

Opening Ceremony

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Longtime team member Monika Michell looks forward to the Film Festival week...



... and inspects in collaboration with Museum Cinema CEO Mr. Reichert the number of tickets remaining for sale.



Irene Jung, Film Festival Director of Women's Worlds, precedes in the meantime with first public discussions on *Bajo Juarez*, a movie about women killings in Mexico, shown already before the ceremonial opening of the Film festival.



Bajo Juarez motivated quite a number of spectators to actively participate against the women's killings and to avidly fill out the evaluation sheets that were offered for all the films screened at Women's Worlds.



Photo: Monika Michell

A long time team-member as well, Sibylle Schreiber, prepares herself at the TERRE DES FEMMES-counter for the anticipated audience run...



... that in an instant fills the Museum-Foyer



TERRE DES FEMMES - women Christa Stolle, Irene Jung and Sibylle Schreiber coordinate last details of the opening ceremony...



.... just before TERRE DES FEMMES - Managing Director Christa Stolle's insight into the successful work of the human rights organization. In her speech she explicitly emphasizes *Anonyma*, a movie on war crimes against women in post-war Germany, for which TERRE DES FEMMES officiates as a cooperation partner. She points out the unfortunate timeliness of the issue, drawing on war zone examples like Congo, where rape is applied as systematic warfare, although meanwhile rape has been legally classified as a war crime and as a crime against humanity in general.



Commissioner for Gender Equality and Co-host Dr. Susanne Omran delivers official greetings from the City of Tuebingen that as from now on will increase support for Women's Worlds through city budget subsidies. The City of Tuebingen also provided a Festival- office for this year's Film festival.



An eagerly awaiting audience looks forward to the eventful week...



...outlined by Film Festival Director Irene Jung, followed by the showing of the Chinese opening movie Zuo You In Love We Trust. The staff holds a surprise before hand though: A short movie about 7 years of Film Festival Womens Worlds, premiered during this evening.



As always after the opening ceremony, there is time for extensive talk at the Kelter restaurant....



and at the TERRE DES FEMMES-Filmfest- team table glasses are raised to toast a successful Film festival course.

The Weekend of documentary filmmakers

Eleven documentary filmmakers visited on the weekend „Women’s Worlds“.

They screened documentaries on different aspects of violence and discrimination against women. TERRE DES FEMMES especially embraces these topics in its public relation work.

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Cultural Anthropologist Godula Kosack delivers in „Die Ehe der Mafa-Frauen“ intimate insights into the life of women in Cameroon whom she accompanied for over 20 years.



Reto Stamm introduces with „La Reina del Condon“ an uncommon life story: Young German Democratic Republic-citizen Monika Krause, who unleashed in the 70's the sexual revolution in Cuba.



Margrit Pfister portrayed with „Spagat“ a manifold puzzle of migrant mother-daughter relations in Switzerland.



Niko Apel shot „Son Bol“ in Iran...



... and took as center of stage young Iranian dentist and rally driver Sonbol Fatemi.



Together with camera woman Beate Scherer he reveals to the audience Sonbol's fight for independence from her mother, the fight against social expectations and against sport officials.



Ulrike Bauer, for the third time present at Women's Worlds, screened her documentary about a „honor“ killing on Kosovo- Albanian Suzana S. at the Stuttgart airport, whereas she investigated and shot in Kosovo as well.



Uta Bodenstern impressed the audience with „Nie mehr allein/Never alone anymore“, the story of two women that are victims of stalking. The reference to „honor“ crimes is selfevident.



An eminent intensive exchange took place about topics such as stalking, women- and „honor“ killings, as well as the particular isolation and lack of rights of affected women.



Four different filmmakers met at the Cinema - Sybille Fezer, Ulrike Baur, Uta Bodenstein and Daniel Burkholz...



... in order to discuss these topics among them and with the audience



A ray of hope was entailed in „Shortcut to Justice“, directed by Sybille Fezer and Daniel Burkholz. The film depicts Indian women as they build an independant legal system to protect women affected by violence through trials, accompanied by escorting and social control.



The filmmakers agreed about the eye opening perspective and stimulation coming in an exemplary way from the slums of the Third World. Perspectives that are neither sufficiently perceived in the German public discourse, nor insistently embraced by the responsible authorities.



The discussion was intensively carried on at the festival bar Arsenal, long time after the screening and the public discussion, as depicted here with Sybille Fezer and Paulo de Carvalho



Niko Apel with Reto Stamm



... together with Margrit Pfister...



... and the Filmfest team.



Reto Stamm and Uta Bodenstern



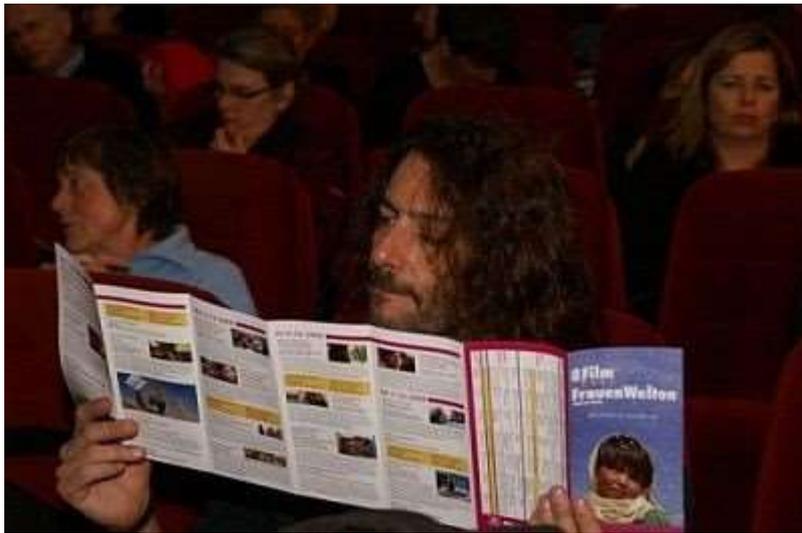
Daniel Burkholz and Reto Stamm



Uta Bodenstein with Margrit Pfister



Ulrike Baur and Irene Jung.



T

he guests were delighted to use the opportunity...



... to see other movies at Women's Worlds.....



... or to enjoy a musical introduction played by Andrés Jung during the screening of a movie on Friday at Museum-Cinema.



The most likely route though our guests took late in the evening was back towards the Arsenal bar...



... and still later through the dimly lit historical marketplace up to Hotel am Schloß Tuebingen.

Samira Makhmalbaf at the Film Festival Women's Worlds in Tübingen

© Fotos: Alex Gonschior



Special guest and multiple Cannes-Award-Winner Samira Makhmalbaf from the unusual Iranian family of film directors...



... joined for five days...



the homey university town of Tuebingen



... here at the famous Hoelderlin-tower with Mehrdad Zonnour...



... accompanied by a team of the University of Tuebingen Campus TV.



The daughter of the founder of the New Iranian Cinema Mohsen Makhmalbaf, who visited Women's Worlds in 2005...



... presented at this years Film Festival a showcase of her movies, documentaries about her film making...



...and conducted insightful and exhilarating discussions with the audience.



The audience was especially fascinated...



... by the looks behind the scenes revealed through various „Makings of...“



© photo: Makhmalbaf Film House

... that play mostly in Afghanistan - here At 5 in the afternoon -...



© photo: Makhmalbaf Film House

... where she engages energetically and intensively with the amateur actors. Here Samira is shown during the shooting for her newest movie „Two Legged Horse“, which was interrupted by a bomb attack.



Lord Mayor of the City of Tuebingen Boris Palmer welcomed Samira Makhmalbaf...



... in the name of the city of Tuebingen inside the old town hall...



where she was able to have a look into the mysterious interior of the famous astronomical clock...



... whose dragon index has precisely calculated the solar and lunar eclipse of the last 500 years.



Mayor Boris Palmer also participated in the audience discussions on her impressive movies about violation of human rights on women. Samira Makhmalbaf claims not to condemn the people, but the social circumstances where these violations arise and occur.



Samira Makhmalbaf and Boris Palmer compared notes well after the discussion...



Samira was also introduced to several other filmmakers, here the documentary filmmaker Christa Graf whose *Memory Books* about HIV-positive mothers in Africa preparing their children to master a life in their absence, was also screened during the Film Festival.

Workshop with Samira Makhmalbaf

© Fotos: Alex Gonschior



During a Workshop with filmmakers, film students and women rights activists at Cinema Arsenal...



... Samira Makhmalbaf gave multilayered insights in her fascinating and headstrong film work, be it through the „Makings of“ of „Blackboard“ and „Two Legged Horse“ ...



© Photo: Makhmalbaf Film House

... as well as in the discussion about the interest arousing documentary fiction film „The Apple“



The result was a profound and detailed discussion....



...between Samira and film students about the genuine manner of movie-making in German Film Academies...



.... as well as with Film Festival Director Irene Jung about Samira's impressive way of reaching out to real-life-affected persons, bringing them as amateur actors in front of the camera, empathizing the particularity of their situation and mirroring their experiences in a way that authentically tells their stories...



... and with film directors whose work focuses especially on Human Rights: Sigrid Dethloff is explaining that documentary film makers in Europe have to deal with utterly different working conditions. Hence, they cannot shoot footage for a documentary starring the case of a girl whose human rights were violated, just three days after the public emersion of the violation, with the real protagonists, as happened in *The Apple*.



Campus TV occasionally interviewed participating film students of the Ludwigsburg Film Academy that were hoping to incorporate similar experiences to those of Samira at Makhmalbaf Film House in the curricula of their own academy.



Samira Makhmalbaf: „The most awesome feature of this Workshop was that...



... there was a genuine exchange of ideas among the participants, way beyond the common question & answer game..."



...and we all benefited from this."



... Not to mention the funny side of the Workshop!

School presentations

Die dünnen Mädchen -The Skinny Girls and Memory Books

© Fotos: Alex Gonschior

Die dünnen Mädchen -The Skinny Girls



Emotionally touching discussions took place in the cinema, as well as in the schools after the screening of *Dünne Mädchen / Skinny Girls* about teenage girls suffering from eating disorders and about different perspectives on their healing.



... in front of a deeply moved audience...



... and at the Geschwister-Scholl-School and the Schickhard- Gymnasium in front of hundreds of students, the hope that there are ways to overcome this perilous disease.



Our guest gave an insight into the causes, as well as into subjective experiences girls with eating disorders undergo during extensive discussions with students. She pointed out that in the case of eating disorders among teenagers, we are not so much dealing with misguided en vogue- trends, as with serious problems during adolescence, especially those arising within families. As Irene Jung noted, family problems may exhibit themselves in a manifold way: Drugs- and PC- addiction, extensive drinking or suicidal acts.



Various present teenagers (mostly male) acknowledged our guests courage to publicly disclose her personal story in order to help affected teenagers.



School director Mrs. Theune also expressed her gratitude and admiration through a bouquet of flowers...

Memory books



Photo: Monika Michell

Impressive in a similar way were the screening and the discussions at the same schools with Memory Books director Christa Graf. Memory Books, which is on its way to be nominated for the Academy Award, tells the story of HIV-positive mothers in Africa who prepare their children through little books and family stories to master a life in the future absence of the mothers.



Photo: Monika Michell

Discussions with students were still going on, well after the screenings...



...and with Festival Director Irene Jung, who is keeping her fingers crossed for the Academy Award nomination of Christa Graf's Memory Books....

Filmfest-Team-Work is hard work, but also a lot of pleasure....

(an insight behind the Film Festival scenes)

© Fotos: Alex Gonschior



Foto: Monika Michell

We are very pleased with the numerous men who support our Film festival - Mr. Reichert of Cinema Museum, (3rd from left) has proved to be a solidaric supporter over the years, Andrés Jung (1st from left) has delighted us over and over again with his music. Also longtime supporters are Christian Michel (graphic design), Wolfram Schillinger (camera, film edition), Alex Gonschior (still photography), Paulo de Carvalho (program consultant) and Patrick Klügel (film copy supervision). Also, we are thankful to new supporters such as this years supporter Mark Velinsky (film copy supervision) and Mr. Wagenhaus (PC support and help with film festival office relocation).



Sibylle Schreiber and Monika Michell at the TERRE DES FEMMES information desc.



Irene Jung awaits the audience at the Museum cinema entrance...



Foto: Monika Michell

... and then settles down after a successful screening, as shown here with Sabine VoigtGrau, who moderated the public discussion on *Dünne Mädchen*.



Foto: Monika Michell

Susanne von Vangerow coordinates the school screenings, which does not only encompass content, but also logistics. She is highly versatile and shoots pictures as well.



Wrong impression: The team was not drinking champagne and orange juice the whole time, rather, we like to take pictures while celebrating. On this one here, Sabrina Kopp, Kathrin Frenz and Monika Michell are happy about the successful completion of the Women's Worlds....



and also mayor Boris Palmer is embraced to joyfully clinking glasses....



A very rare picture: Our indefatigable photographer Alexander Gonschior as captured by Monika Michell.



In between hard work, some moments of relaxation are necessary...



... and nothing compares for that aim to a punt-ride on the Neckar...



These moments were especially important for Iranian interpreter Aboulghasem Zamankhan, who was a tireless interpreter to Samira Makhmalbaf for five days. He also translated simultaneously for a movie in the cinema hall.



Farewells are not easy, but we hope to encounter each other again during future Women's Worlds festivals.

The Filmfest team says goodbye to the documentary filmmakers of the weekend screenings: (from left) Ulrike Baur, Daniel Burkholz, Irene Jung, Franziska Gruber, Uta Bodenstein, Sibylle Schreiber, Sybille Fezer, Reto Stamm...



... and to our outstanding interpreter Aboulghasem Zamankhan...



Farewell dinner with Samira Makhmalbaf....





... and also a cinema-farewell to Samira Makhmalbaf, who we took to our heart during her five days visit. From left: Mehrdad Zonnour, Aboulghasem Zamankhan, Kathrin Frenz, Franziska Gruber, Samira Makhmalbaf, Monika Michell, Irene Jung, Christa Stolle, Sibylle Schreiber, Susanne von Vangerow, Sabrina Kopp, Paulo de Carvalho.

We hope to see you soon!



And here comes the last farewell:...



...to our generous and cozy Film Festival office...



...that was provided for this years Women's Worlds by the City of Tuebingen in the ancient Center of the University Town.



A last toast: Irene Jung, Franziska Gruber, Kathrin Frenz, Monika Michell, - Wolfram Schillinger and Susanne von Vangerow.

See you next year!

This years Women's Worlds was organized in cooperation with the Commissioner for Gender Equality of the city of Tuebingen, the Cinemas Museum, Arsenal in Tuebingen, Waldhorn in Rottenburg and attracted over 3.000 spectators in the cinema halls.

We were pleased and thankful upon reception of enthusiastic feedback from the media, audience and guests about the quality and the stimulating atmosphere of the Film Festival.

The next edition of Women's Worlds dedicated to the international day of "NO to violence against women" will take place on Nov. 19- 25, 2009.