

# internationale hofer filmtage

26. - 31. Oktober 2021 **plus7streamdays**

14. Oktober 2021

## PRESS RELEASE

## EMOTIONS, LONGINGS AND EXISTENTIAL QUESTIONS - WHAT'S BEHIND FILMS IN HOF?

The 55th Hof International Film Festival opens on October 26, 2021 with the debut film *DAS SCHWARZE QUADRAT* by Peter Meister, who succeeded in recruiting a number of well-known actors for his whimsical comedy, including Bernhard Schütz, Jacob Matschenz and Sandra Hüller.

The program is varied, colorful and diverse with 45 national and international feature films, 23 documentaries, and 51 short films. In addition to the German productions, the films come from Canada, USA, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Colombia, France, Great Britain, Finland, Israel, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary and Bosnia-Herzegovina. They can be seen locally in cinemas until October 31, 2021. After the premiere, a selection will be available digitally at the streaming festival **plus7streamdays** until November 07, 2021.

Human beings like to see themselves as the center of existence. But that is somewhat wishful thinking. The world and nature set a clear framework within which we generally act, and this has consequences for every field of life. The topics that move filmmakers demonstrate a committed interest in political tendencies, in family ties and the associated conflicts, in longings and escapes from everyday life, as well as exploring the unpredictable times in which we find ourselves. The movies of the 55th anniversary year of Hof International Film Festival, therefore, also set clear priorities, such as:

### **Politics, Persecution, Resistance**

**AMPARO**, direction: Simón Mesa Soto (*Columbia, Sweden, Germany, Qatar 2021*)

When single mother Amparo returns from her night shift, she finds that her two children are no longer there. She learns that her son has been drafted as part of an army raid. She begins a race against time to liberate her son. With Sandra Melissa Torres, John Jairo Montoya Mazo, Diego Alejandro Tabón, Luciana Gallego Álvarez

**BANTÚ MAMA**, director: Ivan Herrera (*Dominican Republic, 2021*)

After her arrest in the Dominican Republic, a French woman of African descent manages to escape. She finds shelter in the most dangerous neighborhood of Santo Domingo, where she is taken in by a group of children. With Scarlett Reyes, Euris Javiel, Arturo Perez, Clarisse Albrecht

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**ERASING FRANK**, direction: Gábor Fabricius (*Hungary 2021*)

1983 in Budapest. Frank is the charismatic singer of a prohibited punk band that attempts to make the voice of its generation heard against a totalitarian regime. When Frank is sent to the police psychiatric ward to be silenced, he is willing to sacrifice everything in order to resist.

With Benjamin Fuchs, Kincsö Blénes, Andrea Waskovich, István Lénárt, Pál Frenák

**STILLE POST**, direction: Florian Hoffmann (*Germany 2021*)

When Khalil, a primary school teacher from Berlin, receives war footage from his Kurdish hometown of Cizre, in the videos he believes he recognizes his sister, who was thought to be dead. His orderly life is thrown out of kilter.

With Hadi Khanjanpour, Kristin Suckow, Aziz Capkurt, Jeanette Hain, Melda Kanbak

**THE SAINT OF THE IMPOSSIBLE**, direction: Marc Wilkins (*Switzerland 2021*)

A murder, a police raid, and a photo of a mysterious girl: a young immigrant and mother in New York has to piece together the secret love lives of her twin sons before she can find out what has happened to them.

With Magaly Solier, Tara Thaller, Adriano und Marcello Durand

**ZEROS AND ONES**, direction: Abel Ferrara (*USA, Germany, England, Italy 2020*)

A film about lockdown and war, danger and espionage, American soldiers, Chinese middlemen, Middle Eastern holy men, provocateurs, diplomats, rogue elements of the KGB and the Mossad, informants, killers and rebels. The central event is the destruction of the Vatican, which is to be blown sky high.

With Ethan Hawke, Cristina Chiriac, Phil Neilson, Valerio Mastandrea

**Family Ties**

**ÉGALITÉ**, direction: Kida Khodr Ramadan (*Germany 2021*)

After a seemingly harmless operation on her tonsils, 14-year-old Leila wakes up blind. Attila, Leila's father, makes a momentous decision to learn the truth.

With Burak Yigit, Susanna Abdulmajid, Dunya Ramadan, Momo Mohamad Ramadan

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**IM WALD**, direction: Manuel Weiss (*Germany 2021*)

Mia is furious with her father Mats. In her eyes, he has abandoned the family, and now he even wants her to meet his new girlfriend. Unexpectedly, the drive to meet her takes them deep into a large wooded area, where they discover an abandoned vehicle. It's not long before their own car breaks down unexpectedly.

With Tobias Kay, Jolie Joan, Daniela Mitterlehner

**JESSY**, direction: Rebeca Ofek (*Germany 2021*)

13-year-old Jessy's symbiotic relationship with her mother is tested when Jessy's father returns from prison. She drifts from one parent to the other, from childhood to adulthood, learning about boundaries and her own identity.

With Pola Geiger, Hannes Wegener, Anca Cipariu, Luis Pintsch

**LETHE**, direction: Micon Gerthold (*Germany 2021*)

Egon, a pensioner suffering from dementia, is not treated particularly well by his family. One day, the long-lost son comes to visit with his fiancée and her parents. The idea is to take a family portrait for the upcoming wedding and get to know each other.

With Gerhard Fehn, Benedict Badenius, Dana Cebulla, Stephanie Jost, Daniel Breitfelder

**LOS(GE)LASSEN**, direction: Brigitte Drodloff (*Germany 2021*)

An extreme winter storm paralyzes Munich. In the midst of it, three women are living together. Alina, heavily pregnant, goes into labor. Christa, with her disability, is not much help. Lucy, meanwhile, is in love with Jessica and doesn't give a damn about anything. Solidarity is the only way to save the day.

With Josefina Vilsmaier, Miriam V. Jeremic, Silke Popp, Salber Williams,

**MODELL OLIMPIA**, direction: Frédéric Hambalek (*Germany 2020*)

A desperate mother pursues an odd strategy to help her son, who suffers from obsessive fantasies of violence and death. She herself designs a therapy program, intending to train him to escape such disturbing thoughts.

With Alban Mondschein, Anna Steffens, Mathilde Bundschuh

**NACHBARN**, direction: Mano Khalil (*Switzerland 2021*)

In 1980, in a Syrian border village, little Sero is attending his first year at school. A new teacher has arrived to turn the Kurdish children into strapping pan-Arab comrades. He orders the worship of Assad and preaches hatred of the Jews. These lessons confuse Sero, as his longtime neighbors are a lovely Jewish family.

With Serhed Khalil, Jay Abdo, Jalal Altawil

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**PRINZESSIN**, direction: Peter Luisi (*Switzerland, Ukraine 2021*)

Four-year-old Nina and her uncle Josef are very fond of each other. Years later, at his sister's funeral, Josef learns that Nina went astray as a teenager and is serving time in a prison in Ukraine. He decides to save his princess.

With Matthias Habich, Johanna Bantzer, Anne Haug

**SUGARLOVE**, direction: Isabel Kleefeld (*Germany 2020*)

The marriage between Patrick, a sociology professor, and Julia, a psychotherapist, is a good and stable relationship - the envy of many. But after all these years, their sex life has turned sour. Julia decides to outsource the "problem" and gives Patrick *carte blanche* to enjoy an affair.

With Barbara Auer, Fritz Karl, Cosima Henman

**ZWISCHEN UNS**, direction: Max Fey (*Germany 2020*)

Eva and her 13-year-old, autistic son Felix are inseparable. Felix is shy: he suffers from anxiety and anger attacks, and is constantly running away from school. Eva fights with all her might for a stable and harmonious life together.

With Liv Lisa Fries, Jona Eisenblätter, Thure Lindhardt, Lena Urzendowsky, Corinna Harfouch

This is a just a taster; news of more program points will be coming soon.

Information is available at [www.hofer-filmtage.com](http://www.hofer-filmtage.com). You are still welcome to register for press accreditation via our link <https://vp.eventival.com/hof/55hoferfilmtage>, either for Hof vor Ort + On Demand or for the plus7streamdays Hof On Demand.

Best regards from

Ana Radica & the Hof Film Festival team  
[www.hofer-filmtage.com](http://www.hofer-filmtage.com)