



Press release

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LUCAS – International Festival for Young Filmlovers

39th edition with a new name and a new concept

Curated feature-film programme based on quality +++ Good-bye to hunt for feature-film premieres +++ Wider target audience, from 4 to 18plus years of age +++ Children and youth will actively participate in shaping the festival



Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF e.V.
LUCAS – International Festival for Young Filmlovers

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At LUCAS – International Festival for Young Filmlovers (18th-25th September 2016) everything in this year's 39th edition is new. Germany's oldest film festival dedicated to at the young audiences, organised by Deutsches Filminstitut, Frankfurt am Main, is renewing itself completely, even in its name; LUCAS – International Festival for Young Filmlovers will be aiming at a significantly broader audience, from 4 to 18 years of age, offering a coordinated film programme in three sections. In the future, the target audience will be even more heavily involved in LUCAS than heretofore; not only will children and youth continue to be members of juries, as they already have been, they are now being decisively invited to make the festival their own and participate in its organisation, such as in the selection of films and the preparation of film discussions. The multi-lingual festival newspaper, too, which will replace the catalogue, will be written with the participation of children and youth.

Quality and the entire spectrum of film history will in future determine the feature-film programme. With this approach, Christine Kopf, who heads the department for film education and film literacy to which the festival belongs, and the new artistic director, Cathy de Haan, are consciously distancing themselves from the focus on premieres of



other festivals: „We wish to pass on our enthusiasm for the cinema to children and youth“, they both emphasise. „For that reason, we will screen films that we are convinced will arouse curiosity and passion in the young audiences at whom we are aiming.“ They could be classics of film history and could naturally include also films not necessarily produced for children or youth. „We believe that the next generation is interested in the whole spectrum of the international cinema.“ The invitation to enter into the LUCAS short film competition still stands – now expanded to a „Competition for Short and Medium-length films“. In programming the competition, a selection committee will be consulted, including Annette Friedmann and Martin Ganguly (feature films) and Ursula Vossen and Pamela Fischer (short and medium-length films).

Encounters with film-makers from all over the world are a particular focus of LUCAS – International Festival for Young Filmlovers. The festival will provide even more quiet and intimate spaces for these meetings. Young people will be involved actively in the moderation and the design of the events.

LUCAS offers young audiences many opportunities to have their say in shaping the event, explains Cathy de Haan, who is already looking forward to the festival's awards ceremony. For that young people will develop short-film-soundtracks together with the composers and artists Eunice Martins and Laura Mello and perform these live.



„Young European Cinephiles“ is a new section of LUCAS – an event in which youth between 16 and 18 from all over Europe curate the programme themselves. The idea: two young people each from Italy, France, Germany and the Netherlands will

programme a content-coordinated double feature, which will be screened on each of the five evenings at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Naturally, this will be accompanied by writing a review for the festival newspaper, explaining the criteria for the selection and moderation and introduction on the evening of the screening. Claudia Dillmann, director of Deutsches Filminstitut, is confident that the youth, cinematically prepared by European partner institutes „will look back at the whole range of film history in making their selection and also include film classics in their programme.“

That the festival city of Frankfurt am Main is Germany's most international city is clearly understood by the team behind LUCAS as



part of their task; LUCAS was already always internationally oriented, but this aspect will be yet further broadened. „It is one of our particular concerns to intensify our address also to children from families seen as so called educationally disadvantaged and to those with a migrant background“, emphasises Kopf. But not only that. „LUCAS, which has always shown its films in their original languages, is an ideal playground, enabling all those who speak several languages to encounter cinema in the languages of its creation.“ The festival thus expressly turns to all those who cherish and create Frankfurt's multiculturalism, from refugee youth to students at a foreign-language private school.

The new CI – which comes along with the new concept – is designed by Frankfurt based design studio “von Zubinski”.

LUCAS – International Festival for Young Filmlovers – is made possible by many sponsors, for whose support we are grateful. Among these are: Municipality of Frankfurt am Main, HessenFilm und Medien, Peter Ustinov Foundation, LPR Hessen, Max Baum Immobilien, Förderkreis des Deutschen Filminstituts, Vision Kino as well as Fraport AG. We would like to express our gratitude further to our partners ŠKODA AUTO Deutschland and ABG Frankfurt Holding.