



## **PRESSEMITTEILUNG**

16.08.2011

### **JETZT ONLINE: DAS FESTIVALPROGRAMM VON DOWN UNDER BERLIN AUF WWW.DOWNUNDERBERLIN.DE**

Das Festival Down Under Berlin – Australian Film Festival, das erste australische Filmfestival Berlins, präsentiert sein Programm auf der Festivalhomepage [www.downunderberlin.de](http://www.downunderberlin.de). Das Festival findet vom 16.-18. September 2011 im Kreuzberger Kino Movimiento, Kottbusser Damm 22, statt.

In seinem ersten Jahr legt das Festival den Fokus auf alternative Independent-Produktionen, die jenseits des künstlerischen und politischen Mainstreams die soziale und kulturelle Vielfalt der Australier und Australiens zeigen: „We explore the raw side of Australian cinema“.

Mit der Sektion „Aboriginal Australia“ liegt der Schwerpunkt auf Filmen von, mit und über Aborigines. Diese Filme thematisieren die kulturelle Identität und das Selbstverständnis der Aborigines Australiens und stellen die Frage, wie die tradierten Lebensweisen der Ureinwohner mit einer marktorientierten Gesellschaft in Einklang gebracht werden können.

Die Filme des Festivals werden durch Filmeinführungen, Publikumsgespräche mit den Filmemachern und Kurzvorträge begleitet.

Aktuelle Filmproduktionen von neuen, jungen Filmemachern zählen ebenfalls dazu, wie Filme der vergangenen Jahrzehnte. Das Publikum des Down Under Berlin – Australian Film Festival wählt im Verlauf des Festivals seine Favouriten, die mit dem Down Under Berlin Short Film Award und dem Down Under Berlin Film Award ausgezeichnet werden.

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## DOWN UNDER BERLIN – AUSTRALIAN FILM FESTIVAL PROGRAMM

### Short films

#### [Automata](#)

by Matt Richards, 2010, 11 min. 5 sec., colour, no dialogue

The Australian bush – buzzing flies around a lake. Gnarled trees and a make-shift home. A wooden duck floats on the lake. Feathers fly.

#### **Matt Richards**

Matt Richards was born in Perth and grew up in Western Australia. His love for skateboarding and film resulted in his first video productions, made on a hi-8 camera and a portable tape-deck. In 2000 he graduated with an Advanced Diploma in Film & Television from the Western Australia School of Art and Design, where he made the award-winning 16mm film "Growing Jacobs Gold". He has since worked with art and film projects in Australia, Europe and the USA. In 2011 he began a Master's Degree of Directing in Drama at the Victorian College of the Arts.

#### [Back to Me](#)

by Tiffany Parker, 2010, 6min. 40 sec., colour, English

#### **Aboriginal Australia**

A young woman gets ready for a party at her house. She meets a guy who asks "What are you?" What he really means is: where are you from? She makes up an answer, not wanting to say what she really is. A Spirit Woman appears to her, reminding her where she comes from.

#### [Berry Bliss](#)

by [Andrew Pearce](#), 2010, 6 min., colour, English

The day after a party. Balloons. A backyard with the remnants of the night before. The coloured balloons fly away, bringing a smile to the faces of strangers.

#### [Cakes and Sand](#) (Torten im Sand)

by [Christoph Scheermann](#), 2010, 15 min. 42 sec., colour, German and English with English subtitles

A gay couple travels to the beach for a holiday. Spending time away from the city should revive their relationship. Do they still want each other the same way? What happens at the beach that could bring back their love for one another?

#### **Christoph Scheermann**

Cakes and Sand (Torten im Sand) has been screened at over 30 film festivals throughout the world, including Frameline San Francisco 2010, Austin Gay Lesbian Int. Film Fest, Texas 2010, Thessaloniki International Igbt Short FF 2011 and Melbourne Queer Film Fest 2011 (Australia). In 2010 Cakes and Sand came third in the Iris Prize in Cardiff.

#### [Digging Dirt from the Earth](#) (Dreck aus der Erde graben – Durmus Yildiz & die australische Sonne)

by Thomas Schumacher, 2011, 21 min., colour, German with English subtitles

Durmus Yildiz was born in Turkey and grew up in Germany. He moved to Australia in the year 2000 where he found work in the field of Solar Energy. For Durmus, Australia is the ideal country to develop more solar energy systems, but he sees the idealism surrounding this industry slowly fading. Environmental awareness has become a new trend in Australia, but it is important that energy saving measures continue after the hype has died down.

### **Thomas Schumacher**

Thomas Schumacher was born in Eppingen in Baden-Württemberg in Germany. He has worked as a magazine editor, in television as a production assistant, and for the German-Polish Artist Radio station. He worked as a teaching assistant in the department for Experimental Sound Art and Sound Design/Sound Studies at the Berlin University of Arts (Universität der Künste). With his production company Gerne Mehr Film he has so far completed three films. "Digging Dirt from the Earth" is his most recent film.

### [Holy War, Inc.](#)

by David Austrem, 2010, 24 min., colour, English

Religion and violence – what are we fighting for? A bloody tale of Gods and men.

### **David Austrem**

David Austrem was born in Norway, his father is Norwegian and his mother is English. His love for film began at an early age after watching action films like "True Lies". He studied in Oxford before heading to Australia to the International Film School Sydney (<http://www.ifss.edu.au/>). His wide range of subject matter makes his films shocking, funny and very entertaining.

### [Jabiru 0886: Trespass](#)

by [David Vadiveloo](#), 2002, 26 min., colour, English **Aboriginal Australia**

The Mirarr people who live in the Kakadu region of the Northern Territory have been here for over 40 000 years. But for over 25 years the Australian government has been mining Uranium from their sacred lands. Now there are only a few surviving members of this community, whose culture and language are threatened by extinction. To save her community, one Mirarr woman, Yvonne Margarula, has led a successful non-violent campaign against both the Australian government and two of the world's largest mining companies.

### **David Vadiveloo**

David Vadiveloo is a human rights lawyer and an international award winning film-maker. He directed and co-produced the first Indigenous children's television series called "Us Mob" ([www.usmob.com.au](http://www.usmob.com.au)) which screened in 2005 in Australia. In 2005 David was awarded the Australian Human Rights Award for Individual Community Achievement for his vast work in the field of human rights.

### [Land of Returns](#)

by [Chas Fisher](#), 2010, 9 min. 21 sec., colour, English

Early 20th Century Australia. An English man in the bush meets an Irish woman, both are alone. She gives him food and a place by her fire. But he wants more than she is willing to give.

### **Chas Fisher**

Chas Fisher was born in England, but grew up Egypt, Argentina and India, inspiring him to explore social and cultural conflicts. In 2010 he graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts with a Postgraduate Diploma in Film and Television. He has worked in theatre and has been making short films since 2009. "Land of Returns" has been screened at the film festivals Mudfest – the Mudgee International Short Film Festival, Comfortable Shorts and Westside Shorts in Australia in 2011.

### [Muckaty Voices](#)

by [Eleanor Gilbert](#), 2010, 9 min. 59 sec., colour, English with English subtitles **Aboriginal Australia**

The Australian Government under Kevin Rudd promised to carry out a better nuclear waste program than its predecessors. Dumping of nuclear waste was proposed to take place on sacred lands of many Aboriginal communities. What the land means to these peoples is still unknown to many Australians.

## [Old War](#)

by [Danielle McCarthy](#), 2009, 10 min., colour, English

A man approaches a woman at a party. They leave together and spend the night at his place. The next morning she discovers where he's really from, and how he feels about her once the truth comes out.

### **Danielle McCarthy**

Danielle McCarthy is an Australian of part Montenegrin background, she grew up in Australia and overseas. She has worked at SBS Television in Australia, as well as a producer, including for the feature film "EXIT". The film "Old War" is her directorial debut.

## [Sand in My Eyes](#)

by [Estee Chang](#), 2010, 8 min. 36 sec., black and white, no dialogue

A little girl is having a tea party with her doll. An old man sits in a bar. A man walks through the desert. Where do we go when our youth has faded?

### **Estee Chang**

Estee Chang grew up in Malaysia and had a passion for film since her childhood. She decided to leave her studies in Psychology and Theatre and flew to Sydney to pursue her dream of studying film. Estee completed a number of films during her studies at the International Film School Sydney, including "Sand in My Eyes".

## [The Little Bush Sprite](#)

by [Richard van der Male](#), 2010, 2 min. 50 sec., colour, English

A Bush Sprite chases a butterfly through the bush, and meets some Australian animals on the way.

## **Long films**

### [Cracks in the Mask](#)

by [Frances Calvert](#), 1997, 57 min., colour, English with German subtitles **Aboriginal Australia**

A documentary film about the strange and elaborate turtle-shell masks that were made in the Torres Strait, but have long since disappeared – now they can only be seen in museums on the other side of the world. Ephraim Bani tells the story of his people and their traditions, some of which may be lost forever. A film about cultural objects, and their place in both the culture from which they came and the museums that tell us stories of the past.

### **Frances Calvert**

Frances Calvert is from Sydney in Australia and studied at Sydney University. In 1987 she established a production company with the British producer and director Lindsay Merrison, and together they made her first film "Talking Broken". She has taught Media and Cultural Studies at the University of Potsdam, and also as a teacher in production at the School of Film and Television (HFF) in Babelsberg, near Berlin.

### [Making it Handmade](#)

by [Anna Brownfield](#), 2010, 53 min., colour, English

Anna follows a group of women in Melbourne who see themselves as part of a new feminist movement that involves traditional arts and crafts, rather than protesting on the streets. These women are part of a new subversive subculture where homemade,

knitted, stitched and sewn are the new punk.

This film has shown at a number of film festivals around Australia including the Melbourne International Film Festival in 2010.

### **Anna Brownfield**

Anna Brownfield graduated from RMIT (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) Media Arts with Honours. She makes erotic films from a female perspective and documentaries about subculture in Australia. Anna's films have been shown throughout the world, including at the Melbourne Underground Film Festival and the International Women's Conference in Beijing in 1995. Anna's love of all things crafty inspired her to make a documentary film about a modern and very feminist craft movement that is happening in Australia.

### [Our Generation](#)

by [Sinem Saban](#) and [Damien Curtis](#), 2010, 73 min., colour, English    **Aboriginal Australia**

This film looks at the Australian Aboriginal struggle for land, culture and freedom that continues today. The remote Yolngu community features as one of the last remaining culturally strong areas.

This film shows a side of Australia that is unknown to many who live outside this vast country. Historians, indigenous leaders, musicians and human rights activists are part of the culture clash that remains in modern Australia.

### **Sinem Saban & Damien Curtis**

Sinem Saban studied Media, Law and Aboriginal Studies, and is an Aboriginal rights activist and teacher and works with communities in Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory in Australia.

Damien Curtis studied Anthropology, Religious Studies and Environment and Development, and also works with tribal groups in Australia and overseas in the fields of culture and land protection.

### [Uranium: Is It A Country?](#)

by [Kerstin Schnatz](#), 2008, 53 min., colour, English and German with English subtitles

This documentary film shows how and where uranium is used and mined – Australia has the world's largest deposit of this resource. The risks and opportunities that uranium and nuclear energy carry with them are explored in both Australia and Europe.

This film has been shown throughout the world at a number of film festivals and in individual screenings throughout Germany.

### **Kerstin Schnatz**

Kerstin Schnatz is a German film-maker and is an activist in promoting alternatives to atomic energy. Kerstin works to increase awareness for green alternatives like solar and wind energy through the non-profit organization Strahlendes Klima e. V. and her films.

## DOWN UNDER BERLIN – AUSTRALIAN FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

- Freitag, 16.09.2011 19:00 [Muckaty Voices](#)  
[Our Generation](#)  
Anschließend: Publikumsgespräch mit Valeska Ebeling (Survival International)
- Samstag, 17.09.2011 17:00 Down Under Berlin Shorts Part 1  
[Sand in My Eyes](#)  
[Holy War](#)  
[Berry Bliss](#)  
[Old War](#)  
[The Little Bush Sprite](#)
- 19:00 [Jabiru 0886: Trespass](#)  
[Uranium: Is It A Country?](#)  
Anschließend: Publikumsgespräch mit Kerstin Schnatz (Regisseurin „Uranium: Is it a country?“ (angefragt) und Susanne Hubatsch (Amnesty International)
- 21:30 [Back To Me](#)  
[Making it Handmade](#)
- Sonntag, 18.09.2011 17:00 Down Under Berlin Shorts Part 2  
[Automata](#)  
[Cakes and Sand](#)  
[Land of Returns](#)  
[Digging Dirt from the Earth](#)  
Anschließend: Publikumsgespräch mit Thomas Schumacher (Regisseur „Digging Dirt from the Earth“)
- 19:00 [Cracks in the Mask](#)  
Anschließend: Kurzvortrag von Dr. Markus Schindlbeck (Ethnologisches Museum Berlin)