franca Pape,
Lea Sprenger (Documentary, 2023, 9 min.)
NEXT GENERATION SHORT TIGER 2024

German Films Service + Marketing GmbH
www.german-films.de

• LOS FELIZ 3

LA PREMIERE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH | 7:00 PM | LOS FELIZ 3

DIE HERRLICHKEIT DES LEBENS

THE GLORY OF LIFE



Summer, 1923. The Baltic Sea. The writer Franz Kafka (Tambrea), seriously ill with tuberculosis, convalesces at a seaside resort in Müritz. By chance, he meets the 25-year-old Dora Diamant (Confurius) on the beach, a governess from the Jewish Volksheim Berlin. Though they seem from different worlds, it is love at first sight, and for Kafka, Diamant embodies the essence of life. As their love grows, Kafka follows Diamant to Berlin. When his condition worsens, the lovers leave Berlin for a sanatorium near Vienna, where, in Diamant's arms, Kafka succumbs to his illness barely a year after they meet. Adapted by Gutmann and Writer-Director Maas from Michael Kumpfmüller's best-selling novel of the same name and exquisitely lensed by multi-award-winning Cinematography and co-director Judith Kaufmann, THE GLORY OF LIFE blends fact and fiction to capture Kafka's last love and year of life.



Germany (2024) 98 min. DCP Projection
German/English with English Subtitles

Director: Judith Kaufmann, Georg Maas
Screenplay: Michael Gutmann, Georg Maas, based Michael Kumpfmüller's novel
Cinematography: Judith Kaufmann
Cast: Sabin Tambrea, Henriette Confurius, Daniela Golpashin, Mira Griesbaum, Lionel Hesse, Manuel Rubey
Producers: Helge Sasse, Solveig Fina, Tommy Pridnig
Production Company: Tempest Film Produktion GmbH, Lotus Filmproduktion GmbH

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

- German Film Award 2024
- Nominated for Best Costume Design, Best Director
- Festival des deutschen Films 2024
- Nominated for Rheingold Audience Award

US DISTRIBUTOR

Menemsha Films
www.menemshafilms.com



Georg Maas was born in 1960 in Aachen. He studied at the German Film & Television Academy (dffb) in Berlin, followed by workshops with István Szabó, Tilda Swinton, Krzysztof Kieslowski, and Wojciech Marczewski. His films include: the trilogy of shorts LEAD A NORMAL LIFE, 10 ¾ INCH and HERE COMES THE SUN (1986-1988), the documentaries THE OTHER UNIVERSE OF KLAUS BEYER (1994), ESCAPED (1995), PATHFINDERS (1998), THE REAL WORLD OF PETER GABRIEL (2009), THE BUDDHA WALLA (2010), and the features BREATHLESSNESS (1991), NEWFOUNDLAND (2003), and TWO LIVES (2012), co-directed by Judith Kaufmann.

Judith Kaufmann was born in Stuttgart and grew up in Berlin, where she studied at SFOF. As Director of Photography, has worked on award-winning feature films by Andres Veiel, Feo Aladag, Georg Maas, Oliver Hirschbiegel, Petra Volpe, Caroline Link, Sherry Horman, Ina Weisse, Bettina Oberli, Ilker Çatak, and Andreas Dresen. In 2012, she received the Honorary Award of the Deutsche Kamerapreis. She is a member of the German Society of Cinematographers and of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and a 2020 Villa Aurora Balhaus Fellow. She lives in Berlin.

• LOS FELIZ 3

US PREMIERE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH | 10:00 PM | LOS FELIZ 3

ELLBOGEN

ELBOW



17-year-old Hazel is a Turkish-German teen living in Berlin. Her biggest dream: to be given a chance at a future outside of her parents' bakery. Despite her best efforts to find an apprenticeship, her mediocre grades and numerous rejected applications leave her with few options. For her 18th birthday she wants to escape the everyday grind and hit the clubs with her friends. But the night's celebration is cut short after the girls are turned away by a bouncer at a dance club. When the teens are harassed in the subway on their way home, the situation escalates and Hazel's frustration about her rejections erupts into a fatal incident. Forced to flee to Turkey, a country she hardly knows, Hazel must survive at all costs. Based on the award-winning-novel "Ellbogen" by Fatma Aydemir, Özarslan's debut feature is a skillfully crafted and intense portrait of a young woman struggling to hold her ground in a society that seems to cast her aside.



Germany (2024) 86 min. DCP Projection
German/English/Turkish with English Subtitles

Director: Aslı Özarslan
Screenplay: Claudia Schaefer and Aslı Özarslan, Based on the novel "Ellbogen" by Fatma Aydemir
Cinematographer: Andaç Karabeyoğlu-Thomas
Cast: Melia Kara, Jamilah Bagdach, Asya Utku, Nurgül Aydurhan, Jale Arikan, Mina Özlem Sağdıç, Doğa Gürer, Ercan Karaçaylı
Producer: Jamila Wenske
Co-producers: Delphine Schmit, Guillaume Dreyfus, Anna Maria Aslanoğlu, Julia Irene Peters, Jutta Feit
Production Company: Achtung Panda!
Co-production Company: Tripode Productions, Istos Film, JIP Film und Verleih, ZDF (Das kleine Fernsehspiel)

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

- Hessischer Film- und Kinopreis 2024
- Frankfurter Buchmesse Award - Best Adaption
- Goldener Spatz 2024 Audience Award,
- Best Youth Film
- Internationales Frauen Film Fest Dortmund+Köln
- 2024 Best Debut Director,
- Best Debut Feature
- Lichter Filmfest 2024 Best Regional Feature

WORLD SALES

ArtHood Entertainment GmbH
www.arthoodentertainment.com



Aslı Özarslan was born in Berlin. She studied theatre and media at the University of Bayreuth, philosophy and sociology at the Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV), and documentary film directing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. In 2009, she directed her first short film; in 2012, she created the 11-minute video installation Kanak Sprak Bist Du, about the German dialect spoken by young people in multiethnic communities, for the Humboldt Box. Her 2014 film Insel 36 and her 2016 graduation film Dil Leyla has won numerous national and international awards. Her debut feature ELBOW had its world premiere at the 74th Berlinale in the Generation section.

US PREMIERE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH | 11:00 AM | GOETHE-INSTITUT

SIEGER SEIN

WINNERS



The first day at a new school can be tough for any kid, but for 11-year-old Mona it's downright chaotic. She and her Kurdish family have fled their home in Syria and ended up in Germany in search of a better life, but Mona is having a hard time fitting in. She's still learning German and misses her hometown and playing soccer with her friends. Chaos is the order of the day at her new school, where most of the teachers are worn to a frazzle and the students are just as frustrated with their teachers. When Mr. Che, the coach of the girls' soccer team sees Mona's soccer skills, he puts her on the team. Although they are training for an upcoming tournament for all of Berlin's schools, the team is anything but harmonious. Mona is singled-out and is blamed for the team's troubles. With the tournament quickly approaching, they realize that if they want to win, they must stop fighting, treat each other as equals, and learn the true meaning of teamwork. Winner of the 2024 German Film Award for Best Children's Film, Yusuf's second feature is an inspirational, fast-paced coming-of-age film with a fresh, young perspective on the importance of family, friendship, and belonging.



Germany (2024) 119 min. DCP Projection.
German/English with English Subtitles

Writer-Director: Soleen Yusef
Cinematographer: Konstantin Kröning
Cast: Dileyla Agirman, Andreas Döhler, Tamira Bwibo, Sherine Ciara Merai, Yumin Hannah Cho, Anisa Perk, Artemis Kostopoulou
Producers: Sonja Schmitt, Marc Schmidheiny, Christoph Daniel
Co-producers: Dario Suter, Joel Brandeis, Detlev Buck, Claus Boje
Production Company: DCM Pictures GmbH
Co-production Company: Boje Buck Produktion

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

- German Film Award 2024
- Best Children's Film
- Giffoni Film Festival Best Film Elements +10
- FBW 2024 Seal of Approval: Highly Recommended
- Deutsches Kinder Medien Festival Goldener Spatz
- 2024 Best Screenplay

WORLD SALES

PLUTO FILM
www.plutofilm.de



Soleen Yusef was born in Duhok in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in 1987. At the age of nine she and her family fled to Berlin, Germany due to the political tensions in her home country. She graduated from high school in Berlin and later attended the Academy of Stage Arts, where she trained as a singer and an actress, and worked as an assistant in production, directing and distribution at mitos film. In 2008, she began studying fiction directing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. Her third-year film TRATTORIA premiered at the 2012 Berlinale. Since making her debut feature film HAUS OHNE DACH (2016), for which she won awards including the First Steps Award, she has been working on international productions for Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Disney+. Soleen Yusef is one of GERMAN FILMS' 2024 Face to Face with German Films ambassadors.

German Film Office

An initiative of



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Federal Foreign Office



Federal Government Commissioner
for Culture and the Media

US PREMIERE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH | 3:00 PM | GOETHE-INSTITUT

JENSEITS DER BLAUEN GRENZE

BEYOND THE BLUE BORDER



August 1989, East Germany. Hanna (Urzendowsky) is a talented swimmer who dreams of becoming an Olympic champion. When not training, she's with her best friends Andreas (Geitmann) and Jens (Veihelmann). Andreas comes from an abusive home and has never fit into the rigid GDR system. When Hanna and Jens learn that Andreas is to be "socialistically re-educated" in a youth work camp, they know they must help him. Andreas sees only one way out: to swim 50 km west, across the Baltic Sea to freedom. But in a society that demands conformity, Hannah's friendship with Andreas threatens her Olympic dreams. Suddenly, she is faced with the decision of her life: does she leave her secure place in socialist society, or let Andreas swim alone, knowing that he will never make it without her help? Neumann's multi-award-winning debut feature, based on Dorit Linke's novel, "Jenseits der blauen Grenze," looks to Germany's recent past to explore timeless themes of self-sacrifice, friendship, and the search for freedom.



Germany (2024) 102 min. Digital Projection.
German/English with English Subtitles

Director: Sarah Neumann
Screenplay: Sarah Neumann, Based on the novel "Jenseits der blauen Grenze" by Dorit Linke
Director of Photography: Nikolaus Schreiber, Felix Gänsicke (Underwater Camera)
Cast: Lena Urzendowsky, Willi Geitmann, Jannis Veihelmann, Winnie Böwe, Ronny Miersch, Stefan Mocker
Producers: Nicola Pantzke, Jasper Philipp Mielke, Karoline Henkel, Felix Schreiber, Arto Sebastian Buhmann
Co-producers: Delphine Schmit, Guillaume Dreyfus, Anna Maria Aslanoglu, Julia Irene Peters, Jutta Feit
Production Company: Wood Water Films
Co-production Company: Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg GmbH (Ludwigsburg), Südwestrundfunk (SWR), Arte Deutschland TV GmbH

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

- Filmfest Bremen 2024 Audience Award
- Best Regional Film
- Max Ophüls Preis 2024
- Best Young Actor, Audience Award
- Feature Film, Prize of the Ecumenical Jury

WORLD SALES

WOOD WATER FILMS
www.woodwaterfilms.com



Sarah Neumann was born in Görlitz in 1988. After studying film and theater studies at the Free University of Berlin, she worked as a production coordinator at UFA Fiction in Potsdam. She has been studying directing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg since 2015. BEYOND THE BLUE BORDER is her feature length film debut.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH | 5:30 PM | GOETHE-INSTITUT

KNOCHEN UND NAMEN

BONES AND NAMES



Boris (Stumm) is an actor. Jonathan (Berger) is a writer. Together, they are a couple, but their relationship has reached a point of routine domesticity that some might call comforting, but others stagnant. As he immerses himself deeper into rehearsals for a new film with an unpredictable director, Boris begins to confuse real and fictional characters; meanwhile, Jonathan tries to redefine his voice as a writer by any means necessary. During these days spent struggling with emotional distance and closeness, trust, desire, and fear of loss, Boris's niece Josie flits about like Shakespeare's Puck, testing her boundaries as she navigates the approaching end of her childhood. Stumm's directorial and screenplay feature-length debut unfolds in humorous yet tender sequences centered on people searching for their place in life and offers an intimate reflection on the dissonances in relationships that connect and distance us.



Germany (2023) 104 min. Digital Projection.
German/French with English Subtitles

Writer-Director: Fabian Stumm
Director of Photography: Michael Bennet
Cast: Fabian Stumm, Knut Berger, Marie-Lou Sellem, Susie Meyer, Magnús Mariuson, Doreen Fietz, Alma Meyer-Prescott
Producers: Fabian Stumm, Nicola Heim
Co-producer: Nele Schallenberg
Production Company: Postofilm

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

- Deutscher Schauspielpreis 2023
- Best Dramatic Supporting Role
- Neißer Filmfestival 2023 Neißer-Fisch
- Best Screenplay
- IFF Berlin 2023 Heiner-Carow-Preis

WORLD SALES

SALZGEBER
www.salzgeber.de



FABIAN STUMM was born 1981 in Koblenz and studied acting at The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute New York. He has appeared on stage at HAU Berlin, Münchner Kammerspiele, Volksbühne Berlin, The Kitchen New York, and Tate Modern London, among others. His film work includes LORE by Cate Shortland, BELA KISS: Prologue by Lucien Förstner, PRECIOUS IVE by Sarah Blaßkiewitz, and the Grimme-Award nominated series DRUCK. He made his directorial debut in 2020 with the short film „Bruxelles.“ In 2022, his second film DANIEL was awarded Best Mid-Length Film at the Achtung Berlin Festival. BONES AND NAMES is his feature-length film debut.

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germancourses-usa@goethe.de / T: 845.584.8002

CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR
Luisa Rath-John

FESTIVAL COORDINATOR
Daniel L. Chaffey

EXECUTIVE TEAM
Simone Maier
Xochitl San Vicente
Sabrina Reitnauer

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA
Stefan Kloo

VISUAL IDENTITY
plus3mm.com

FESTIVAL TRAILER
borisschaarschmidt.de

FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHY
blueandkream.com

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
Luisa Rath-John
Daniel L. Chaffey
Imani Davis

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH
Creating Creators

PUBLICIST
Thomas Mikusz,
White Bear PR

OFFICIAL PARTNERS
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