Short, Excellent & Famous

NINE OUTSTANDING AWARD-WINNING GERMAN SHORT FILMS

Sunday, 26 April, 2009
NYU Cantor Film Center, 36 East 8 Street, New York 10003
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Free Admission

Opening Film **TOYLAND** by Jochen Alexander Freydank
Academy Award for Best Live Action Short 2009
Special Guest: Jochen Alexander Freydank

**HIT THE FLOOR** by Kays Khalil

**COSMIC STATION** by Bettina Timm

**ON A WEDNESDAY NIGHT IN TOKYO** by Jan Verbeek

**TRUE** by Tom Tykwer

**THE RUNT** by Andreas Hykade

**POLAR** by Michael Koch

**JOURNEY TO THE FOREST** by Jörn Staeger

**MR. SCHWARTZ, MR. HAZEN & MR. HORLOCKER** by Stefan Müller

For further information please contact
Deutsches Haus at NYU, 42 Washington Mews, New York 10003
phone: 212-998 8663, email: nr49@nyu.edu
www.nyu.edu/deutscheshaus
Germany in 1942: In order to protect her son, Marianne Meissner tries to make him believe that the Jewish neighbors are going on a journey to ‘Toyland’. One morning her son has disappeared – the Jewish neighbors too. TOYLAND is a film about guilt, responsibility, and lies, both big and small.

JOCHEN ALEXANDER FREYDANK  Academy Award for Best Live Action Short 2009

“This is almost a surreal moment for me, ‘cause I grew up in East Germany, so behind the wall. So West Germany was far away from me. Hollywood, that’s really far away, and the OSCAR® now, it’s incredible. And I thank the Academy. I directed this movie. Unfortunately, I produced it as well, so I spent four years of my life on this fourteen-minute movie and it was a story I really wanted to tell. And I thank all my cast and crew. I had wonderful actors to work with. I thank my co-writer Johann Bunners. I thank my cinematographer Cico Nicolaisen, my composer Ingo Frenzel. Thanks to all of you guys. And of course, I hope this bald head here is gonna help all of us in our future career. Thank you very much.”

**Genre** Short Film **Category** Feature Film **Year of Production** 2007 **Director** Jochen Alexander Freydank 

Jochen Alexander Freydank was born in Berlin. He directed fringe theater, award-winning commercials and short films. He started his film career as first assistant director and editor before he became a screenwriter for TV and Film. He works as a producer of a TV series and is preparing his first feature film as a director. His films include: Glückliches Ende (1999), Notfall (2001), Die letzte Reise (2002), Dienst (2003).

**Screening:** Sunday, 26 April, 5:30 pm at NYU Cantor Film Center

in person: Jochen Alexander Freydank (director)
Hit the Floor

The film shows the development of home security in the age of Islamist terror. Using a documentary style, changes, influences and consequences are portrayed that have resulted from events such as September 11th. Terror, wars, distrust (of the Islamic world), prejudices etc. The second part is a documentary recreation of a true story that resulted from these prejudices and mistrust.

JURY STATEMENT interfilm Berlin: “With great virtuosity, the filmmaker assembled monochromatic documentary and blue screen recordings, together with graphics, very much in the style of old propaganda films. By use of a reporting voice-over and club-like soundtrack, the film gives way to a gripping thriller. The tragedy of the Menezes case is mirrored by the threatening dimension of global terror paranoia through the artistic manipulation.”

Genre Short Film Category Documentary Year of Production 2006 Director/Screenplay/Editor/Animator Kays Khalil Director of Photography Jeremy Füser, Kays Khalil, Dirk Rossbach Producer Kays Khalil Production Company Kays Khalil/Munich Length 12 min Sound Technology Stereo Festival Screenings Clermont-Ferrand 2007, Bilbao 2007, Oberhausen 2007, Berlin 2007 Awards Short Film Festival Oberhausen 2007 (3sat-Promotional-Award), interfilm Short Film Festival Berlin 2007 (Special Mention), Signes de Nuit Festival Paris 2007 (The Prize of Signs) World Sales Kays Khalil, email: k-grfx@kayskhalil.de, www.kayskhalil.de

Kays Khalil studied film animation from 2001-2006 at the Technical College Düsseldorf; from 2005-2006 he was on-air designer for Vox Film- und Fernseh GmbH & Co. KG; since 2006 he has been working as an on-air designer for Pro-SiebenSat1 Produktion.

Screening: Sunday, 26 April, 5:30 pm at NYU Cantor Film Center
fear
mistrust
confusion

why he came to London?
...a higher standard of living
...better job opportunities
...more security

closed-circuit television
developed in response to IRA bombing
Mount Aragaz in Armenia: At 3,500 m one can find the remnants of a prestige project of the Soviet Union – the Aragaz Cosmic Station. Like astronauts in a spaceship, a few scientists continue their research, hoping for a sensation: The discovery of unknown galaxies.

**JURY STATEMENT Munich:** “You don’t always need a lot of action to tell a fascinating story. Bettina Timm has made a poetic and very intense documentary that takes us on a faraway journey and gives us a close look at life in a remote and forgotten scientific outpost.”

**Genre** Short Film  
**Category** Documentary  
**Year of Production** 2008  
**Director/Screenplay/Editor** Bettina Timm  
**Director of Photography** Alexander Riedel  
**Music** Daniel Kluge, Edouard Stork  
**Sound Design** Philip Vogt  
**Producers** Alexander Riedel, Bettina Timm  
**Production Company** Pelle Film Productions/Munich  
**Length** 30 min.  
**Sound Technology** Dolby SR  
**Awards** German Short Film Award 2008 (Best Documentary), Munich 2008 (Best Documentary), ALCINE – Alcalá de Henares 2008 (3rd Prize European Competition)  
**World Sales** Hochschule für Fernsehen und Film München, Tina Janker, email: festival4@hff-muc.de, www.hff-muc.de

**Bettina Timm** was born 1977 in Munich; in 1996 she started studying German literature; since 1999 she has been studying at the University of Television and Film Munich, department of documentary film; in 2001 she founded Pelle Film Productions. Her films include: **Die Ohrenmeisterin** (2000), **Herr Zhu** (2004), **Ich Koch** (2008).

**Screening:** Sunday, 26 April, 5:30 pm at NYU Cantor Film Center
On a Wednesday Night in Tokyo

Shot in one take, this video communicates the unavoidable up to the edge of the unbearable.

**JURY STATEMENT Tampere:** “To be in the right place at the right time with a sense of capturing the moment. In a serious but at the same time humorous film the director shows the struggle for the individual to find its place in this overcrowded world.”

**Genre** Short Film  
**Category** Experimental Documentary  
**Year of Production** 2004  
**Director/Screenplay/Director of Photography/Editor/Music/Sound Design** Jan Verbeek  
**Producer** Jan Verbeek  
**Production Company** Jan Verbeek/Berlin  
**Length** 6 min.  
**Sound Technology** Stereo  
**Awards** Tampere 2006 (Best Documentary), Mexico 2005 (Special Jury Mention), Pescara 2005 (Best Video Art/Experimental Film)  
**World Sales** Jan Verbeek, info@janverbeek.de, www.janverbeek.de

**Jan Verbeek** was born 1966 in Bonn; from 1989-1996 he attended the Art Academy Düsseldorf, studying with Nan Hoover and Nam June Paik; from 1996-1999 he continued his postgraduate studies at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne; from 2002-2003 he received a DAAD scholarship to Japan. He attended numerous exhibitions and festivals worldwide. His films include: **Interferenz** (1990), **Continuum** (1991), **Never Touch a Running System** (1998-99), **Skip and Return** (2001).

**Screening:** Sunday, 26 April, 5:30 pm at NYU Cantor Film Center
**True**

*PART OF COMPILATION FILM PARIS, JE T’AIME (GERMANY/FRANCE)*

The phone rings, startling Tomas, who is seated in front of the computer. He feels for the telephone receiver. Tomas is blind. His girlfriend, Francine, tells him that it’s all over and she’s leaving him. The phone drops back onto the hook. Tomas’ mind races back in a dizzying flurry of images to the moment they both met, to the couple’s most intimate moments together and to the tiny careless mistakes that eventually lead to the end of their relationship. TRUE is part of a compilation project entitled PARIS, JE T’AIME, in which a number of internationally renowned directors each tell a story in one of Paris’ twenty arrondissements.

**FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG:** “TRUE, which was created as an episode for the omnibus film PARIS JE T’AIME, was like ‘revitalization therapy’, explains Tom Tykwer. And when reading the dedication in the final credits to Franka Potente, his girlfriend two years previously, one gets a feeling for what he really means. Tykwer filmed 98 scenes in four days at 31 locations – an almost record-breaking achievement. But the viewer doesn’t really need to know all that, for the intoxicating revitalization that Tykwer himself experienced during the shooting was transferred directly to TRUE. The film is exactly that which it presents: 10 minutes of happiness. A piece of art. And a whole lot more than one would expect from a short film in the Berlinale’s program.”

**Genre** Short Film  
**Category** Feature Film  
**Year of Production** 2004  
**Director/Screenplay** Tom Tykwer  
**Director of Photography** Frank Griebe  
**Producer** Maria Köpf  
**Production Company** X Filme Creative Pool GmbH, Berlin  
**Principal Cast** Natalie Portman, Melchior Beslon  
**Length** 10 min.  
**Sound Technology** Dolby SR  
**Festival Screening** Berlin 2004  
**Awards** German Short Film Award 2004  
**World Sales** X Verleih AG, Stefan Schmitt, email: info@x-verleih.de, www.x-verleih.de  

**Tom Tykwer** was born in Wuppertal in 1965. His first feature *Deadly Maria* (*Die tödliche Maria*, 1993) was named Best Film by the German Film Critics' Association in 1994, and won the Eastman Promotional Award at Hof and the Bavarian Film Award for Best Newcomer Director. He was also co-author on Wolfgang Becker's 1997 Berlin International Film Festival competition entry *Life is All You Get* (*Das Leben ist eine Baustelle*). In 1998, Tykwer was awarded a German Film Award in Silver in the category Best Feature Film for *Wintersleepers* (*Winterschläfer*, 1997). His film *Run Lola Run* (*Lola rennt*, 1998) won two German Film Awards in Gold in 1999 for Best Director and Best Feature Film, and was submitted as the German entry for the 1999 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. His other films include: *Because* (short, 1990), *Epilog* (short, 1991), *The Princess and the Warrior* (*Der Krieger und die Kaiserin*, 2000), *Heaven* (2001), *Perfume* (2006), *Germany 09: 13 Short Films About the State of the Nation* (2008), and *The International* (2009), opening film of the Berlin International Film Festival.

**Screening:** Sunday, 26 April, 5:30 pm at NYU Cantor Film Center
"Alright, I’ll give you the runt. But you take care of it, and you kill it in one year,” my uncle said.

JURY STATEMENT Annecy (FIPRESCI-Jury): “A story of the passage from childhood to adulthood, THE RUNT is 10 minutes of pure emotion, carried by a beautiful use of contrasting bright yellow and dark colors and the stylized child’s drawings. For these major qualities, THE RUNT was distinguished by the FIPRESCI prize, out of a very attractive selection.”

Andreas Hykade was born 1968 in Altötting; from 1988-1990 he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Stuttgart; from 1992-1995 he studied at the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg; since 1992 he has worked as a freelance filmmaker and since 2000 he has been a professor of animation at the School of Arts and Design Kassel. His films include. Der König ist tot (1990), Wir lebten im Gras (1995), Ring of Fire (2000), Tom & das Erdbeermarmeladenbrot mit Honig (TV Series, 2002-2004).

Screening: Sunday, 26 April, 5:30 pm at NYU Cantor Film Center
Luis travels up into the mountains to see his father again for the first time in years. In an isolated vacation home, he unexpectedly meets the new family his father has been keeping from him. Pulled between the opposing forces of anger, incomprehension and the desire for intimacy, Luis tries to draw his father out, finally provoking a conflict.

JURY STATEMENT Berlin: “The fragility expressed in POLAR makes the film remarkable. POLAR is a gentle and subtle film with casually narrated poetic moments with lasting effects. The film attests to a promising film directing talent.”

Genre Short Film  Category Feature Film  Year of Production 2008  Director Michael Koch  Screenplay Juliane Großheim, Michael Koch  Director of Photography Bernhard Keller  Editor Stefan Stabenow  Music Knut Jensen  Producer Elena von Saucken  Production Company Kunst Hochschule für Medien Köln (KHM)/Cologne, Kinomat/Munich in coproduction with Dschoint Ventschr Filmproduktion/Zurich, SF Swiss Television/Zurich  Principal Cast Max Brauer, André M. Hennicke, Maria Kwiatkowsky  Length 29 min.  Sound Technology Dolby SR  Festival Screenings Winterthur 2008, Berlin 2009 (Perspective Deutsches Kino)  Awards Short Film Days Winterthur 2008 (Best Swiss Short), Berlin 2009 (Special Mention “Dialogue en Perspective”)  World Sales Kunst Hochschule für Medien Köln (KHM), Ute Dilger, email: dilger@khm.de, www.khm.de

Michael Koch studied at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne from 2003-2008 and directed several award-winning short films, including Wir sind dir treu (We are the Faithfull, 2005), Ocean, Beckenrand (Poolside, 2006) and Spieler (2007).

Screening: Sunday, 26 April, 5:30 pm at NYU Cantor Film Center
Reise zum Wald

JOURNEY TO THE FOREST

A poetic exploration of a German myth: the forest.

JURY STATEMENT Regensburg: “Our award winner in the category of politically relevant film might be surprising at first glance: Instead of human beings, plants are the leading characters, thereby focusing the film on an antagonism described in Horkheimer and Adorno’s DIALECTIC OF ENLIGHTENEMENT as a basic problem of modern civilization – namely, the antagonism between nature and culture. In its precise sequencing this film shows trees, or rather the idea of the ‘safe German forest’ as an archetype, cultivated in the cities as quotation. In the second part of the film we get to meet with the seemingly natural forest as a place of brittleness and of dying. There we were especially taken in by the ironic cross-cutting.”


Jörn Staeger was born 1965 in Berlin; from 1984-1991 he studied art at the Art Institute in Hamburg; since 1979 he has directed numerous short films: RAD, Depressionismus (2001), Zielpunkte der Stadt (2004), Lebensgeister (2005).

Screening: Sunday, 26 April, 5:30 pm at NYU Cantor Film Center
Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Hazen & Mr. Horlocker

Disturbed by loud music from one of his neighbors Mr. Schwartz calls the police. But initially the officer cannot ascertain anything... Then the film starts again from the view of every tenant and allows the spectator to see what really happened in each apartment: The history of a butterfly effect.

JURY STATEMENT Dresden: “A ‘film pill’ that affects your limbs like a perfidious designer drug with unknown effects. Within seconds, even the most sober audience succumbs to Stefan Müller’s superb sense for masterly cinematic exaggeration. The timing, humor, sound and art work enrapture you in this magnum opus.”


Stefan Müller was born in 1974 in Limburg and studied communication design at the University of Applied Sciences Wiesbaden and the Universidad Complutense Madrid.

Screening Sunday, 26 April, 5:30 pm at NYU Cantor Film Center