

"Women´s Worlds" 2005 - 5th TERRE DES FEMMES Film Festival in Tuebingen, Germany

From the 17th to the 23rd of November 2005 TERRE DES FEMMES organizes the 5th film festival for the international day "NO to Violence against Women". The event will take place in Tuebingen/Rottenburg in cooperation with the Women's Representative of Tuebingen and the German-American Institute Tuebingen.

This year the insights into foreign worlds of women allow us to develop empathy not only towards the lives of women, whose human rights are seriously violated, but also into the eventful, exciting lives of women, who fight for their rights. We also get a chance to see and feel the complex reality of girls and young women in different countries all over the globe, who try to find a balance between traditional societies and modern global development.



There will be documentaries and feature films from over 20 countries. Among these are several productions from Asia -Korea, China, Indonesia, India- and independent productions from North America, most of which will be seen in Germany for the first time. In the presence of the director of "When Ruoma was 17" a touching story will evolve in front of breathtaking landscapes of field terraces in the Chinese mountains, around a girl called Ruoma from the tribe of the Xjani would like to go into the city and ascend to the sky in a huge elevator; the many times awarded Indonesian Film "Whispering Sands" follows the evolution of a complex mother-daughter relationship in a remote desert village on Java. "Zulu Love Letter", accompanies a politically active woman journalist in her confrontation with a traumatic past under Apartheid and "Dirt" discovers the illuminating insights of a Salvadoran Immigrant woman, who is cleaning the luxurious apartments of some of the most successful residents of New York.

A particular emphasis of the special activities will be the focus on human rights of women in Afghanistan. The official in charge of human rights of the Afghan government Dr. Samar, as well as directors and activists from Afghanistan, will be our guests. The focus will be put on the current situation of Afghan women in the post Taliban society, who are still exposed to extreme limitations. The chances to defend these rights through films, in our case via social engagement in local women projects will also be discussed. Parallel there will be screenings of feature films and documentaries referring to the situation of Afghan women in different epochs of the crisis-ridden country.



The visit of Marziyeh Meshkini from the famous Iranian family of film directors Makhmalbaf, is a special highlight. Her last film "The day I became a woman" was shown at the film festival in 2002. Now she presents her new feature film, "Stray dogs" - about straying children in Afghanistan, who do everything in order to accompany their imprisoned mother as night prisoners. This film was awarded at Venice film festival. Her husband, Mohsen Makhmalbaf will also be present to introduce his film Kandahar, which before the 11th of September, played an important role in calling world attention towards the situation of Afghan women under Taliban-regime.



A special highlight among the documentaries screened in the cinema "Arsenal" will be the German Premiere of Oscar-winner 2005 "Born into Brothels". It deals with the children of prostitutes in an Indian red-light district and at the same time with an admirable project offering them the chance to escape from the vicious circle of the brothels through art and education. There will be films referring to the current TERRE DES FEMMES campaign against honour crimes like "Bride-kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan", as well as to different aspects of women's realities in warlike conflicts, for example in the Israel-Palestinian conflict; A Canadian Indian in "One of many" remembers the time when children of natives were torn out of their families and put into Christian foster homes. And in "El velo de Berta" a very old Chilean woman of the Mapuche-Indians offers the most stubborn resistance against the plans of a big enterprise, to flood and destroy the land of the natives for the construction of a dam. Extremely different realities of lesbian women enable a fresh, undogmatic insight into complex situations of discrimination: mixed Israel-Palestinian couples in "0 degrees of separation", lesbians in orthodox Jewish communities in "Keep not silent", and the often humorous history of 70 years of lesbian biographies in Switzerland in "Katzenball". For the screenings of the documentaries different directors will also be present for dialogue with the audience, as will Kristina Konrad, who introduces her film "Our America" about Sandinista women who once participated in armed struggle against the Contras in Nicaragua in the 1980's.

The films are being screened in the cinemas "Museum" and "Arsenal" in Tuebingen and "Waldhorn" in Rottenburg. A selection of the films will be shown in Heidelberg and Göttingen in the communal and arthouse cinemas.

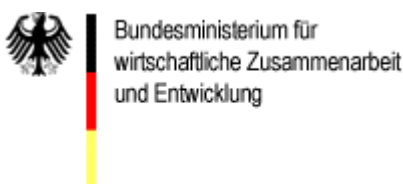
Christa Stolle
Director of TERRE DES FEMMES

Irene Jung
Filmfestival Director

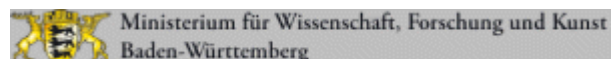
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The Films 2005

Feature Films

Allein



Thomas Durchschlag

Germany 2005, 88 Min., Feature Film, 35mm, Color, German Version

Maria suffers from Borderline Syndrome. Her panicked fear of being alone leads her to escape into an artificial party world consisting of pills, alcohol and sex - in order to forget her loneliness. Until one day Jan appears who gives her the feeling of security. However, when he has to leave for a seven-day trip, Maria suffers a dramatic relapse...

Amu



Shonali Bose

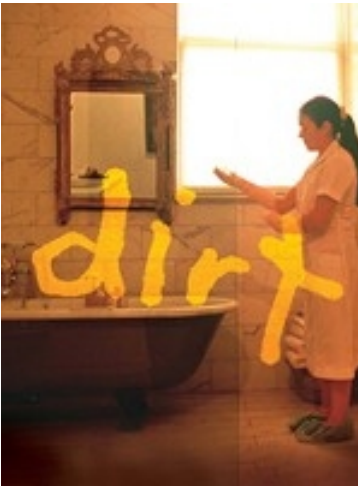
India/USA 2004, 102 Min., Feature Film, 35 mm, Color, Original with German Subtitles

Kaju, an adopted American girl of Indian origin, is searching for her family roots. Inquiries into her past on a trip to India reveal a connection to the 1984 massacres against the Sikh-minority... How is her own past connected to these incidents? Why doesn't anybody talk about this dark time?

FIPRESCI- Award 2005, Bombay Filmfestival.

Dirt

German Premiere



Nancy Savoca

USA 2003, 91 Min., Feature Film, Video, Color, English/Spanish Version

The illegal Immigrant Dolores from El Salvador has illuminating insights cleaning the luxurious apartments of the most successful residents of New York. An unforeseen event brings her back to El Salvador, but now everything is different for her....

...ING

German Premiere



Eon-hee Lee

South- Korea 2003, 104 Min., Feature Film, 35mm, Color, Original with English Subtitles

Min-a, a young Korean girl with an unusual and severe illness, is living reclusively together with her mother Mi-suk - the only friend she has ever had. Until one day the young photographer Yeong-jae peps up her life with his refreshing and somehow crazy manner. However, when Min-a' s health gets dramatically worse, an unexpected secret between mother and boyfriend is revealed...

Kandahar



Mohsen Makhmalbaf

Iran/France 2001, 85 Min., Feature Film, 35mm, Color, Original with German Subtitles

Since the civil war in Afghanistan the exiled journalist Nafas has come to live in Canada. Now her sister, left behind in Afghanistan, wants to commit suicide. Nafas embarks on a desperate journey to rescue her. On her way through the Taliban-controlled region, she has absurd experiences with misogyny and war...

Awarded at Cannes Filmfestival 2001

Director present

On the Outs



Lori Silverbush, Michael Skolnik

USA 2004, 82 Min., Feature Film, Video, Colour, English Version

Suzette is involuntarily pregnant; drug addict Marisol has to fight for her daughter's custody, and Oz is a professional drug dealer - they all meet at some point in a prison, where they have to confront themselves.

Growing up in an American ghetto Co-writers and actors contribute their personal experiences to this film.

Oprosti za Kung Fu - Sorry for Kung Fu



Ognjen Svilicic

Croatia 2004, 70 Min., Feature Film, 35mm, Color, Original with German Subtitles

After the war Mirjana is returning to Croatia. Yet the arrival of the young woman means a tremendous problem to her family: being pregnant without a husband is still unthinkable in the traditional, conservative village. So her father desperately searches for a suitable husband and Mirjana for a way to circumvent this plan. Meanwhile the ultimate catastrophe is approaching...

Schatten der Zeit



Florian Gallenberger

Germany 2004, 122 Min., Feature Film, 35mm, Color, Original with German Subtitles

Ravi and Masha are slaves of an Indian carpet factory owner. They are innocently in love and when Ravi finds out that Masha is to be sold, he gives her the money he saved for his own freedom. Years later he also is able to buy himself off, but there is yet some time until he will see Masha again...

Stray Dogs



Marziyeh Meshkini

Iran/France 2004, 93 Min., Feature Film, 35 mm, Color, Original with English Subtitles

Gol Ghoti and her brother fight for their existence in post-war Afghanistan, a country where the war has left nothing to live on. They only see one way out of their desperate situation: to go to jail in order to get food, a bed, and to be with their mother who is arrested for charges of adultery. Immediately, they set off to carry out their plan, in the company of a little stray dog, as lost as they are on the streets...

Director present

Turtles can fly



Bahman Ghobadi

Iran/France/Iraq 2004, 98 Min., Feature Film, 35mm, Color, Original with German Subtitles

Agrin, an Iraqi girl is living with her son Digah in a mountain village. Badly traumatised by the rape of Iraqi soldiers, she is longing for her own death and that of her son. She is unable to return the feelings of the young boy Satellite, who rescues Digah out of a minefield, unimpressed by the possibility of death, and terribly in love with her...

Six international awards, a.o. Berlin, San Sebastian

When Ruoma was 17



Zhang Jiarui

China 2002, 88 Min., Feature Film, 35mm, Color, Original with English Subtitles

The seventeen year old Ruoma belongs to the Xjani tribe living in the South of China. Growing up in a traditional way in a remote little village, she dreams of discovering the modern world. One day the attractive young photographer Ming offers her a job as a model; her dream of the big, wide world seems to be within reach

Whispering Sands



Nan Achnas

Indonesia 2001, 106 Min., Feature Film, Drama, 35mm, Color, Original with English Subtitles

15-year old Daya is living alone with her strong mother Berlian in an Indonesian desert village, in the midst of political and misogynic violence. Her father has left them a long time ago. However, Daya doesn't give up the hope he could return sometime and then be the father she always wanted. One day he actually shows up, but he does not prove to be the promise she hoped for...
Eight International awards.

Zulu love letter



Ramadan Suleman

France/South Africa/Germany 2004, 100 Min., Feature Film, 35mm, Color, Original with German Subtitles

Journalist and activist Thandeka is tormented by feelings of guilt: during Apartheid she was arrested and tortured while pregnant; therefore her daughter was born deaf. The traumatised 13 year old Simangaliso on her part hopes to reach out to her mother by making a traditional Zulu love letter, a secret amulet. But the past does not easily loosen its grip on Thandeka...

Awarded Ouagadougou 2005

Documentary Films

Anou Banou: the Daughters of Utopia

Edna Politi

Germany 1983, 86 Min., Documentary, 16mm, Color, Original with German Subtitles

Six women talk about the hopes and dreams they had worked passionately on, when they moved to Palestine, the Promised Land, in the 1920's. Sixty years later they are looking back. What has become of their vision? As young socialists, zionists, and feminists they were convinced they could change the world. Is Israel the land they had dreamt of?
First Prize Mannheim Film Festival 1983



Bearing Witness

Barbara Kopple

USA 2005, 90 min., Documentary, Video, Color, English Version

Molly Bingham, Marie Calvin, Janine DiGiovanni, Mary Rogers, and May Ying Welsh have one thing in common: they are war-correspondents in Iraq. Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker Barbara Kopple comes very close to their intrepid lives in extreme situations.



Born into Brothels

German
Premiere

Zana Briski, Ross Kauffman

USA/India 2004, 85 Min., Documentary, Video, Color, English Version

The most stigmatized people in the red light district of Calcutta, the children of the prostitutes, learn over the years - together with photographer Zana Brisky - about the possibilities to escape the terrible fate of their



mothers through art and education.
Oscar 2005, public award at Sundance
Filmfestival and 11 more international awards.

Bride Kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan

Petr Lom

USA/Kirgistan 2004, 51 Min., Documentary,
Video, Color, Original with English Subtitles

If a man wants to get married in Kyrgyzstan,
he just abducts the woman of his choice and
forces her to stay in his home until she is
willing to marry him. Although bride
kidnapping is forbidden, the tradition is still
widely spread. However, some women refuse
the marriage...



El velo de Berta – Berta's Veil

German
Premiere

Esteban Larraín

Chile 2004, 73 Min., Documentary, Video,
Color, Spanish with English Subtitles

Berta, the 88 year old leader of the Pehuenche
Indians in southern Chile, fulfills her daily
duties, greets the trees and the sun, and
drinks mate-tea with her deceased ancestors.
At the same time she resists with utmost
determination the multinational Corporation
ENDESA, which plans to flood her land for the
construction of a gigantic dam at the Bio Bio
river. Will she be able to stop them?



Historia de Rosa - Rosa's Story

German
Premiere

Florence Jeauguey

Nicaragua, 2005, 30 Min., Documentary, Video,
Color, Original with English Subtitles

Nine year old Rosa from Nicaragua is pregnant, after having been raped. The Catholic Church and state institutions want to force her to have the child. While she and her family decide to carry out the abortion, they, their lawyer and the doctors are being excommunicated from the church.

Director present

If I stand up

AINA Women Filming Group

Afghanistan 2004, 52 Min., Documentary, Video, Color, Original with English Subtitles

Zakia, Anis, Simin, Malalay and Masooda are five impressive personalities: Each of them is passionately involved in grass root social projects or in politics. They want to improve their Afghan homeland, especially the situation of women, seeking also the support of men.

Katzenball

Veronika Minder

Switzerland 2004, 87 Min., Documentary, 35mm, Color and Black/White, German Version

Five women from different generations give humorous and non-dogmatic insights into the lives of Swiss Lesbians. The search for identity, secret meetings, permanent struggle for being different, but also progress - a potpourri from 70 years of social history of a secret minority.

Director present



Fotografie: Liva Tresch

Keep not silent

Ilil Alexander

Israel 2004, 52 Min., Documentary, Video, Color, Original with English Subtitles

Lesbians in Jewish-Orthodox communities - almost impossible even to imagine. The love between two women is utterly forbidden in those communities. So how do religious women cope with the conflict? A daring, many times awarded film by Israeli filmmaker Ilil Alexander.



Leo y Julita

Ana Maria Reyes Sanchez

Cuba 2004, 32 Min., Documentary, Video, Color, Original with English Subtitles

A lesbian couple in the Cuba of the seventies, the "grey period": Will the relationship between the pianist and the teacher survive in the face of increasing public scrutiny and discrimination?

One of Many - Voyage en mémoires indiennes

Doris Buttignol, Jocelyne Beranger

France/Germany 2004, 90 Min., Documentary, 35mm, Color, English Version

Sally, a Native Canadian, is dealing with her traumatic history. Like a lot of other children she was taken away from her family in order to eliminate her Indian origins through a "better" education in Christian foster homes. Her painful voyage into her past however leads her as well to Indian schools, where today's little Indian boys and girls feel nurtured and appreciated.



Re-inventing the Taliban

Sharmeen Obaid, Ed Robbins

Pakistan/USA 2004, 54 Min., Documentary, Video, Color, Original with English Subtitles

In North-Pakistan the influence of a Muslim-fundamental movement is increasing. Public images of women are destroyed, music is forbidden. Sharmeen Obaid meets members of the fundamentalist movement in Pakistan and daringly discusses the discriminating treatment of women...



Shadows

AINA Women Filming Group

Afghanistan 2004, 52 Min., Documentary, Video, Color, Original with English Subtitles

Mary, a young Afghan woman has experienced a lot of sorrow in her life. War, poverty, corruption - she knows it all. Feeling connected to her own history, but bestowed with a new freedom as a journalist, she travels through the country to speak with women about their lives and perspectives.



Afghani TV- Documentaries from and about Women

Zakia Haidari

Afghan., 2005, 20 min., Orig. w. Engl. Transl.

Six different reports from the women's program of national Afghan television on subjects like refugees, politically active women, and forced marriage - all intended to raise sensitivity and sympathy - also among men - for the situation of women.

Director present

Tschadari und Buz Kaschi

Elke Jonigkeit

Germany/Afghanistan 1989, 99 Min.,
Documentary, 16mm, Color, German Version

Under Russian occupation Afghanistan reaches a crucial point: tradition against a new definition of gender roles, Islamic fundamentalism against Communism. And in between the woman as resistance fighter or socialistic worker - each one has to decide.

Director present



Unser Amerika

Kristina Konrad

Switzerland/Nicaragua 2005, 84 Min.,
Documentary, Video, Color, German Version

"Our America" is a search for a country, Nicaragua, 25 years after a Revolution that nobody thought possible. It deals with Women from a small Latin American country, that overthrew a 45 year old dictatorship; attempting to create a utopian dream of social justice and independence. For that very reason the revolution was inexorably attacked by the big neighbour USA.

Director present



Women of the Holy Kingdom

German
Premiere

Sharmeen Obaid

Pakistan/USA 2005, 46 Min., Documentary,
Video, Color, English Version

In Saudi-Arabia women aren't able to live without their male guardians, they are banned



from restaurants and can't go shopping on their own. Nevertheless, many of them work and are interested in political participation. Sharmeen Obaid is asking herself: how much longer will they submit to such an unequal order?

Zero Degrees of Separation

Elle Flanders

Canada 2005, 85 Min., Documentary, Video, Color, Original with English Subtitles

Elle Flanders visits gay and lesbian couples in Jerusalem. The special thing about them is that they are mixed Israeli-Palestinian relationships. Belonging to a marginal group they have to resist tremendous social pressure: as couples they stick together in their fight against discrimination, war and occupation, and for women's rights.



Zur Ehe gezwungen - Frauen flüchten vor ihren Familien

Renate Bernhard und Sigrid Dethloff

Germany 2005, 43 Min., Documentary, Video, Color, German Version

Being forced to marry a man chosen by their parents, more and more young Muslim women in Germany flee from their families. If they refuse to marry, they risk being killed by male family members for having defamed "family honour".

