

# PROGRAMME FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING AUDIENCES

Luis-Rohrer-Collection



**41** \_\_\_\_\_  
**FILMFESTIVAL  
MAX OPHÜLS  
PREIS**

20.—26.01.2020

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# PROGRAMME FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING AUDIENCES

The Film Festival Max Ophüls Preis offers 37 screenings for English-speaking audiences. These screenings take place in the following cinemas: CineStar 2 (CS 2), CineStar 3 (CS 3), CineStar 5 (CS 5), CineStar 8 (CS 8), camera zwo 3 (CaZ 3) and Filmhaus (FH) in Saarbrücken and Capitol MovieWorld (CMW) in Saarlouis. In addition to the film screenings, the panel "How to Travel the World with Shorts" will be held in English. It takes place at the FourSide Hotel in Saarbrücken and is open to the public.

Please consider the age ratings of the individual films. Films without a mentioned age rating have not been officially classified yet and are thus approved for audiences aged 18 and older.

## A LIVING DOG

Director: Daniel Raboldt / Germany 2019 / colour / 94 min. / without dialogue / MOP-Watchlist



Mankind has already lost the war against the self-developed, intelligent combat drones. The deserter Tomasz flees to the vast emptiness of Scandinavia to hide as far away

from the battle as possible. This is where he meets the strong-willed and cold-blooded Lilja, a resistance fighter who pursues the suicidal plan to fight the superior machines – and who will lead them to Tomasz.

**Tue 22:00** CS 8 / **Wed 12:00** CS 3

## ARCHE NORA

International title: NORA'S ARK

Director: Anna Kirst / Austria 2020 / Documentary / colour / 79 min. / English, Spanish with English subtitles / world premiere / Documentary Film Competition



In the United States, children of undocumented parents receive U. S. citizenship through their birth on US-American soil. Nora fights for thousands of these children to make

sure that their families won't be separated forever if their parents are being deported. For this, she orchestrates her appearances in the media, relies on her friends in the Republican Party – and turns all the common ideas of a social hero upside down.

**Sun 20:30** CS 5

## DER PERFEKTE RUN

International title: A PERFECT RUN

Director: Lea Becker / Germany 2020 / Documentary / colour / 94 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / Documentary Film Competition



Winning medals for Germany is the mutual goal of Celia, Filip and Umito. They live in a boarding school in the mountains where they practice daily – far away from

family and friends – in order to one day stand on top of the winner's podium. As members of the German national snowboard cross team they fight and struggle through the long winter season, competitions, school work, injuries – and puberty. Which sacrifices does a career as a professional athlete demand?

**Wed 15:00** CS 5

## EIN BISSCHEN BLEIBEN WIR NOCH

International title: WHERE NO ONE KNOWS US

Director: Arash T. Riahi / Austria 2020 / colour / 102 min. / German, Chechen with English subtitles / German premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



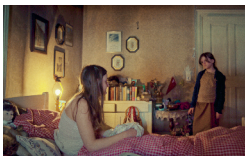
The siblings Oskar and Lili are separated from their mentally unstable mother and are placed in two different foster families. The children's hope that they will be reunited with each

other and with their mother is nourished by their love for each other and challenges all bureaucratic obstacles with passion and imagination.

**Sat 17:00** CS 5

## FELLWECHSELZEIT

Director: Sabrina Mertens / Germany 2020 / colour / 80 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



Stephanie lives an isolated life which is shaped by the relationship with her dependent mother. She cannot trust her father. Time brings only aging instead of a future. Therefore, she

flees into a world of dark fantasies, which are nourished by the traces of past times and only belong to her. One day, her secret forces its way into the reality of the family.

**Wed 19:30** CS 5

## FOR THE TIME BEING

Director: Salka Tiziana / Germany, Spain, Switzerland 2020 / colour / 71 min. / German, Spanish, English with English subtitles / world premiere / without age restriction / Feature Film Competition



High summer in the Sierra Morena. A young mother travels with her twins to the finca of her Spanish mother-in-law to meet the father of her children.

When he does not turn up

as planned, the family starts looking for a different way to face the place that is equally foreign and familiar to them.

**Wed 12:45** CS 5

## FRICTSCH'S PFUSCH

Director: Lisa Wagner / Germany 2020 / Documentary / colour / 79 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / Documentary Film Competition



The theatre „Volksbühne“ in Berlin is in a turmoil. The approaching change of the artistic director has provoked a theatre controversy. Amidst this dispute, the director Herbert

Fritsch stages „Pfusch“, his last play not based on original text material at the theatre which he calls his artistic home. With his famous ensemble, Fritsch has to find out once again what modern theatre signifies for him – and the date of the premiere comes alarmingly close.

**Fri 19:30** CS 3

## GLITZER & STAUB

International Title: **GLITTER & DUST**

Directors: Anna Koch, Julia Lemke / Germany 2020 / Documentary / colour, b/w / 91 min. / English with German subtitles / world premiere / Documentary Film Competition



Four girls living in the lonely vastness of the USA share one passion: The wild world of rodeo. Although they move about in the powerful imagery of the American prairie and the myths of the

Wild West, they give it new resonance and break free of it. In a world which used to belong to their fathers and brothers, they prove that “you ride like a girl” is not an insult but a compliment.

**Wed 19:00** CS 8 / **Thu 12:15** CS 8 / **Fri 17:30** CS 2 / **Fri 20:00** CMW / **Sun 11:00** CS 5

## IRGENDWANN IST AUCH MAL GUT

Director: Christian Werner / Germany 2020 / colour / 94 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



The life of Karsten, a mortician, isn't going that well at the moment. Just in time for Christmas, his parents inform him during the festive dinner that they want to commit suicide

together. In five days. Usually used to death, he tries everything to convince the dear mother Marion and the father Theodor, suffering from Parkinson's disease, not to pursue their plan. But the conflict about the self-determined death opens up old wounds – and as Karsten's own health deteriorates rapidly, it is no longer clear who needs to be saved.

**Fri 17:00** CS 5

## JIJAN

Director: Süheyla Schwenk / Germany 2019 / colour / 71 min. / Turkish, Kurdish, German with English subtitles / German premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



The pregnant Hayat has left her home country Syria. In Berlin, she and her husband Harun are living with his uncle who is helping them with the asylum applicati-

ons, but his wife cannot hide her mistrust towards their guests because of Hayat's Kurdish roots. Hayat's everyday life becomes like running the gauntlet. Only when her son is born and Harun finds a job, all seems to change for the better – until Harun suddenly disappears.

**Fri 10:00** CS 5

## JULIA MUSS STERBEN

Director: Marco Gadge / Germany 2020 / colour / 95 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



Lya has a peculiar plan: She stirs sleeping pills into her father's morning tea and pushes the snoring wheelchair user into her brother's greengrocery in order to secretly partici-

pate in an acting audition. And all that just because she feels that after having cared for her father for eight years she has paid her family enough tribute. But a girl with a headscarf is not what this German culture temple has been waiting for – and so the culture clash is inevitable.

**Sun 13:30** CS 5

## KIW

Director: Frederik Arens Grandin / Germany, France 2020 / Documentary / colour / 73 min. / French, Wolof, Lebanese-Arabic with English subtitles / world premiere / Documentary Film Competition



After a bunch of setbacks, the young Lebanese Ali leaves his home of choice Paris and returns to Dakar. His newest project: a small fish factory. This time, Ali seems to have hit the jack-

pot. The company develops properly, despite the international exploitation of the Senegalese sea, despite the rainy season and numerous power cuts. But then his cousin joins the company and messes it all up. Ali's odyssey starts anew. Next stop: Haiti.

**Fri 19:30** CS 5

## LILLIAN

Director: Andreas Horvath / Austria 2019 / colour / 128 min. / English, Russian, Chukchi with English subtitles / MOP-Watch-list



Lillian, an emigrant stranded in New York City, decides to walk back to her native country Russia. She resolutely starts out on the long journey. A road movie straight across the

USA into the freezing temperatures of Alaska. A chronicle of a slow disappearance.

**Tue 22:00** FH / **Wed 20:30** CaZ 3

## LIVE

Director: Lisa Charlotte Frierdich / Germany 2020 / colour / 84 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



In the near future. Many things are like today, one thing isn't: The number of terror attacks has increased so rapidly that any gathering in public is prohibited. Any form of culture and most of human

interaction is mediated by an electronic device. The psychologist Claire decides to break the isolation and plans a secret concert with her brother Aurel, a famous trumpet player who has performed concerts in front of virtual audiences only for years. Supported by the hackers Ada and Maximus, their plan seems to succeed. Things go well. Until something else starts to go deeply wrong.

**Sat 22:00** CS 5

## LOST IN FACE

Director: Valentin Riedl / Germany 2020 / Documentary / colour / 81 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / Documentary Film Competition



Carlotta cannot recognize faces, not even her own. She is one of the 1% of all people whose part of the brain responsible for facial recognition does not work properly. LOST IN FACE travels through Carlotta's uni-

verse, full of anthropomorphic animals, lucid dreams and bumpy false paths. The film peels back her charming, idiosyncratic solutions that she employs to be able to join the masses of human conformity, until she one day decides to build a ship and leave her fellow humans. Her never-ending search for answers leads her to art — and thus an avenue to her own face and back to humanity.

**Sun 16:00** CS 5

## NEUBAU

Director: Johannes Maria Schmit / Germany 2020 / colour / 82 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / age rating: 16 / Feature Film Competition



Summer in the province of Brandenburg. Markus is torn between his love for his grandmothers in need of care and his longing for another life in Berlin. In his daydreams, he sees a

crowd of shimmering demons as harbingers of a queer urban family of choice that frees him from his loneliness. As he falls in love with Duc, everything gets even more complicated, because the already packed boxes in Markus' newly-built flat wait to move to Berlin.

**Thu 10:30** CS 5

## NOTHING MORE PERFECT

Director: Teresa Hoerl / Germany 2020 / colour / 87 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



Maya is 16 and longing for death. Or the idea of it. Throwing everybody into a turmoil, getting all the attention for once, even when the price is life itself. She has never

gone further than flowery selfie-goodbye-messages in a forum for suicidal teenagers. But then she travels to Prague. While her wannabe-young parents just think about fun and partying there, Maya's suicidal pipe dream becomes a real threat.

**Fri 14:30** CS 5

## NUR EIN AUGENBLICK

International title: **THE ACCIDENTAL REBEL**

Director: Randa Chahoud / Germany, Great Britain 2019 / colour / 108 min. / German, Arabic with English subtitles / German premiere / age rating: 16 / Feature Film Competition



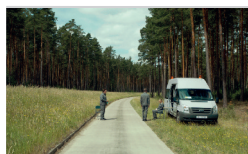
The young Syrian Karim and his pregnant girlfriend Lilly live a carefree college life in Hamburg. But when Karim's beloved brother Yassir is abducted to a torture

prison in Syria, Karim decides to travel to Turkey to gather information about his brother's whereabouts. He realizes: If he wants to save Yassir, he has to join the fight.

**Wed 10:15** CS 5

## PARADIES

Director: Immanuel Esser / Germany 2020 / colour / 80 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



Working for Death is not so dramatic if you live in a company car with your two colleagues and you drive through the landscape to get from one place of death to the

next. But in this tranquil everyday life, the three staff members of the recycling corporation "Styx" are suddenly confronted with their own extermination – and begin to question the rules of their world.

**Thu 17:30** CS 5

## PASSIONSSPIELE

International title: **PASSION PLAYS**

Directors: Luka Lara Steffen / Germany 2020 / Documentary / colour / 76 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / Documentary Film Competition



In Dresden, February 13th is dominated every year by the remembrance of the Allied bombing on the city in 1945. While some reach out their hands in reconciliation, others

march with torches through the city center. Right groups have been mobilizing their supporters since the 1990s. The march in February became the biggest one in Europe – until it was successfully blocked for the first time in 2010. As the world's understanding of the political right shifts further into the general norm, right wing actions around February 13th have increased in popularity again.

**Thu 13:00** CS 5

## REGELN AM BAND, BEI HOHER GESCHWINDIGKEIT

International title: **RULES OF THE ASSEMBLY LINE, AT HIGH SPEED**

Director: Yulia Lokshina / Germany 2020 / Documentary / colour / 92 min. / German, Romanian, English, Russian, Polish with English subtitles / world premiere / age rating: 12 / Documentary Film Competition



In the West German province, Eastern European contract workers of the biggest pig-slaughtering business of the country fight for survival – and activists who advocate for

their rights fight with authorities. At the same time, a theatre group in a school in Munich rehearses a play by Brecht and contemplates the structures of the German economy. A film about the state of work and questions of morality, where open borders between countries and a lack of boundaries for the market mean danger for some and capital for others.

**Sat 15:00** CaZ 3

## SEKURITAS

Director: Carmen Stadler / Switzerland 2019 / colour / 117 min. / Swiss German, Arabic with English subtitles / German premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



Before an office complex is set to be demolished, it expresses one last wish: a love story. It centres around desire, security, and a melody that runs through the entire fabric

of the building. So when darkness descends and everything falls silent, the routine lives of those within its walls sparkle like stars, paving the way for intimate chance encounters and absurd humour to unfold. A nocturnal kaleidoscope of longing, loneliness and freedom.

**Tue 22:00** CS 5

## SHOWCASE: FILM SCHOOLS FROM ISRAEL



A programme of five short films by student film directors from five different Israeli film schools. Talia Wigoder, director of the TISFF Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival, has

curated the programme and will introduce the films and discuss them with four of its student directors. For the first time, the TISFF and FFMOP, each of them the most important national festival for up-and-coming filmmakers, exchange a short film programme in their respective 2020 editions. All films are subtitled in English, the film discussions are held in English.

In cooperation with Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung and Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Saarland.

**Thu 12:00** CS 3 / **Fri 12:45** CS 8

## SILVIA IS MY NAME

Director: Max Benyo / Kenya, Germany 2020 / Documentary / colour / 63 min. / Maa, Kiswahili, English with English subtitles / world premiere / Documentary Film Competition



Silvia lives in South Kenya, she belongs to the tribe of the Maasai. Despite many heavy strokes of fate, she still fights for the rights of the Maasai-women in their region, not least she

had to fear for her life and that of her children. Their fight for equal rights collides again and again with the traditions of her tribe.

**Fri 22:00** CS 5

## SOMMERKRIEG

International title: SUMMERWAR

Director: Moritz Schulz / Germany, Ukraine 2019 / Documentary / colour / 78 min. / Ukrainian, Russian with English subtitles / German premiere / Documentary Film Competition



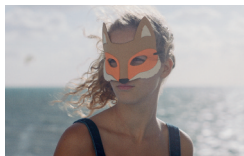
The war has been going on for five years, and there are many Ukrainians who want to do something for their country. The right-wing Azov Regiment of

fiers training for citizen militias, partly through summer camps for thousands of children. The film follows Jasmin and Jastrip, two twelve-year-olds with very different backgrounds. Summer camp teaches them how to make a bed, the benefits of group identity, and how to assemble a Kalashnikov rifle. They are destined to become proud Ukrainians prepared to fight and die for their country.

**Sat 14:30** CS 5

## SUNBURNED

Director: Carolina Hellsgård / Germany, Netherlands, Poland 2019 / colour / 94 min. / German, English with English subtitles / German premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



The headstrong 13-year-old Claire spends her holidays with her older sister Zoe and her mother Sophie in a hotel by the sea in Andalusia. Sophie

spends her days by the pool and shows only minimal interest in her daughters. When Zoe falls in love with Michael, Claire is on her own. On the beach she meets Amram, a young Senegalese beach vendor. She wants to help him but unintentionally makes his desperate situation even more hopeless.

**Fri 12:15** CS 5

## TAGUNDNACHTGLEICHE

International title: EQUINOX

Director: Lena Knauss / Germany 2020 / colour / 110 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



After a passionate night with vaudeville artist Paula, Alexander is sure to have found the love of his life. When he approaches her sister Marlene after Paula's sudden death, he

is thrown into an emotional chaos because through her, he gets to know another version of Paula. The more reality and wishful thinking blur, the more torn he feels – between Paula, of whom only a fleeting, yearning image remains, and Marlene, who stands close by and begins to love him.

**Sat 12:00** CS 5

## TSCHARNIBLUES II

Director: Aron Nick / Switzerland 2019 / Documentary / colour / 84 min. / Swiss German with English subtitles / German premiere / Documentary Film Competition



1979, the high-rise housing estate Tscharnergut in Bern: father, uncle and friends of the director shoot the idealistic Super-8 film "Dr Tscharnibluess", a wild, unvarnished self-

portrait, in a way a primordial self-portrait of their generation, which became a cult surprise success. 40 years later, the five friends reunite in the Tscharnergut. What have they achieved and what have they lost? A film about a friendship that endures everything, even the right to be unsuccessful.

**Thu 22:15** CS 5

## WAREN EINMAL REVOLUZZER

International title: ONCE WERE REBELS

Director: Johanna Moder / Austria 2019 / colour / 104 min. / German, Russian, English with English subtitles / German premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



Two urban, liberal couples in their 30s decide to help a Russian friend escape to Austria. Pavel, a dissident, is in very real difficulties.

Though initially thrilled by this adventure, the Austri-

ans soon find the very foundations of their friendships and relationships are threatened – mainly because this kind of help can be understood in different ways, but also because the man they rescue refuses to behave as the helpers feel he should.

**Sun 18:15** CS 5

## ГДЕ ОСТАЛСЯ ДОВОЙ STANDING IN FRONT OF MANY HOUSES

Director: Ekaterina Reinbold / Germany 2020 / Documentary / colour / 68 min. / Russian with English subtitles / world premiere / Documentary Film Competition



After the end of the Soviet Union, Natascha emigrates with her family to Germany. 20 years later she returns to the place of her childhood, Lake Baikal in Southwestern Siberia.

Through her encounters with the villagers, she tries to establish a connection to this place, which for her is both identity-forming and foreign. The camera, however, seems to pursue its own agenda. And more and more the question arises who is actually the protagonist of this journey – the person behind or the one in front of the camera.

**Sat 10:00** CS 2

## PANEL: HOW TO TRAVEL THE WORLD WITH SHORTS

The possibilities of launching a short film to an audience are limited on the domestic market – at least that is the case in the German-speaking region. There certainly are a lot of film festivals, as well as some TV slots, but few distributors and streaming platforms, which is why turning to international markets appears to be the obvious choice. But are there world sales that are interested in representing short films? How can I attract attention on an international level otherwise? And what kinds of films are international audiences interested in anyway? The panellists, all having a lot of international experience but coming from different professional backgrounds, will share thoughts and practical advice on how to ensure your short film reaches an international audience.

**Thu 14:00** FourSide Hotel

## OVERVIEW



Tuesday (Jan 21), 22:00 CS 8: [A LIVING DOG](#)

Tuesday (Jan 21), 22:00 FH: [LILLIAN](#)

Tuesday (Jan 21), 22:00 CS 5: [SEKURITAS](#)

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Wednesday (Jan 22), 10:15 CS 5: [NUR EIN AUGENBLICK \(THE ACCIDENTAL REBEL\)](#)

Wednesday (Jan 22), 12:00 CS 3: [A LIVING DOG](#)

Wednesday (Jan 22), 12:45 CS 5: [FOR THE TIME BEING](#)

Wednesday (Jan 22), 15:00 CS 5: [DER PERFEKTE RUN \(A PERFECT RUN\)](#)

Wednesday (Jan 22), 19:00 CS 8: [GLITZER & STAUB \(GLITTER & DUST\)](#)

Wednesday (Jan 22), 19:30 CS 5: [FELLWECHSELZEIT](#)

Wednesday (Jan 22), 20:30 CaZ 3: [LILLIAN](#)

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Thursday (Jan 23), 10:30 CS 5: [NEUBAU](#)

Thursday (Jan 23), 12:00 CS 3: [SHOWCASE: FILM SCHOOLS FROM ISRAEL](#)

Thursday (Jan 23), 12:15 CS 8: [GLITZER & STAUB \(GLITTER & DUST\)](#)

Thursday (Jan 23), 13:00 CS 5: [PASSIONSSPIELE \(PASSION PLAYS\)](#)

Thursday (Jan 23), 14:00 FourSide Hotel: [Panel: „How to Travel the World with Shorts“](#)

Thursday (Jan 23), 17:30 CS 5: [PARADIES](#)

Thursday (Jan 23), 22:15 CS 5: [TSCHARNIBLUES II](#)

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Friday (Jan 24), 10:00 CS 5: [JIYAN](#)

Friday (Jan 24), 12:15 CS 5: [SUNBURNED](#)

Friday (Jan 24), 12:45 CS 8: [SHOWCASE: FILM SCHOOLS FROM ISRAEL](#)

Friday (Jan 24), 14:30 CS 5: [NOTHING MORE PERFECT](#)

Friday (Jan 24), 17:00 CS 5: [IRGENDWANN IST AUCH MAL GUT](#)

Friday (Jan 24), 17:30 CS 2: [GLITZER & STAUB \(GLITTER & DUST\)](#)

Friday (Jan 24), 19:30 CS 3: [FRITSCH'S PFUSCH](#)

Friday (Jan 24), 19:30 CS 5: [KIW](#)

Friday (Jan 24), 20:00 CMW: [GLITZER & STAUB \(GLITTER & DUST\)](#)

Friday (Jan 24), 22:00 CS 5: [SILVIA IS MY NAME](#)

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Saturday (Jan 25), 10:00 CS 2: [ГДЕ ОСТАЛСЯ ДОВОЙ / STANDING IN FRONT OF MANY HOUSES](#)

Saturday (Jan 25), 12:00 CS 5: [TAGUNDNACHTGLEICHE \(EQUINOX\)](#)

Saturday (Jan 25), 14:30 CS 5: [SOMMERKRIEG \(SUMMERWAR\)](#)

Saturday (Jan 25), 15:00 CaZ 3: [REGELN AM BAND, BEI HOHER GESCHWINDIGKEIT \(RULES OF THE ASSEMBLY LINE, AT HIGH SPEED\)](#)

Saturday (Jan 25), 17:00 CS 5: [EIN BISSCHEN BLEIBEN WIR NOCH \(WHERE NO ONE KNOWS US\)](#)

Saturday (Jan 25), 22:00 CS 5: [LIVE](#)

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Sunday (Jan 26), 11:00 CS 5: [GLITZER & STAUB \(GLITTER & DUST\)](#)

Sunday (Jan 26), 13:30 CS 5: [JULIA MUSS STERBEN](#)

Sunday (Jan 26), 16:00 CS 5: [LOST IN FACE](#)

Sunday (Jan 26), 18:15 CS 5: [WAREN EINMAL REVOLUZZER \(ONCE WERE REBELS\)](#)

Sunday (Jan 26), 20:30 CS 5: [ARCHE NORA \(NORA'S ARK\)](#)