



OVERVIEW



Tuesday (Jan 24), 17:30 CS 5: [INDEPENDENCE](#)
Tuesday (Jan 24), 18:00 CaZ: [THE 9TH STEP](#)
Tuesday (Jan 24), 22:30 CS 5: [THE ORDINARIES](#)

Wednesday (Jan 25), 11:30 CS 8: [THE 9TH STEP](#)
Wednesday (Jan 25), 15:00 CS 5: [ALASKA](#)
Wednesday (Jan 25), 22:45 CS 5: [WER WIR EINMAL SEIN WOLLTEN](#)

Thursday (Jan 26), 10:00 CS 5: [INDEPENDENCE](#)
Thursday (Jan 26), 15:00 CS 5: [TALK TO ME](#)
Thursday (Jan 26), 20:00 CS 5: [TAMARA](#)
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Friday (Jan 27), 10:00 CS 5: [SEID EINFACH WIE IHR SEID](#)
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Friday (Jan 27), 22:30 CS 5: [GOLDHAMMER](#)

Saturday (Jan 28), 11:30 CS 5: [MY OLD MAN](#)
Saturday (Jan 28), 19:00 CS 5: [ONE LAST EVENING](#)
Saturday (Jan 28), 21:30 CS 5: [BLUE SKY WHITE CLOUDS](#)

Sunday (Jan 29), 19:00 CS 5: [BLUE SKY WHITE CLOUDS](#)

PANEL: SHORT FILMS DE.CONSTRUCTED – YOU’VE MADE A GOOD FILM – NOW WHAT?

Thursday, 26.01.2023, 14:00, Lolas Bistro

This Panel will be held in English.

Open to accredited guests. Registration via the online ticket store for accredited guests at ffmop-akkreditierung.reservix.de.

Together with leading industry professionals, we will take this sentence apart bit by bit to give a professional overview for emerging filmmakers. What exactly makes a film “short”? What makes it “good”? And when is “now”? We will discuss lengths, formats & storytelling from the perspective of festivals and sales, as well as the lifespan of a short film – when to do what.

Programme for English-speaking audiences



44
FILMFESTIVAL
MAX OPHÜLS
PREIS

23—29
JAN 2023

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PROGRAMME FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING AUDIENCES

The Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis is considered the most important newcomer film festival in the German-speaking world, giving voice to and presenting the works of new talents from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. **The Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis offers 19 screenings for English-speaking audiences.** These screenings take place in the following cinemas: Cinestar 5 (CS 5), Cinestar 8 (CS 8) and camera zwo (CaZ). In addition to the film screenings, the panel "Short films Deconstructed – You've made a good film – now what?" will be held in English.

For any further queries, don't hesitate to contact our team (Julia von Knebel: programm-kurz@ffmop.de).

We wish you great fun discovering emerging talents and their cinematic visions!

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

ALASKA

Director: Max Gleschinski / Germany 2023 / 124 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / age rating: 6 / Feature Film Competition



Kerstin floats stoically across the Mecklenburg Lake District in her red GDR kayak. Aimlessly, between tourism and dreariness, she glides over the water for days, striving

to remain alone. The many rivers and lakes are familiar to her. But where does Kerstin come from? What is she fleeing from? Who is pursuing her? The evenness of this journey breaks when Alima appears, finally asking the paddling loner the right questions. **Wed 15:00** CS 5

BECOMING GIULIA

Director: Laura Kaehr / Switzerland 2022 / Documentary / 101 min. / German, French, Italian, English with English subtitles / German premiere / no age rating, therefore recommended for 18+ / Documentary Film Competition



Giulia Tonelli, professional principal dancer at the Zurich Opera House, has missed the stage. Only four months after the birth of her son, she returns to the daily routine. A tour de force for her body and her still fragile family structure. The pressure from outside is immense: in a milieu where one is only allowed to live and breathe for art, Giulia is torn between her role as mother and prima ballerina – and must fight to keep her place in the elite ballet company.

Fri 20:00 CS 5

BLUE SKY WHITE CLOUDS

Director: Astrid Menzel / Germany 2022 / Documentary / 91 min. / German with English subtitles / no age rating, therefore recommended for 18+ / MOP-Watchlist



"Take care of grandma when I'm gone," says the grandfather to his granddaughter Astrid. When he dies, grandmother Carmen, who suffers from dementia, is sent to a retirement home where she feels abandoned. Astrid realizes that she has not fulfilled grandpa's last wish. Together with her brother, she takes Carmen on a canoe trip. The old woman enjoys their time together. But the daily changes of location get to her – and one night she decides to walk home. **Sat 21:30** CS5 / **Sun 19:00** CS5

BREAKING THE ICE

Director: Clara Stern / Austria 2022 / 102 min. / German with English subtitles / German premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



When Mira races across the ice, her world seems to be in order. As captain of the "Dragons" ice hockey team, she can forget her worries about her grandfather with dementia and the never-ending work at the winery for a while. She counters the daily pressure with toughness and discipline, but when new player Theresa joins the team, her rigid worldview is challenged. The women fall in love and Mira finds the courage to take her life into her own hands. But the new freedom comes at a price. **Thu 22:30** CS 5

EISMAYER

Director: David Wagner / Austria 2022 / 87 min. / German with English subtitles / German premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



Discipline, toughness and control are his best comrades: Vice Lieutenant Eismayer is considered the toughest instructor in the Austrian army. But behind the macho facade is a secret hidden from the public: Eismayer is gay. When he falls in love with the new recruit Mario, his heteronormatively constructed life is shaken. **Fri 15:00** CS 5

MY OLD MAN

Director: Steven Vit / Switzerland 2022 / Documentary / 84 min. / Swiss German, English with English subtitles / world premiere / no age rating, therefore recommended for 18+ / Documentary Film Competition



Throughout his life, Rudy worked hard for the company and the family. But now everything is changing. No more alarm clocks, no more meetings, no more trips to faraway places. Instead: Shopping, cooking, gardening and daily life with his wife. Over three years, the filmmaker accompanies his father in his transition from working life to retirement. It is a journey across three continents - Tokyo, Shanghai, Canada and the Bernese Oberland. An arrival and a roller coaster ride. Retirement is not for cowards! **Fri 12:30** CS 5 / **Sat 11:30** CS 5

GOLDHAMMER

Director: André Krummel, Pablo Ben Yakov / Germany 2023 / Documentary / 93 min. / German, English with English subtitles / world premiere / no age rating, therefore recommended for 18+ / Documentary Film Competition



A Millennial on his way to becoming a right-wing populist. Marcel Goldammer, a retired gay sex worker, wants to get into politics. Not just out of conviction, but because he can. His life, however, is less homegrown than cosmopolitan. An Israeli convert to Judaism, he lives in Tel Aviv and Berlin and is in a relationship with a young, rich Shanghainese man who makes Marcel's dissolute lifestyle possible. A biography that could hardly be more contradictory - and for that very reason seems to fit perfectly into our time. **Fri 22:30** CS 5

INDEPENDENCE

Director: Felix Meyer-Christian / Germany 2023 / Documentary / 90 min. / German, English, Portuguese with English subtitles / world premiere / no age rating, therefore recommended for 18+ / Documentary Film Competition



The Afro-German actress Helen Wendt goes on a search for traces along her family history, her identity and her personal independence between the GDR, Mozambique and Berlin.

While she learns more about her past through encounters with her family, the film follows independence movements in Mozambique, South Sudan, Great Britain, Catalonia and Bavaria - and asks: What does independence really mean and how do colonialism and racism continue to shape the world today? **Tue 17:30** CS 5 / **Thu 10:00** CS 5

ONE LAST EVENING

Director: Lukas Nathrath / Germany 2022 / 91 min. / German with English subtitles / German premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



In the gridlock of the pandemic summer, Clemens and Lisa want to make a fresh start and move from Hanover to Berlin. She is an aspiring assistant doctor, he a talented but depressed musician. On their last night, they invite guests to a farewell dinner - but good friends cancel at short notice and uninvited guests show up. Soon conflicts, longings and injuries of a privileged dinner party, which seemingly has everything and yet threatens to despair of itself, are revealed. **Sat 19:00** CS 5

SEID EINFACH WIE IHR SEID

Director: Alice Gruia / Germany 2023 / 92 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / age rating: 6 / Feature Film Competition



For her graduation film, film student Willie Lindmann actually wanted her parents, who haven't seen each other in 25 years, to meet. But when her stepmother and her adopted brother also show up at the door, the afternoon gets out of control and the family structure starts to shake.

Fri 10:00 CS 5

TALK TO ME

Director: Janin Halisch / Germany 2023 / 80 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



After a breakup, Karo goes to Rügen for a week with her mother Michaela. What starts as a spontaneous trip quickly turns out to be a journey into the past for the different

women. At the hotel, they meet newly divorced Jochen and his pubescent daughter Marie. For Michaela, Jochen is a vacation flirt, but Karo sees above all the father-daughter relationship she never had. And she realizes that this void is still keeping her from finally arriving in her own life.

Thu 15:00 CS 5

TAMARA

Director: Jonas Ludwig Walter / Germany 2023 / 93 min. / world premiere / German with English subtitles / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



Mother and daughter, both come from the GDR: one experienced it, the other did not. Tamara was born in 1990. Like many of the post-reunification generation, she

left her homeland and only comes to visit for her milestone birthday. The two struggle to maintain their relationship, which cannot be detached from the social developments in which the family originated, in which it grew and dissolved. Now Tamara has to face what she ran away from: her own history. **Thu 20:00** CS 5

THE 9TH STEP

Director: Irma Pužauskaite / Lithuania 2022 / 94 min. / Lithuanian with English subtitles / no age rating, therefore recommended for 18+ / Guest program Filmfestival Cottbus



Linus was addicted to alcohol for ten years, but now he has his life back on track. After an unexpected custody agreement, he lives with his 17-year-old daughter

Ieva, who has turned her back on him. As hard as Linus tries to patch up their relationship, Ieva is unforgiving. When her rebellious friend Maya takes shelter with them, Linus tries to stay focused on being a better father to Ieva. But increasingly, the lines between the three begin to blur.

Tue 18:00 CaZ / **Wed 11:30** CS8

THE ORDINARIES

Director: Sophie Linnenbaum / Germany 2022 / 120 min. / German with English subtitles / age rating: 12 / MOP-Watchlist



In a fabulous world, strictly divided into main characters, secondary characters and outtakes, Paula faces the most important test of her life: she has to prove

that she has what it takes to be a main character. She's top of the class at cliff hanging, has mastered slow motion and panicked screaming in her sleep, only creating emotional music won't work for her. Her search for a solution leads her to the Outtakes. But instead of dangerous rebels, she encounters broken characters. Paula begins to doubt herself, her place in history and those who tell it. **Tue 22:30** CS5

WER WIR EINMAL SEIN WOLLTEN

Director: Özgür Anil / Austria 2023 / 83 min. / German with English subtitles / world premiere / age rating: 12 / Feature Film Competition



Anna finally wants to become the person she's always wanted to be. But her everyday life leaves her little room for this: she is catching up on her A-levels at night school,

and during the day she works as a porter at a drama school. When her distressed brother suddenly appears and forces his way into her everyday life, her attempt to build a life of her own threatens to fail. The young woman has to decide: between social responsibility for her family and her striving for independence. **Wed 22:45** CS 5