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**FILMFESTIVAL
MAX OPHÜLS
PREIS**



**20 — 26
JAN 2025**

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**Programme for
English-speaking
audiences**

PROGRAMME FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING AUDIENCES

The Max Ophüls film festival 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 Max Ophüls film festival offers 23 screenings for English-speaking audiences. These screenings take place in the Cinestar 1, 2, 5 and Kino achteinhalb. Please consider the age ratings of the individual films. Films without a mentioned age rating have not been officially examined yet.

In addition to the film screenings, the panel "Reality Check - Healthy expectations for the journey of your short film" (Thu, Jan 23, 10:00, co:hub) 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!

In addition to cinema screenings we offer a wide range of films online on our streaming platform that can be experienced in English either in the original version or with selected subtitles.

BAGGER DRAMA

Director: Piet Baumgartner | Switzerland 2024 | 94 min. | Swiss German with English subtitles | German premiere | age rating: 12 | Feature Film Competition



A family finds it difficult to talk about feelings, love or intimacy. The family business demands their full attention: renting, selling and repairing excavators. Everyone has to pitch in.

When the daughter has a fatal accident, the family stops functioning. The son doesn't feel understood and would rather go to the USA than take over the company. The father wants to forget and falls in love with the new choir director. And the mother suddenly finds herself alone with the dog in the family home. Grief leads to speechlessness. Actions replace conversations. Perplexity leads to misunderstandings. Misunderstandings lead to anger. And anger leads to hatred. Why do we hurt each other so much, even though we love each other so much? A new Heimatfilm with people searching and machines dancing.

Sun 16:30 CS5

OUT OF SIGHT (BÜRGLKOPF)

Director: Lisa Polster | Austria, Germany 2025 | Documentary | 78 min. | German, Somali, Arabic, Dari, Turkish, English with English subtitles | world premiere | no age rating | Documentary Film Competition



At an altitude of 1,300 meters, the Bürglkopf Return Center is situated on top of the mountain of the same name in Tyrol. Asylum seekers are housed there, with the aim of pressuring them to leave Austria—through "return counseling" but primarily through the isolation itself. The idyllic Alpine landscape becomes the setting for a bizarre encounter of refugees, locals, and tourists. Nearby, the mountains of Kitzbühel serve as a winter sports destination, with state-of-the-art gondolas ferrying vacationers from around the globe to the mountain-tops. Meanwhile, the residents of Bürglkopf face a three-hour hike on foot to descend from the camp to the valley. The film offers a glimpse into Europe's isolationist policies, embodied in return centers and deportation camps.

Thu 21:00 CS5

CALLAS, DARLING

Director: Julia Windischbauer | Germany, Austria, Albania 2025 | 89 min. | German, Albanian, English with English subtitles | world premiere | age rating: 6 | Feature Film Competition



Marie is making one last stop at a petrol station before she wants to leave this life when Gerlinde suddenly appears in front of her car. She is looking for a lift to Albania, the childhood

home of her deceased partner. Together, the two lost souls set off on their journey - with Capri sun, heavy mouths and the faint hope of a new beginning.

Fri 14:00 CS5 | **Sat 14:00** CS5

GOD'S OTHER PLAN

Director: Moritz Müller-Preißer | Germany 2025 | Documentary | 79 min. | English | German premiere | no age rating | Documentary Film Competition



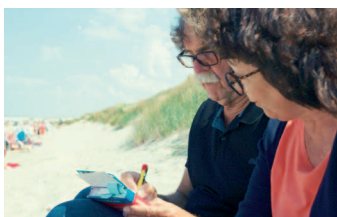
What happens when the adult son of a Mormon family realizes that the meticulously planned life dictated by his religion is wrong for him? Riley is gay; he suspected this earlier

and prayed it would disappear. By now, he is divorced from his wife, married to a man, and no longer a Mormon. He now lives in a blended family with his biological daughter and an adopted son. How does his Mormon family, especially his ex-wife, deal with this profound change?

Tue 18:00 CS2 | **Wed 11:00** CS2 | **Fri 21:45** CS5 | **Sat 18:30** PA2

HIS PARENTS (JENSEITS VON SCHULD)

Director: Katharina Köster, Katrin Nemeč | Germany 2024 | 81 min. | German with English subtitles | age rating: 12 | Watchlist



The media call their son the "patient killer." He was given a life sentence for his numerous crimes. Life goes on for his parents Ulla and Didi Högel but nothing is the same as before. They

must accept the bitter truth, figure out how to cope with everyday life and reposition themselves in relation to their child. A compelling, precisely observed film about parenthood and love.

Wed 18:45 CS5

CHAOS UND STILLE

Director: Anatol Schuster | Germany 2024 | 83 min. | German with English subtitles | German premiere | age rating: 12 | Feature Film Competition



Jean is a young composer of quiet tones. But music alone does not feed his daughter and his wife, the pianist Helena, longs for more stability. Their life together is turned upside

down when their landlady, Klara, suddenly waives the rent, divests herself of her work and property and moves onto the rooftop. Jean is fascinated by Klara's retreat and is inspired to write new music. Helena tries to help her. Soon supporters and opponents gather outside the house to discuss the meaning of life – and the city threatens to slowly descend into chaos.

Sun 19:00 CS5

HOME IS THE OCEAN

Director: Livia Vonaesch | Switzerland 2024 | Documentary | 94 min. | Swiss German, English, Icelandic with English subtitles | German premiere | age rating: 6 | Documentary Film Competition



For 25 years, the Schwörers have sailed the world's oceans to conduct field research in the most remote regions and inspire the next generation to protect the environment. The filmmaker

followed the family of eight for seven years, documenting how they challenged conventional norms of upbringing, education, home and security. Until a storm forces them to rethink their life choices and their family constellation.

Tue 16:00 CS5

LONEY & HAVENDER (LONIG & HAVENDEL)

Director: Claudia Tuyét Scheffel | Germany, Czech Republic 2025 | 116 min. | Vietnamese, German with English subtitles | world premiere | age rating: 12 | Feature Film Competition



To see snow and learn German, Trúc Lâm is in a small mountainous town in Germany. During a trip to a mine, she gets lost on the other side of the mountain. She follows a

singer into the forest who sings his concerts for the trees. To find her way back, she accepts the help of a ghost. In the town on the other side lives Duc, the son of a Vietnamese family who runs an „Asian restaurant“. When Duc finds his long-lost cell phone, he starts receiving mysterious text messages.

Fri 11:00 CS5

SHORT FILM COMPETITION PROGRAMME 1 (In der Welt):

QUICKSAND (TREIBSAND)

Director: Nevin Hahn | Germany 2025 | 20 min. | German with English subtitles | world premiere | no age rating | Short Film Competition



The golden ticket out of the village: Marco (18) has made it to the top football club and can finally leave the small town of Lindorf behind to play with the big stars. Between wild

"Schützenfest"-fair celebrations and emerging fears, he has to decide whether he wants to remain the big fish in the little pond or whether he dares to flee into the unknown. But a way out opens up - but not without sacrifice.

DOG

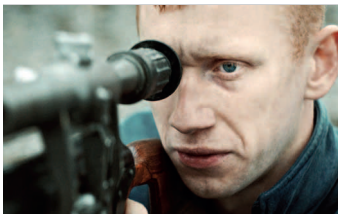
Director: Marieke de Zwaan | Germany 2025 | 14 min. | German with English subtitles | world premiere | no age rating | Short Film Competition



During a night shift, a taxi driver watches his dog through a pet camera installed at home. When his wife appears on the screen, he uses the dog as an excuse to contact her.

ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS

Director: Franz Böhm | UK 2025 | 20 min. | Ukrainian and Russian with English subtitles | German premiere | no age rating | Short Film Competition



The film is based on a true story. Bohdan and his son Ivan, who run a small hospital on the front line, are put to the test when a unit of Russian soldiers approaches their building.

They have to make difficult decisions to protect their patients and their own lives.

GOLD RUSH

Director: Justina Jürgensen | Germany 2025 | 16 min. | English and German with English subtitles | world premiere | no age rating | Short Film Competition



Colorado, 1860: Three women, a mule and a map drawn by an illiterate to get to the gold sometimes found on the high mountains. The hardships of their endeavor first bring a lonely

foreign widow closer together with the dubious German emigrants Olga and Dora. But the more time they spend in the harsh wilderness, the more manners deteriorate and the last bit of humanity gives way to ruthless greed. A feminist western based on the ballad "The Gold Diggers" by Emanuel Geibel.

LA PASSERELLA DI AMELIE

Director: Jan Koslowski | Germany 2025 | 20 min. | German and Italian with English subtitles | world premiere | no age rating | Short Film Competition



Amelie receives a visit from a group of friends in her lakeside bungalow. The city dwellers' summer country getaway quickly leads to social tensions. The locals feel increasingly marginali-

zed and their identity violated. When the visitors try to use the private footbridge to the lake, the conflict escalates.

SMELL OF BURNT MILK (MILCH INS FEUER)

Director: Justine Bauer | Germany 2024 | 79 min. | Hohenlohe (South German dialect) with English subtitles | no age rating | Watchlist



Three generations of farmers' wives live under one roof on a farm. The milk business has not been profitable for a while now. Agriculture in general is in crisis, more and more farms

are having to close and traditional female-run farms are rare. But Katinka is holding on to the family business, training as a farmer and looking for a future in a region that remembers the past above all else.

Thu 16:00 CS5

NINJA MOTHERF*CKING DESTRUCTION

Director: Lotta Schwerk | Germany 2025 | 79 min. | German with English subtitles | world premiere | age rating: 12 | Feature Film Competition



At 18, Leonie and Marlene are best friends and sure that nothing can keep them apart. But Leonie falls in love with Naomi, gives herself completely to her first great love and moves

further and further away from Marlene. As the relationship progresses, it becomes apparent that Naomi is suffering from depression, which is increasingly overwhelming Leonie. It is only when Leonie's relationship with Naomi finally breaks down that she realizes how isolated she has become. She leaves Berlin and begins training as a gardener in Brandenburg, which helps her to sort out the world around her. With newfound strength, Leonie dares to approach her childhood friend Marlene again after years of estrangement. Eight years have passed – and Leonie has changed. A film about an ambivalent network of relationships, made over a period of seven years, which accompanies three young women aged between 18 and 25 as they grow up.

Thu 18:30 CS5

NIGHT OF THE COYOTES

Director: Clara Trischler | Germany, Austria 2024 | 82 min. | Spanish, Otomí, English with English subtitles | German premiere | age rating: 12 | Documentary Film Competition



In El Alberto, Mexico, the border with the USA can be felt everywhere. It separates families, cuts up lives and uproots people. Those who have remained there have found an unusual

response to this: They re-enact the illegal border crossing for tourists at night, slipping into the roles of the US border police, narcos and smugglers. A story of self-empowerment – or a village stuck in the loop of its traumatic experiences?

Tue 18:30 CS5 | Sat 16:30 CS5

NOCH LANGE KEINE LIPIZZANER

Director: Olga Kosanović | Austria 2024 | Documentary | 92 min. | German, Serbian with English subtitles | world premiere | no age rating | Documentary Film Competition



"If a cat has kittens at the riding school, that doesn't make them Lipizzans", reads a commentary in an Austrian daily on the naturalization case of director Olga Kosanović, which was

picked up by the media. Demarcation creates a sense of identity and cohesion: a strong sense of "we". What is the feeling and what social structures underlie it? Based on a personal experience, this film explores the emotive question of belonging.

Wed 21:15 CS5

SLACKERS (NULPEN)

Director: Sorina Gajewski | Germany 2025 | 75 min. | German with English subtitles | world premiere | age rating: 12 | Feature Film Competition



Ramona and Nico are friends, lazy rags and fresh out of school. They let themselves drift aimlessly through the Berlin summer. But when they release their beloved neighbor's bird for

fun, they have to flee - reluctantly to politically charged Berlin. In their search for the lost fowl and Ramona's little brother, they struggle to maintain their friendship and faith in themselves and unexpectedly stumble into other life stories that give them hope.

Wed 16:00 CSS

SEW TORN

Director: Freddy Macdonald | Switzerland, USA 2024 | 95 min. | English | German premiere | age rating: 12 | Feature Film Competition



A seamstress gets tangled in her own thread after stealing a briefcase from a drug deal gone bad. In an escalating game of cat and mouse, her different choices lead to drastically

different outcomes along the way.

Wed 18:30 CS3 | **Thu 11:00** CS1 | **Thu 17:30** CAZ | **Sat 18:30** CS1 |
Sun 14:00 CSS

THE VILLAGE NEXT TO PARADISE

Director: Mo Harawe | Austria, France, Germany, Somalia 2024 | 133 min. | Somali with English subtitles | age rating: 12 | Watchlist



In a remote village in Somalia, Mamargade, a single father, struggles with the challenges of daily life. His sister is looking for a new home with him after her divorce. Cigaal, his son,

is sometimes overlooked in the turmoil of this fragile family structure. After the school in the village is closed, the teacher Mamargade suggests sending Cigaal to a boarding school in the city. There is not enough money for this, but Mamargade wants to offer his son a better future.

Sat 20:00 CSS

PEACOCK (PFAU – BIN ICH ECHT?)

Director: Bernhard Wenger | Germany, Austria 2024 | 102 min. | German, English with English subtitles | German premiere | age rating: 12 | Feature Film Competition



Matthias, owner of the "My Companion" agency, is a master of his trade. Are you looking for a "cultured partner" to impress your circle of friends? Or a "perfect son" to influence the

opinion of business partners? Whatever your situation in life: Rent a friend - Matthias! He is brilliant at portraying someone else every day. Just being himself is really difficult for him. When his girlfriend Sophia leaves him because of his insensitivity, he embarks on a journey of self-discovery.

Sat 11:00 CSS

THE LIFE OF SEAN DELEAR

Director: Markus Zizenbacher | Austria 2024 | Documentary | 82 min. | English, German with English subtitles | German premiere | no age rating | Documentary Film Competition



He was a pioneer in being black and gay in the art and music world: Sean DeLear. In the 1990s, he established himself as a drag icon in the Los Angeles punk scene and became the

frontman of the legendary post-punk band Glue. He later moved to Austria and joined the Gelitin collective. An eccentric and electrifying figure who is brought back to life in a collage of archive material, interviews and diary excerpts.

Fri 19:30 CSS

CLOUD FACTORY (WOLKEN ÜBER LÜTZERATH)

Director: Lukas Reiter | Germany 2025 | Documentary | 110 min. | German with English subtitles | world premiere | no age rating | Documentary Film Competition



For Blinker, Ronni and Green MP Kathrin Henneberger, the 1.5 degree limit runs through Lützerath. They are fighting in different ways to preserve the village in the Rhenish

lignite mining region. While Blinker focuses on barricades and Ronni concentrates on the media strategy of the occupation, Henneberger tries to influence her party leadership. But they consider Lützerath to be the "wrong symbol". After the eviction, what remains are images of destruction, memories and wounds that are only slowly healing.

Thu 13:00 CSS

YUMI – THE WHOLE WORLD

Director: Felix Golenko | Germany, Netherlands, Scotland, Egypt, Fiji, Vanuatu & USA 2025 | Documentary | 89 min. | English | world premiere | age rating: 6 | Documentary Film Competition



The sea on Solomon, Vishal and Romabeth's home islands in the South Pacific is advancing further and further. The three law students observe with great concern how the livelihoods there

are dwindling dramatically. They are launching a campaign for climate justice to hold the Global North to account before the International Court of Justice. They promote their cause at conferences, fighting with diplomacy and endless amounts of positive energy. They have to convince at least half of the UN members. Will the world listen to them?

Fri 17:00 CSS

THE LONELY MUSKETEER

Director: Nicolai Schumann | UK /Germany 2024 | 97min. | English | no age rating | Watchlist



The filthy rich hedge fund manager Rupert wakes up in a windowless, doorless room with no memory of how he got there. Only his cell phone is with him. At first, Rupert suspects

a prank. But when the only person who knows where he might be is murdered, he slowly discovers the horror he has fallen into.

Fri 21:30 CS1 | **Sat 21:00** CS2

THE RECKLESS MOMENT

Director: Max Ophüls | USA 1949 | 82 min. | English with English subtitles | no age rating | Hommage Max Ophüls



17-year-old Bea has fallen in love with the older Ted, but her mother Lucia is suspicious of her relationship with the shady man. When Ted has a fatal accident after a heated argument with Bea, Lucia has to take action. She makes the body disappear, but the body is found and the murder investigation begins. At first nobody suspects Bea, but then the criminal Martin comes to town to collect a debt from Ted. And Martin is in possession of the love letters Bea wrote to Ted and demands hush money from Lucia.

Thu 21:00 8½

PANEL: „REALITY CHECK – HEALTHY EXPECTATIONS FOR THE JOURNEY OF YOUR SHORT FILM“

Donnerstag, 23. Januar, 10:00 Uhr, co:hub

Frustration often stems from unmet expectations. Producing a short film demands time, sweat, and tears – but do we give the same care to understanding our audience and reaching them? Key pillars include working with a sales agent or distributor, crafting a festival strategy, and identifying where your audience resides. How can we set clear expectations and define what's realistic for our own film? Let's bridge the gap between effort and outcome to make your film's potential visible. Host: Amos Geva (T-Port), Panelists: Léo Soesanto, Su-Jin Song, Katie Bignell (online)

OVERVIEW

Tuesday (Jan 21) 16:00 CS5 HOME IS THE OCEAN
Tuesday (Jan 21) 18:30 CS5 NIGHT OF THE COYOTES
Tuesday (Jan 21) 21:00 CS5 SHORT FILM COMPETITION PROGRAMME 1 (In der Welt)

Wednesday (Jan 22) 13:30 CS5 LES COURAGEUX
Wednesday (Jan 22) 16:00 CS5 SLACKERS (NULPEN)
Wednesday (Jan 22) 18:30 CS3 SEW TORN
Wednesday (Jan 22) 18:45 CS5 HIS PARENTS (JENSEITS VON SCHULD)
Wednesday (Jan 22) 21:15 CS5 NOCH LANGE KEINE LIPIZZANER

Thursday (Jan 23) 11:00 CS1 SEW TORN
Thursday (Jan 23) 13:00 CS5 CLOUD FACTORY (WOLKEN ÜBER LÜTZERATH)
Thursday (Jan 23) 16:00 CS5 SMELL OF BURNT MILK (MILCH INS FEUER)
Thursday (Jan 23) 17:30 CAZ SEW TORN
Thursday (Jan 23) 18:30 CS5 NINJA MOTHERF*CKING DESTRUCTION
Thursday (Jan 23) 21:00 CS5 OUT OF SIGHT (BÜRGLKOPF)
Thursday (Jan 23) 21:00 8½ THE RECKLESS MOMENT

Friday (Jan 24) 11:00 CS5 LONEY & HAVENDER (LONIG & HAVENDEL)
Friday (Jan 24) 14:00 CS5 CALLAS, DARLING
Friday (Jan 24) 17:00 CS5 YUMI – THE WHOLE WORLD
Friday (Jan 24) 19:30 CS5 THE LIFE OF SEAN DELEAR
Friday (Jan 24) 21:30 CS1 THE LONELY MUSKETEER
Friday (Jan 24) 21:45 CS5 GOD'S OTHER PLAN

Saturday (Jan 25) 11:00 CS5 PEACOCK (PFAU - BIN ICH ECHT?)
Saturday (Jan 25) 14:00 CS5 CALLAS, DARLING
Saturday (Jan 25) 16:30 CS5 NIGHT OF THE COYOTES
Saturday (Jan 25) 18:30 CS1 SEW TORN
Saturday (Jan 25) 20:00 CS5 THE VILLAGE NEXT TO PARADISE
Saturday (Jan 25) 21:00 CS2 THE LONELY MUSKETEER

Sunday (Jan 26) 14:00 CS5 SEW TORN
Sunday (Jan 26) 16:30 CS5 BAGGER DRAMA
Sunday (Jan 26) 19:00 CS5 CHAOS UND STILLE

Detailed
information on all
films can be found here:

