

DOWN AUSTRALIAN UNDER FILM BERLIN FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW ZEALAND CINEMA WITH GERMAN PREMIERES AT DOWN UNDER BERLIN: “Predicament“ and “I Am the River“, as well as a spotlight on the films of Taika Waititi

In the following we will present several new sections from the programme of the 2nd Down Under Berlin - Australian Film Festival:

1. A “New Zealand” section at Down Under Berlin
2. “Classroom in the Cinema”: Down Under Berlin curates a school programme for Berlin schools
3. Australian films from ZEBRA Poetry Film Festival and International Comedy Film Festival in the “Open Screen” section

NEW: “New Zealand” section at Down Under Berlin

This year’s Down Under Berlin programme delves further into cinema of the antipodes, with a curatorial focus on films from New Zealand. Spotlighting New Zealand cinema, Down Under Berlin will present a selection of exciting, recent films - including shorts as well as documentaries and features - encompassing New Zealand’s rich and colourful cinematic culture. Both Jason Stutter’s crime comedy **Predicament** and the documentary **I Am the River** will enjoy their German Premiere at Down Under Berlin. In **I Am the River** directors Mark McNeill and Luigi Cutore trace the battle for the rights over an unique collection of historical snapshots of Whanganui Maori, which provoked a cultural clash of differing views of ownership and heritage. Leanne Pooley’s inspiring biopic **The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls**, about the world’s only comedic, singing, yodeling lesbian twin sisters, Lynda and Jools Topp, will have its Berlin Premiere at the festival. The section will also feature a special spotlight on director Taika Waititi, one of New Zealand’s most popular and talented young filmmakers, with a screening of Oscar-nominated short film **Two Cars, One Night** as well as his first feature film **Eagle vs Shark**.

NEW: Down Under Berlin curates a school programme for Berlin schools

Down Under Berlin - Australian Film Festival is excited to announce its first school programme - **Classroom in the Cinema: focus Australia** - which is operated in conjunction with Kino Movimento. As part of this programme, Berlin schools will be offered the chance to attend screenings of several carefully selected films from this year’s festival. The programme aims to stimulate and inspire students to get an insight into Australian cinema and society. The school programme comprises films from a range of genres. The documentary feature, **Children of the Iron Snake**, explores the development of street art in Melbourne, while inherently questioning the borders between private and public space. The short film programme **1000 Faces Australia** includes; **Riding in Between** - a visually stunning mediation on cultural identity and ethnic heritage which tells the story of a young aboriginal boy caught between following his traditional culture and modern ways. While Victoria Goodyear’s **Kamambo (Butterfly)**, follows a young asylum seeker who is unable to escape the trauma of her past - tackling poignant questions about integration. The Down Under Berlin school programme will be shown from 17th to the 21st of September at Kino

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Movimiento and can be booked within the cinema's regular school programme. Bookings and ticket reservations are possible from the 14th September at www.movimiento.de.

NEW: Australian films from ZEBRA Poetry Film Festival and International Comedy Film Festival in the "Open Screen" section

Down Under Berlin is committed to not only presenting Australian cinema and culture within the festival itself, but to bringing Australian film to as broad a range of audiences as possible. Working together with two partner festivals Down Under Berlin aims to highlight the diversity of Australian cinema and to foster the presence of Australian films in a range of different contexts. The **Open Screen**, invites The **International Comedy Film Festival** and the **ZEBRA Poetry Film Festival** to dig into their archives and to each put together their own programmes of Australian films which they have shown in the past. The International Comedy Film Festival, which presents humorous films from diverse backgrounds and unexpected perspectives, will present a small series of features, while the Zebra Poetry Film Festival which shows films based on poetry has curated a programme of shorts. Through working together with these unique festivals, this initiative aims to call attention to the abundance of Australian films which exist in every imaginable context.

Contact:

Clemens Stolzenberg

Co-Director

+49/ 163/ 46 23 085

clemens.stolzenberg@downunderberlin.de