



MEDIA RELEASE – 9 AUGUST 2017

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2017 FESTIVAL PROGRAM AND A LOOK AT OUR AWARDS SPONSORS

DOWN UNDER BERLIN 2017: “LOOKING BEYOND”

From 13-17 September 2017 Down Under Berlin – Australian & New Zealand Film Festival welcomes its audience back to Movimiento Kino in Berlin-Kreuzberg. This year’s festival program encompasses a compelling range of fiction and documentary features and shorts that look beyond everyday life, into the past, and towards new futures. This can be terrifying, other times exhilarating, and often leads to a very personal destination. Down Under Berlin opens on 13 September with the critically acclaimed adaptation, “**Jasper Jones**” (2017), by award-winning director Rachel Perkins (“*Bran Nue Dae*”): a beautiful coming-of-age story and modern classic starring Levi Miller (“*Pan*”), Toni Colette (“*The Sixth Sense*”), and Hugo Weaving (“*The Matrix*”).

Festival guests can look forward to seeing brand new and highly anticipated documentaries, such as New Zealand box-office hit “**Pecking Order**” (2017) by Slavko Martinov (“*Propaganda*”), the German premiere of “**Barbecue**” (2017) by Australian Matthew Salleh, a story of redemption in “**Deep Water: The Real Story**” (2016) by Amanda Blue, and the highly personal “**I am Heath Ledger**” (2017) by Adrian Buitenhuis and Derik Murray about the life and death of the late actor.

This year’s short film program is the biggest it has ever been and brings together the work of professional filmmakers and up-and-coming film graduates. In addition to three stand-alone programs, the festival celebrates with a special event on Thursday, 14 September: **Australia vs. New Zealand - Short Film Battle!**

Independent features complete this year’s program with the thrilling Sci-Fi “**OtherLife**” (2017) by Ben C. Lucas, the true story of love and murder in “**Joe Cinque’s Consolation**” (2016) by Sotiris Dounoukos (“*Un seul corps*”), and Ben Young’s highly acclaimed feature film debut “**Hounds of Love**” (2016).

Down Under Berlin’s closing film is the outstanding documentary “**Spookers**”, by renowned German-New Zealand filmmaker Florian Habicht (“*Pulp: A Film About Life, Death and Supermarkets*”), an intimate portrait of a group of loveable social misfits

who work at a haunted house, and how becoming a monster can help you face your fears.

AWARDS SPONSORS 2017

Down Under Berlin is proud to announce that Berlin based language service provider **Lingual Consultancy Services** is the official major prize sponsor for the Down Under Berlin Audience Awards 2017. The prize will consist of two language translation packages of up to 90 minutes of footage to the recipients of the **Audience Awards** in the categories 'Best Film' and 'Best Short Film'. The awards winners will be announced during the festival finale on Sunday, 17 September 2017.

Furthermore, the international film community platform, **FilmUp**, will award the runner up of the 'Best Short Film' Audience Award and the winners of the Short Film Battle each with a one-year premium membership.

FESTIVAL WEBSITE: www.downunderberlin.de

FESTIVAL PROGRAM: www.downunderberlin.de/calendar

MEDIA AREA: www.downunderberlin.de/press

FILM STILLS: presse@downunderberlin.de

MEDIA ACCREDITATION: presse@downunderberlin.de

TICKETS: 8 Euro (5-Ticket-Pass for 35 Euro only available at the cinema)

RESERVATION: www.movementode.de | phone: +49 (0)30 6924 785

VENUE: Movimiento Kino, Kottbusser Damm 22, 10967 Berlin

ATTENDING FILMMAKERS (as of 8 August 2017):

Down Under Berlin is delighted to announce that several filmmakers will participate in the festival, being available for Q&As as well as media requests or giving introductions to films:

Sotiris Dounoukos | Director "Joe Cinque's Consolation"

Mala Ghedia | Writer/actress "No Monsters In Berlin"

Florian Habicht | Director "Spookers"

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