

8th Film Festival Women's Worlds -

Fascinating guests from Oct. 30th to Nov. 5th 2008 in Tübingen

The annual 8th film festival Women's Worlds 2008 welcomes young Iranian director Samira Makhmalbaf, multiple award-winner in Cannes, Venice and Locarno as the star guest. The daughter of Mohsen Makhmalbaf, who himself attended Women's Worlds in 2005, was voted among the 40 most important directors of the world. While in Tübingen, Samira will accompany a retrospective and host a workshop for young filmmakers of the region.



Samira Makhmalbaf



Among 34 feature and documentary films from more than 20 countries are once again many award-winners from renowned film festivals. As an example, Ken Loach's ["It's a free world"](#) about two women launching a recruiting agency and getting lost within the temptations of the global economy - awarded three prizes in Venice 2007 - will be screened. The Chinese feature film ["Zuo You - In Love we trust"](#) is set in an entirely different atmosphere. A desperate mother who is

driven by every mean to save her sick child no matter what the cost- even if this means that she has to conceive another child with her already divorced ex-husband. The script was awarded the silver bear at the Berlinale in 2008.

A special treasure in the program is the Polish film ["Time to die"](#) in black and white. It tells the story of a fierce old lady who does not allow her newly-rich neighbors to forcefully relocate her- and won four awards in Poland.



Regional focuses are on the one hand the situation of women in Africa - accompanying the TERRE DES FEMMES campaign against female genital mu-tilation starting in November. However, not only AIDS and FGM are characteristic traits for the wo-men of this continent. An impressive strength is demonstrated by the female president of war-de-destroyed Liberia and by dedicated artists and mo-thers who prepare their children to face a life in their absence.

On the other hand the regional focus lies on Afghanistan with the majority of the films from or about Samira Makhmalbaf. With these films, the once more precarious situation of Afghan women is focused. Independent US-productions will be screened, among them on November 4th, the night of the US presidential elections, the feature film "[Iron Jawed Angels](#)" about American suffragettes stunningly performed by head actress Hilary Swank.

Thematic focuses are different aspects of violence against women and these women's efforts to resist. A conspicuous interrelation can be found within the problematics of stalking, honor-killings and the absent protection and rights of victims worldwide. Impressing Indian women, however, also show us in the documentary "[Shortcut to Justice](#)" how - despite a malfunctioning judicial system - women's power can be established in order to protect endangered and threatened women and to accompany them in solidarity.

Christa Stolle
Director of
TERRE DES FEMMES

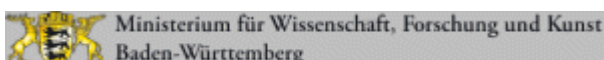
Irene Jung
Filmfestival Director

In Cooperation with

In Cooperation with the Cinemas Arsenal, Museum, Waldhorn and the Commissioner for Gender Equality of the University City of Tuebingen



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Feature Films 2008

Anonyma - A Woman in Berlin

by Max Färberböck

Germany 2008, 131 min., feature film, 35mm, colour, German Version

Berlin 1945. After the invasion of the Red Army, thousands of women were raped. One of them is Anonyma (Nina Hoss), a pre-war journalist and photographer. While desperate, she decides to look for a Russian officer, who is willing to protect her. In return she will have sex with him - voluntarily. A true story based on diary notes that depict the rape of German women by Red-Army-soldiers - until today a taboo-topic.



Corazones de mujer

by Davide Sordella and Pablo Benedetti

Italy 2008, 85 min., feature film, 35 mm, colour, OV, English Subtitles

Zina, a young Italian woman of Moroccan descent, is supposed to get married in Turin. She reveals to Shakira, a Moroccan transvestite and the best dressmaker in town, that she is no longer a virgin. Shakira decides to help her. Together they set off for Casablanca under a pretext, so that Zina can undergo an operation which will restore her virginity. But the journey through Spain and Morocco changes their plans...



The Stranger in me

by Emilie Atef

Germany 2008, 99 min., feature film, 35mm, colour, German Version

Rebecca is a young woman full of life and is expecting her first child. After birth, however, she does not encompass motherly love and happiness. Her own baby is a stranger to her. Every day, her inability to meet the demands of motherhood becomes more and more apparent - until she realizes that she's becoming a threat to her child...

A sensitive film about an issue, which is still taboo, but which affects one in ten women. Highlight in Cannes, Awards in Munich and Brussels.



Special screening for the US-Election Night of d.a.i.

Iron Jawed Angels

by Katja von Garnier

USA 2003, 121 min., feature film, video, colour, OV,
German Subtitles

USA 1912: Alice Paul and her fellow suffragettes fight passionately for women's right to vote - sometimes against elder conservative feminists - with provocative actions. They also have to make personal choices: to work a nightshift or to go out with a nice young journalist - each of them has to decide on their own. After some success and attention from the media and politics, in the eve of World War I, they start to face the most violent opposition... Golden Globe for Anjelica Huston.



Isabella

by Pang Ho-Cheung

Hongkong/China 2006, 91 min., feature film, 35mm,
colour, OV, German Subtitles

Shing, a corrupt cop, is suspended from duty and flees in sexual adventures with several women when suddenly his - to date unknown - teenage daughter shows up. Shing feels responsible for Yan and allows her stay with him. A touching, humorous father-daughter-relationship starts to develop between them but both are caught up by the political change in Macao in 1999. Berlinale Award



It's a free world

by Ken Loach

Germany/Italy/Spain/GB 2007, 96 min., feature film,
35mm, colour, OV, German Subtitles

After having lost just another job, Angie decides - together with her roommate Rose - to launch an agency targeting the recruiting of cheap foreign workers for British employers. Soon, however, the two women fall into a hurricane of fraud, unscrupulousness and moral downfall. Finally, Rose quits the job and things get out of control for Angie... Ken Loach points out again at the few winners and many losers in our "free world". Awarded in Venice



Moscow - Belgium

by Christophe van Rompaey

Belgium 2008, 102 min., feature film, 35mm, colour, German Version

41-year-old Matty already has a quite complicated life with three children and a husband who ran off with a 20-year-old student. To make things worse the driver of the truck she just crashed into, is a rough trucker with whom she ends up having a heavy argument. But the initial aversion turns into something like a love affair. Does Matty, however, really want to give up her old life? The bittersweet comedy won two Awards in Cannes 2008.



The Girl in the Park

by David Auburn

USA 2007, 109 min., feature film, video, colour, OV, German Subtitles

After the disappearance of her three-year-old daughter Maggie, jazz singer Julia (Sigourney Weaver) withdraws from her family and from social life. 16 years later she still hopes that her daughter might be alive. She becomes acquainted with the mysterious homeless Louisa and invites her to share her apartment. The friendship between the two women results in a psychological dependency, as Julia believes Louisa might be Maggie...



Time to die

by Dorota Kedzierzawska

Poland 2007, 104 min., feature film, 35mm, black-white, OV, English Subtitles

92-year-old Aniela is just as rigid as the old wooden villa where she lives with her impetuous dog Phila. With iron will and a good portion of sarcasm she defends her home against the new rich neighbors who want to appropriate her parcel, and against her own son, whose only interest is his inheritance. As the house, however, is filled with memories of a fulfilled life, Aniela won't give up the fight... 4 Awards at Polish Film Festival



U-Carmen eKhayelitsha

by Mark Dornford-May

South Africa 2004, 120 min., feature film, 35 mm,
colour, OV, German Subtitles

Carmen is a sensual independent woman whose fierce determination and indomitable spirit make her a compelling figure even in the face of death. "U-Carmen" transposes the famous opera Carmen to a township in South Africa. The translation into Xhosa language together with the dynamic energy and the heat of the township Khayelitsha creates a colorful, authentic dynamic. Golden Bear at the Berlinale



Opening Film

Zuo You - In Love We Trust

by Wang Xiaoshuai

China 2007, 115 min., feature film, video, OV, German
Subtitles

Six-year-old Hehe suffers from leukemia but neither her mother nor her father are possible bone-marrow-donors. The best chance for Hehe would be the donation of a sibling - which does not exist. The desperate parents, who have lived in divorce, decide for a second child. Confronted with a non-successful in-vitro-fertilisation, however, they have to face a decision which will affect their own and their new partner's lives profoundly... Awarded Berlinale 2008



Documentary Films 2008

Bajo Juárez - La ciudad devorando a sus hijas

by Alejandra Sanchez

Mexico 2007, 96 min., documentary film, video, colour, OV, English Subtitles

Since 1993, more than 400 women have been brutally murdered in the Mexican border town Ciudad Juárez. In spite of international protests there are no convincing investigations as the femicides continue. The documentary shows the endangered families of the victims, as their protest faces the wrath of the mafia and the enmity of corrupt local authorities.



Thin Girls

by Maria Teresa Camoglio

Germany 2008, 94 min, documentary film, video, colour, German Version

Susanne has lost her laughter, Lisa can't look into her own eyes in front of a mirror and Madalena, a medicine student, is well aware of all symptoms. They all have anorexia. The documentary shows seven young women during their therapy, between flamenco dance, cooking course and calorie counting. A deep insight in a disease, aside from common stereotype. The young women reflect frankly about their disease, which will inevitably be a constant companion in their life...



Protagonist present

Marriage of the Mafa-Women

by Godula Kosack

Germany/Cameroon 2008, 15 min., documentary film, video, colour, German Version

In her documentary Godula Kosack impressively shows how women's life in the ethnic group of the Mafa in northern Cameroon looks like. Married very young, they have to face a lot of obligations as wives and at the same time possess only very few rights. A law stating that men are the owner of the earth leads to women's total dependency. They do not even have any right for property of their own.

Director present



Enemies of Happiness

by Eva Mulvad

Denmark 2006, 59 min., documentary film, video, colour, OV, English Subtitles

Afghanistan held its first parliamentary elections after the war in 2005. Among the candidates is Malalai Joya, a courageous, controversial 27-year-old woman who criticized the presence of corrupt warlords in the constitutional parliament. Despite various death threats, she continues to express public criticism concerning the situation of women in Afghanistan. A portrait of an extraordinary fighter for freedom... Jury Award at Sundance Film Festival

Expert present



Iron Ladies of Liberia

by Daniel Junge and Siatta Scott Johnson

USA 2006, 77 min., documentary film, video, colour, OV, German Subtitles

After nearly two decades of brutal civil war in Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf becomes the first female president of Africa. Carrying a degree from Harvard and the nickname Iron Lady, she wins the first democratic election with an approval rate of 59 percent. In her first year as president she faces enormous obstacles to rebuild a war-branded country, with many wounds to heal...

Adolf Grimme Prize 2008.



La Reina del Condon

by Silvana Ceschi and Reto Stamm

Switzerland 2007, 77 min., documentary film, video, colour, OV, German Subtitles

1960: Monika Krause, a young student from the GDR, falls in love with a Cuban captain. She follows him to Cuba and ignites a sexual revolution. The emancipated German fights for the right of women for contraception, abortion, sexual satisfaction and is known as "Reina del Condon", Queen of the Condom. Her controversial work leads to conflicts with the Cuban regime and she leaves the country. Fifteen years later her sons try to track down her traces in Cuba... Awarded at Film Festival Locarno.

Director present



Memory Books - so you'll never forget me

by Christa Graf

Germany/Uganda 2008, 90 min., documentary film, video, colour, OV, German Subtitles

"Memory Books" are small booklets that HIV-positive mothers in Uganda paint and decorate with pictures for their children. In an admirable way of dealing with life and death, they share with them their thoughts, wishes and memories, in order to prepare them for their potential lives as orphans. Those Memory Books are often the only legacy these mothers are able to leave to their children... Five International Film Festival Awards.

Director and Expert present



Murder at the Airport

by Ulrike Baur

Germany 2008, 45 min., documentary film, video, colour, German Version

Last year at Stuttgart airport: Suzana was killed by her ex-husband in front of a check-in-counter. The documentary reconstructs the story of a young woman from Kosovo who lived in Southern Germany but was not allowed to learn German. A story of violence, cruelty and of a child abduction, but also the story of a desperate search for help - in vain. Could this homicide have been avoided if the police had interfered in time?

Director present



Never alone again

by Uta Bodenstern

Germany 2007, 66 min., documentary film, video, colour, German Version

Nonstop ringing of the phone, hundreds of emails, "accidental" encounters - all of this may be stalking. And all of this is everyday-life for Nina, a singer and Katerina, a mother. A psychological terror which heavily attacks the psyche of the victim because of the impressive helplessness of the surrounding environment and the authorities.

Affected women often have to fear violence culminating in honour killings. With the feeling of being completely alone, they have to take up the hard way of resistance.

Director present



Shortcut to Justice

by Daniel Burkholz and Sybille Fezer
Germany 2008, 42 min., documentary film, video,
colour, OV, German Subtitles

The "Women for Justice" in Gujarat in North- West India have established their own tribunals under some tree in a poor neighborhood in order to defend women from recurring domestic and sexual violence - often very successfully. The women's group succeeds also in forcibly reinstalling an evicted widow with her dowry, if the family denies her this basic right, indispensable for her survival...

Directors present

Sonbol

by Niko Apel
Germany/Iran 2007, 54 min., documentary film,
video, colour, OV, German Subtitles

Sonbol Fatema is single, possesses her own dental clinic and likes driving rallies - preferably against men. But to keep her freedom and independence, she has to fight each and every day - because Sonbol lives in Mashhad, the holy town of Iran. It is a fight against her mother, who would like to see her remarried, against the manager of the rallies and against society that prefers to see women inside their houses. First Steps Award, Max Ophüls Prize.

Director present

Spagat - Mothers and Daughters in Migration

by Margrit Pfister
Switzerland 2007, 60 min., documentary film, video,
colour, German Version

We meet them in the supermarket, in the school or in the dance-club: mothers and daughters from different cultures. The documentary depicts the multiple faces of their everyday-life in Switzerland and how especially adolescent girls manage the balance between generational and migrational change of values...



The Mother's House

by Francois Verster

South Africa 2006, 76 min., documentary film, video, colour, OV, English Subtitles

Ten years after Apartheid was abolished, twelve-year-old Miché lives in a "coloured" township of Capetown, which still suffers from poverty, riots and drugs. Hardly any teenager dares to dream of becoming a teacher or a doctor. In this crucial environment, Miché has to learn how to break the cycle of emotional and physical violence that imprisons her family and how to fight for a better future.



The Power of Art - Women's Voices in Africa

by Claudine Pommier

Canada 2007, 51 min., documentary film, video, colour, OV, English Subtitles.

Women in Africa, who decide to work as artists, have problems to establish themselves because of the patriarchal structures. But whether in Camerun, in Burkina Faso or in Algeria, female artists, who earn their money with paintings, sculptures, photographs or art-installations may be found everywhere. They use the language of art to redefine their role - the role of women in Africa.



The Secret Pain

by Mette Knudsen

Denmark 2006, 75 min., documentary film, video, colour, OV, English Subtitles

Kate belongs to the two million girls that suffer genital mutilation (FGM) each year. She was taken from Africa to Scandinavia by a missionary family. During a visit to her home country Sierra Leone, at the age of 16, she was mutilated. As an adult and activist against FGM she goes back to find out why this torture is still being practiced. She dares to have a closer look into these secret affairs in order to handle her own trauma...

Expert present



Three Times Divorced

by Ibtisam Salh Mara'ana

Israel 2007, 74 min., documentary film, video, colour,
OV, English Subtitles

Khitam, a Gaza-born Palestinian woman, is left with nothing after her Palestinian husband of Israeli citizenship divorced her: she is homeless and not allowed to see her children. Now she is out on a courageous battle against the Sharia court in Israel, that always favors men and against the Israeli state that denies her the Israeli passport - the only possibility to be protected from the violence of her husband and to reunite with her children.



Samira Makhmalbaf

Samira was born in 1980 in Tehran as daughter of the celebrated filmmaker Mohsen Makhmalbaf. At the age of eight, she had her first appearance in one of his films. At 15 she left school and learned from him - alongside her whole family - film making at the



"Makhmalbaf Film House". She directed her first feature film [The Apple](#) at the age of 17. This fascinating docufiction was invited to more than hundred film festivals worldwide and won many international awards.

With her second feature film [The Blackboard](#), shot in Kurdistan, the 20-year-old was the youngest director ever, participating in the official section of the Cannes Film Festival - and was promptly awarded. Alongside other prominent directors like Ken Loach, Claude Lelouch, Mira Nair, Youssef Chahine, Sean Penn, she then made one of the eleven episodes of the film [September 11](#). Her next film



[At five in the Afternoon](#), was also awarded in

Cannes. About the difficulties, to persuade non-professional actors in Postwar-Afghanistan to work in that film, her younger sister Hana made [Joy of Madness](#) which was itself awarded in Venice. Her headstrong evolvment as a filmmaker was caught in the documentary [How Samira Made the Blackboard](#) by her brother Maysam Makhmalbaf.

Since most of her filming projects have been prohibited by the Iranian Government, the shooting for her latest film *Two-legged horse* was also done in Afghanistan, but was interrupted by a bomb attack. Despite the difficulties, however, Samira did not leave Afghanistan until she finished the film. Once again, Hana Makhmalbaf documented the work of her brave sister in [Samira and Non-professional Actors](#).

Since 1998 Samira is acting as member of the jury of renowned film festivals like Cannes, Venice, Berlin, Locarno. In 2004, Samira was selected as one of the 40 best directors worldwide by the Guardian newspaper.



Samira Makhmalbaf: "After my film *The Apple* many people questioned me about Iran. They wondered if Iran was really a country where thirteen-year-old girls could be locked up for eleven years and where an eighteen-year-old girl could have her first film at Cannes. I think Iranian women are like freshwater springs: the more pressure applied the more force they show once they are freed."

Restrospective Samira Makhmalbaf

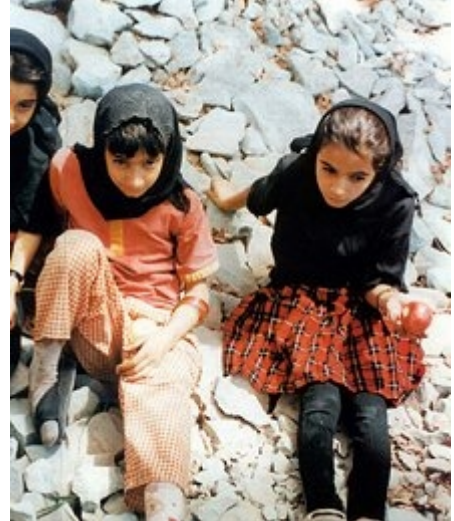
The Apple

by Samira Makhmalbaf

Iran 1997, 85 min., documentary fiction, 35 mm, colour, OV, German Subtitles

Tehran, 1997: Parents had kept their 12-year-old twin-daughters imprisoned since their birth "for their own safety" until the neighbors informed the authorities. A social worker rescued the girls and locked up the father.. Samira Makhmalbaf succeeded in convincing the protagonists of this true story to enact it in front of the camera. Thus the film she created lies within a transgressive reality: neither fiction nor documentary. Awarded in Locarno.

Samira Makhmalbaf present.



The Blackboard

by Samira Makhmalbaf

Iran 2000, 85 min., feature film, 35 mm, colour, OV, German Subtitles

In Kurdistan, near the Iraqi border, some teachers are on the quest for students. Their search turns out to be difficult, so Reboir and Said separate from the other teachers. Reboir meets a group of children, who smuggle stolen products. Said joins a group of refugees. Both groups are not willing to study independently, which forces the two men to apply exceptional methods... Awarded in Cannes

Samira Makhmalbaf present



11'09"01 - God, Construction, Deconstruction

by Samira Makhmalbaf

Iran 2002, 11 min., feature film episode, 35mm, colour, OV, German Subtitles

Samira's contribution to a cooperation between eleven famous film directors on the human dimension of the 9/11 tragedy and it's significance for people around the world under very different cultural and political conditions. The children in a school of an Afghan refugee camp in Iran are not familiar with terrorism in the US. They are more interested in the story of an aunt who was stoned, and don't understand the reason for maintaining a minute of silence... Awarded in Venice.

Samira Makhmalbaf present



How Samira made the Blackboard

by Maysam Makhmalbaf

Iran 2000, 76 min., documentary film, video, colour, OV, English Subtitles

Maysam Makhmalbaf portrays his famous sister Samira as she takes the first steps in the world of film. First as a little actress in the movies of her father, later directing her own films "The Apple" and "The Blackboard" at the age of 17 and 19. The multi-faceted portrait shows Samira as a passionate and energetic director as well as a calm and nearly shy award winner at Cannes film festival. The documentary reveals Samira's thoughts and her immense passion for film.

Samira Makhmalbaf present



Joy of Madness

by Hana Makhmalbaf

Iran 2003, 73 min., documentary film, 35mm, colour, OV, English Subtitles

Kabul 2003: 14-year-old Hana Makhmalbaf accompanies her famous sister Samira as she casts her film "At five in the Afternoon". It is not easy for Samira to find actors, because people are extremely suspicious. With her handheld camera Hana witnesses the problems and the deeply rooted fear and anxiety of the people in times after the collapse of the Taliban-regime. Venice Film Festival Award.

Samira Makhmalbaf present



Samira and Non-Professional Actors

by Hana Makhmalbaf

Iran/Afghanistan 2008, 52 min., documentary film, colour, video, English Version

In her latest film, Samira Makhmalbaf decided once again to work with non-professional actors. Her sister Hana shows how Samira directs a couple of a mentally disabled boy and a boy with no legs. With great passion, energy and no fear of contact, she demonstrates to her actors that she is on the same height as they are as the crew faces a bomb attack at the filming location...

Samira Makhmalbaf present



Buddha collapsed out of shame

by Hana Makhmalbaf

Iran 2007, 81 min., feature film, video, colour, OV, English Subtitles

Little Baktay is stopped on her way to school by some boys who include her as victim in their war-games. "Die and you will be free" advises a friend, because only by dying in the game, Baktay can be released and continue her way. An enthralling story about post-war Afghanistan through the eyes of a bright girl... Awards at film festivals San Sebastian and Berlinale a.o.

Samira Makhmalbaf present

