PROGRAMME FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING AUDIENCES
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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 two 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 him to Tomasz.

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

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, Fillip 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

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 US 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

EIN BISCHEN 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
FELDWECHSELZEIT
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

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.

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

Fritsch’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. 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

JIYAN
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 applications, 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 participate 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**

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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 jackpot. 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**

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

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**

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LIVE
Director: Lisa Charlotte Friederich / 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**

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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 universe, 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**

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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 careless 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 offers 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

Fri 22:00 CS 5
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**

**1979, the high-rise housing estate Tscharnergut in Bern: father, uncle and friends of the director shoot the idealistic Super-8 film “Dr Tscharniblues”, 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**

**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 Austrians 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**
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