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FILM

KEFM

15-21 FEB 24



FILM



BREATHING UNDERWATER

DIRECTED BY ERIC LAMHÈNE

Drama — Luxembourg/Belgium 2024 — 100 min. — 1st Feature — French, Luxembourgish

Set in the secretive world of a women's shelter, BREATHING UNDERWATER tells the story of Emma (Carla Juri, in a career-best performance) who is whisked away in the dead of night, covered in bruises and unexpectedly pregnant. As she grapples with her pregnancy and her emotional shackles to her husband, Emma rediscovers lost facets of herself through her unlikely camaraderie and strife with the women and children of the shelter. Individual traumas intertwine and despite their differences, a delicate sisterhood emerges as they push one another to fight for their self worth and independence.

A captivating ensemble of professional and non-professional actors bring the shelter to life - Khadij (Véronique Tshanda Beya), a no-nonsense Congolese mother of two; Sascha (Alessia Raschella), a young mother with a devil-may-care attitude; and Esperanza (Esperanza Martin), a "crazy" Spanish woman trying desperately to re-gain custody of her daughters. Emotionally raw, empathetic and intensely honest, Breathing Underwater is a deeply moving and ultimately cathartic display of women's strength.

Tags: Strength, Community, Sisterhood, Healing, Hope

Original Title: Ausser Otem **Written by:** Eric Lamhène & Rae Lyn Lee **Director of Photography:** Rae Lyn Lee
Cast: Carla Juri, Véronique Beya, Esperanza Martin González-Quevedo, Alessia Raschella, Sascha Ley, Luc Schiltz
Original Language: French, Luxembourgish **Production Companies:** Samsa Film (Luxembourg), Artemis Productions (Belgium) **Produced by:** Claude Waringo



HYSTERIA

DIRECTED BY MEHMET AKIF BÜYÜKATALAY

Mystery/Thriller — Germany 2024 — 100 min — 2nd Feature — German, Arab, Kurdish

While in the process of filming a provocative feature about the xenophobic arson attacks on German migrant residences in the 1990s, a genuine Quran goes up in flames. The incident deeply shakes the Arab extras on set, who immediately point fingers at the director, making accusations of racism. Caught in this confrontational crossfire is production intern, Elif (24) as everybody involved has layered motivations and agendas at play: the Turkish-German director Yigit (42) and producer Lilith (46) stand on one side of the divide, while extras Said (25), Mustafa (32), and Majid (48) stand on the other. The tensions are getting worse when original film footage goes missing, an apartment key disappears, and an unidentified caller starts contacting the crew. Amid these unsettling events, Elif finds herself increasingly drawn into a whirlwind of shame and suspicion.

Tags: Truth and Lies, Racism, Conspiracy, Crime



SIMA'S SONG

DIRECTED BY ROYA SADAT

Historical Drama — Spain/The Netherlands/France/Taiwan 2024 — 100 min — 2nd Feature — Farsi, Dari

In the pre-civil war context in Afghanistan, communist & wealthy Suraya and conservative & practising Muslim Sima keep their lifelong friendship alive despite their opposing life choices. While Suraya is appointed head of the Women's Organization of the communist party in power, Sima agrees to marry her friend Wahab and gets involved with the mujahideen to defend Muslim values. Both friends respect each other in their disparity, but with the war about to break out, they are inadvertently forced apart by political leaders. When asked to spy on each other, Sima and Suraya put their friendship first and end up locked in the same prison, where Sima is tortured for information. Battered, Sima dies in Suraya's arms, but her spirit lives on in Suraya's memory.

Tags: Friendship, Empowerment, Political Conflicts, Afghanistan, Feminist History

Original Title: Sima's Song **Written by:** Roya Sadat, Aziz Deildaar, Roelof Jan Minneboo **Director of Photography:** Ton Peters
Cast: Mozhdah Jamalzadah, Niloufar Koukhani, Ebadi Mohammad Zobair, Leena Alam, Max Grosse, Paeman Arianfar
Original Languages: Farsi, Dari **Production Company:** Alba Sotorra S.L. (Spain), Baldr Films (The Netherlands), Urban Factory (France), Volos Films (Taiwan) **Produced by:** Alba Sotorra, Frank Hoeve, Maeva Savinien, Stefano Centini



Berlinale
 74th International
 Filmfestival
 Berlin
 Panorama

ANDREA GETS A DIVORCE

DIRECTED BY JOSEF HADER

Comedy — Austria 2024 — 97 min. — 2nd Feature — German

Andrea, a small-town policewoman, has decided to move on from her unhappy marriage with the help of a transfer to a higher position in the police department in the next bigger city. As she drives home after a birthday party, she has no chance of stopping when her not-yet-divorced husband suddenly appears in front of her car, drunk. Unable to break, she runs him over and kills him. In a state of shock, Andrea flees the scene. Still, that night, being called to duty as the local police officer to the crime scene, she discovers to her horror that someone else has accepted responsibility for the accident: Franz, a religion teacher and recovered alcoholic, is convinced that he ran over the victim, and so is everyone else in the village. While Franz starts drinking again, Andrea applies herself to the task of eliminating all traces of her. But in the end, she has to take responsibility.

Tags: Small Town, Murder, Cover-Up, Offbeat,

SCREENING DATES @ BERLINALE 2024 (PANORAMA)

Sunday, 18.02.24 – 18:30 h – Zoo Palast (World Premiere)
 Monday, 19.02.24 – 11:45 h – Haus der Berliner Festspiele
 Tuesday, 20.02.24 – 10:00 h – Cubix
 Wednesday, 21.02.24 – 18:30 h – Zoo Palast

Market Screening: Monday, 19.02.24 – 14:30 h - CinemaxX 6 (Market Premiere)

Original Title: Andrea lässt sich scheiden **Written by:** Josef Hader & Florian Kloibhofer **DOP:** Carsten Thiele
Cast: Birgit Minichmayr, Josef Hader, Thomas Schubert, Robert Stadlober, Branko Samarovski **Original Language:** German
Production Companies: Wega Filmproduktion (Austria), Golden Girls Filmproduktion (Austria) **Produced by:** Veit Heiduschka, Michael Katz, Arash T. Riahi, Sabine Gruber

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HULING PALABAS — FIN

DIRECTED BY RYAN MACHADO

Youth/Family/Queer — Philippines 2023 — 97 min. — 1st Feature — Filipino

Summer of 2001, in a small town in the Philippines: 16-year-old Andoy searches for his long-lost father in the most unlikely of places: on VHS tapes. Together with his best friend and fellow movie nerd Pido, they explore life on film. When two movie-like characters appear, his reality begins to falter. In a gay awakening, Andoy connects with the local queer community to find new friends, love and acceptance.

Tags: Love, Video Tapes, Queer Community, Friendship, Bromance, Gay Awakening

SCREENING DATES @ BERLINALE 2024 (GENERATION 14PLUS)

Tuesday, 20.02.24 – 19:00 h – Haus der Kulturen der Welt (International Premiere)

Wednesday, 21.02.24 – 18:30 h – Cineplex Titania

Thursday, 22.02.24 – 10:00 h – Haus der Kulturen der Welt

Friday, 23.02.24 – 15:45 h – Cubix 8

Press & Industry Screening:

Saturday, 17.02.24 – 16:00 h - Cubix 8

Original Title: Huling Palabas **Written by:** Ryan Machado **Director of Photography:** Theo Lozada
Cast: Shun Mark Gomez, Bon Andrew Lentejas, Cedrick Juan, Serena Magiliw, Jay Gonzaga **Original Language:** Filipino
Production Company: Studio Pulô (Philippines) **Produced by:** Cris Bringas, Ryan Machado

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REPRODUCTION

DIRECTED BY KATHARINA PETHKE

Documentary — Germany 2024 — 111 min. — 2nd Feature — German

Who gets to show what? And who is being looked at? **REPRODUCTION** looks at three generations of women to examine the ideal images of women in art: The larger-than-life male genius on the wall - and the selflessly loving mother carved in stone. Does one ideal exclude the other? The film describes power, class and gender relations across three generations of women, tells of discarded drawings and unfinished careers: Stories of women artists.

Tags: Generations, Women, Art, Motherhood, Career, Emancipation

SCREENING DATES @ BERLINALE 2024 (FORUM)

Saturday, 17.02.24 – 15:00 h – Silent Green (World Premiere)

Monday, 19.02.24 – 19:00 h – Cubix 7

Wednesday, 21.02.24 – 19:15 h – Akademie der Künste

Friday, 23.02.24 – 14:30 h – Kino Arsenal 1

Press & Industry Screening:

Thursday, 22.02.24 – 14:30 h - Kino Arsenal 2

Original Title: Reproduktion **Written by:** Katharina Pethke **Director of Photography:** Christoph Rohrscheidt
With: Maike Bruhns, Olav Duysen, Friederike Harmann, Jan Hamann, Yvonne Hodel, and others **Original Language:** German
Production Company: Fünferfilm (Germany) **Produced by:** Frank Scheuffele, Karsten Krause, Julia Cöllen

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MALU

DIRECTED BY PEDRO FREIRE

Drama — Brazil 2024 — 97 min — 1st Feature — Brazilian Portuguese

Malu — a mercurial, unemployed actress living with her conservative mother in a precarious house in a Rio de Janeiro slum — tries to deal with her strained relationship with her own adult daughter while surviving on memories of her glorious artistic past.

Tags: Actress, Glorious Past, Mother & Daughter, Family Ties, Generations, Reconciliation, Brazil

World Premiere: Sundance Film Festival 2024

"Superbly Acted." "Moves with a singular force." **VARIETY**

"A Brazilian Cinematic Gem." **SCREEN NEAR YOU**

"Malu's Performances Are Mesmerizing." **COLLIDER**

MARKET SCREENING @ EFM 2024

Monday, 19.02.24 - 12:45 h - CinemaxX (Market Premiere)

Original Title: Malu **Written by:** Pedro Freire **Director of Photography:** Mauro Pinheiro Jr.
Cast: Yara de Novaes, Juliana Carneiro da Cunha, Carol Duarte, Átila Bee **Original Language:** Brazilian Portuguese
Production Company: Bubbles Project (Brazil), TvZero (Brazil), Canal Brasil, Telecine (Brazil)
Produced by: Tatiana Leite, Léo Ribeiro, Sabrina Garcia, Roberto Berliner



MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2023
Official Selection

FOREVER-FOREVER

DIRECTED BY ANNA BURYACHKOVA

Youth/Drama — Ukraine/The Netherlands 2023 — 107 min. — 1st Feature — Ukrainian

After transferring from a downtown high school, Tonia joins a new badass gang of youngsters, trying to find protection and a place she truly belongs. They spend time together, roaming around Kyiv's post-socialist suburbs, having fun and getting in trouble. Soon, Tonia falls in love with Zhurik, whilst also longing for Sania and finds herself tangled up in an alluring secret love triangle. But Tonia's abusive past still haunts her, challenging this newfound friendship and romance. Will she be able to find her own pass or lose herself in this new controversial relationship?

Tags: Youth, Rebellion, 90ies, Emancipation, Love Triangle, Friendship, High School, Freedom

Festivals & Awards (Selection):

Venice Film Festival - Orizzonti Extra Competition, Filmfestival Cottbus - Best Film, Kyiv International Film Festival Molodist, Cineast, Free Zone Film Festival, PÖFF Black Nights Film Festival, Internationales Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg, Tromsø International Film Festival, and more.

"Full of life and empathy." "A promising gem of a debut." **CINEUROPA**

"A vital and painful force." "A real revelation." **INDIE-EYE**

Original Title: Nazavzhdy-Nazavzhdy **Written by:** Marina Stepanska, Anna Buryachkova **Director of Photography:** Lena Chekhovska Jr. **Cast:** Alina Cheban, Zachary Shadrin, Arthur Aliiev, Yelyzaveta Tsilyk, Daria Zhykharska
Original Language: Ukrainian **Production Companies:** Digital Religion LLC (Ukraine), Rinkel Film (The Netherlands)
Produced by: Natalia Libet, Vitalii Sheremetiev, Oleksii Zgonik, Lyuba Knorozok, Rinskje Raap, Reinier Selen

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Karlovy Vary
International Film Festival
Crystal Globe Competition
Special Jury Prize



EMPTY NETS

DIRECTED BY BEHROOZ KARAMIZADE

Drama/Crime/Romance — Germany/Iran 2023 — 101 min — 1st Feature — Farsi

Amir loves Narges and Narges loves Amir. But their hopes and dreams for a life together collide head on with the web of tradition, corruption, and social hierarchy that continues to rule over the lives of a new generation in Iran

Tags: First Love, Romance, Criminal Networks, Traditions, Iran, New Generation

Festivals & Awards (Selection):

Karlovy Vary - Special Jury Prize, Filmfest Munich - Best Production Award, Adelaide Film Festival - Best Feature Fiction, Pingyao International Film Festival - Roberto Rossellini Awards Special Mention, Iranian Film Festival New York - Best Film, Zurich Film Festival, El Gouna Film Festival, Bosphorus Film Festival, Chennai International Film Festival, and more.

"A powerful debut." "A talent of real promise." **SCREEN INTERNATIONAL**

"Lean, engrossing." "This simple, solemn tale could hardly be more damning." **VARIETY**

"Impressive Feature Debut Is a Gritty Iranian Gut Punch." **THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER**

"A modest but charismatic leading man, in the style of Gael García Bernal." **DEADLINE**

Original Title: Toorhaye khali **Written by:** Behrooz Karamizade **Director of Photography:** Ashkan Ashkani
Cast: Hamid Reza Abbasi, Sadaf Asgari **Original Language:** Farsi **Production Companies:** BASIS BERLIN Filmproduktion (Germany), Living Pictures Production (Germany), Rainy Pictures (Iran) **Produced by:** Eva Kemme, Ansgar Frerich, Uschi Feldges

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SISTER & SISTER

DIRECTED BY KATTIA G. ZÚÑIGA

Teen/Drama — Panama/Chile 2023 — 80 min. — 1st Feature — Spanish

Summer vacation. Two sisters, Marina (17) and Luna (14), travel from Costa Rica to Panama to look for their absent father. While dealing with frictions that arise between them, they find space to explore their desires, new friendships, lovers, and skateboarding, on a journey toward emancipation where they discover the joy of the simple act of hanging out. An intimate and tender tale of sisterhood in the urban tropics, with a deep portrayal of colorful teenage life.

Tags: Sisterhood, Friendship, Self-awareness, GenZ, Skateboarding, Panama

Festivals & Awards (Selection):

SXSW, Festival de Málaga - Best Latin American Film, Santiago International Film Festival - Best Film, Best Actress, Cinélatino, Seattle International Film Festival, FICG, Taipei Film Festival, Galway Film Fleadh, AFI Latin American Film Festival, Festival de Cinéma de la Ville de Québec, Chennai International Film Festival, and more.

"Charming... sheer magic." **SCREEN**

"Lovely sun-soaked coming-of-age drama [that] you will never forget." **THE MOVEABLE FEST**

"Nothing less than magical." **LATINA MEDIA**

Original Title: Las hijas **Written by:** Kattia G. Zúñiga **Director of Photography:** Alejo Crisóstomo, ACC
Cast: Ariana Chaves Gavilán, Cala Rossel Campos, Gabriela Man, Fernando Bonilla **Original Language:** Spanish
Production Company: Ceibita Films (Chile), Mente Pública (Panama)
Produced by: Alejo Crisóstomo, Kattia G. Zúñiga, Isabella Gálvez Peñafiel, Said Isaac

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ELAHA

DIRECTED BY MILENA ABOYAN

Drama — Germany 2023 — 110 min — 1st Feature — German, Kurdish

Elaha is a young Kurdish-German woman torn between the unconditional love for her family and her own aspirations in life. Although she cares most about having a good time with her girlfriends and taking care of her younger brother, she has to fight patriarchy while being the perfect daughter. Ultimately, she has to make a decision: To tell the truth or live a life in grand delusion. A psychological journey about emancipation that reveals that only by facing reality, we can be true to ourselves.

Tags: Emancipation, Family, Traditions, Patriarchy, Empowerment

Festivals & Awards (Selection):

Berlinale - Perspektive Deutsches Kino, Crossing Europe, Austria - Special Mention „YAAAS!“ Competition, Prix Europa Awards - Best Feature Film, Sydney Film Festival, Giffoni Film Festival, World Cinema Amsterdam, Calgary International Film Festival, Riga International Film Festival, Pune International Film Festival, Angers Premiers Plans Film Festival - Scania Diversity Award, and more.

“One of the strongest films of this year’s Berlinale.” **RADIO EINS**

“All-around well-crafted piece of cinematic art.” **FILM LÖWIN**

“A nuanced portrait.” **ARTE TV**

Original Title: Elaha **Written by:** Milena Aboyan, Constantin Hatz **Director of Photography:** Christopher Behrmann
Cast: Bayan Layla, Armin Wahedi, Derya Dilber, Derya Durmaz, Cansu Leyan **Original Language:** Kurdish, German
Production Company: Kinescope Film (Germany) **Co-production companies:** Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg (Germany), Essence Film (Germany, Switzerland), SWR, ARTE **Produced by:** Matthias Greving, Emina Smajic

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Pluto Film is a world sales and festival distribution company committed to engaging global cinema. We are devoted to bringing quality feature films to the international market and audiences. Our focus is on arthouse and cross-over films, especially those by emerging talents. But we also have a passion for family films and elevated genres.

Pluto Film takes an innovative and individual approach to distribution. We work closely with filmmakers and producers to position their films effectively. Through collaborative workshops, we develop fitting festival and distribution strategies that maintain the soul of the film while maximizing its distribution potential. All produced materials and assets are stored in an online archive, ensuring accessibility for all our partners. This creates a distribution network that spans from filmmakers and producers to distributors across all territories and platforms, facilitating collaboration throughout the film value chain.

With a boutique approach, we add around eight titles to our lineup each year, allowing us to give each film the attention and care it deserves. We then navigate the world beyond the window system by finding the right place and time for our films at festivals, in theaters, on TV, and online. Our objective is to circulate our films globally and make them available across all possible distribution channels.

Our dedicated team possesses extensive knowledge of the market. Each team member brings a unique perspective from a different part of the industry, along with a strong international network of contacts cultivated over the years.

PLUTO FILM @ EFM 2024



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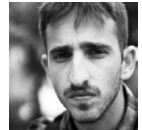
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