Cinema 2008 Competition

**SCHATTENWELT** LONG SHADOWS by Connie Walther  

Anteprima-Premiere

**DER BAADER MEINHOF KOMPLEX** THE BAADER MEINHOF COMPLEX by Uli Edel  

New Cinema Network

**SIEBEN TAGE SONNTAG** SEVEN DAYS SUNDAY by Niels Laupert  

L’Altro Cinema / Extra

**FARBTEST.6** COLOUR TEST.6 by Gerd Conradt  

Masterclass with Volker Schloendorff POLITICAL MEMORY

CineCampus: Masterclass with Edgar Reitz EXTRAORDINARY FILMMAKING  

German Screenings / The Business Street

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Photo Cover: Scene from “Long Shadows” (photo © Olaf Aue)  
Photo Backcover: Scene from “The Baader Meinhof Complex” (photo © Constantin Film Verleih 2008)
German Days at the 3rd Rome International Film Festival

The cooperation between the Rome International Film Festival and German Films has become a tradition: for the 3rd time the GERMAN DAYS will present a sample of German filmmaking in Rome.

German Films is very proud of this tradition and especially this year the program of the German Days is very attractive. Two films in the Official Selection of the festival focus on the political situation in Germany in the late 1960s: as an Anteprima-Premiere THE BAADER MEINHOF COMPLEX by Uli Edel deals with the RAF terrorists and their actions in the 60s and 70s. The high-profile cast with the best of Germany’s talent literally draws the audience into the fast-paced story.

LONG SHADOWS by Connie Walther can be seen in the Cinema 2008 Competition and portrays the ex-terrorist Widmer, who is confronted with the consequences of his terrorist past after he has been released from prison many years later. A human drama develops.

Having these two films in the official program, it was only logical to add an event to the festival agenda: Oscar®-winner Volker Schloendorff will hold a Masterclass “German Cinema and its Political Memory”.

Holding tradition high, the German Screenings will present five new German films in the Business Street. This year’s German project in the New Cinema Network, FOR A FOREIGN COUNTRY, is written by Niels Laupert and Tobias Engelmeier. Niels Laupert’s first feature film SEVEN DAYS SUNDAY will screen on this occasion.

After a remarkable number of German showcases at various festivals in Italy in the past few months, the presentation of the GERMAN DAYS at the 3rd Rome International Film Festival is this year’s German cinema highlight in Italy!
Schattenwelt  LONG SHADOWS

After two decades in prison, Widmer, a former German RAF-terrorist, is released. He meets Valerie, his next door neighbor. The young woman tries to get her life back on track after she lost custody of her little son. She shows some interest in Widmer, the two of them seem to have something in common. They discreetly enter into the secrets of their lives. Until the truth comes between them.

Genre  Drama  Year of Production  2008  Director  Connie Walther  Screenplay  Uli Herrmann, in cooperation with Connie Walther and Peter-Juergen Boock  Director of Photography  Birgit Gudjonsdottir  Producers  Clementina Hegewisch, Michael Jungfleisch  Production Companies  Next Film/Berlin, Gambit Film/Ludwigsburg, in co-production with BR/Munich, ARTE/Strasbourg  Principal Cast  Franziska Petri, Ulrich Noethen, Tatja Seibt, Uwe Kockisch, Christoph Bach, Mehdi Nebbou, Eva Mattes  Length  92 min  Format  35 mm, color, 1:1.85, DTS Digital  Original Version  German  Subtitled Version  English  World Sales  Sola Media GmbH, Solveig Langeland, Osumstrasse 17, 70599 Stuttgart/Germany, phone +49-7 11-4 79 36 66, fax +49-7 11-4 79 26 58, email: post@sola-media.net, www.sola-media.net

Connie Walther  studied Sociology and Spanish before switching over to Photography. After gathering experience as a lighting gaffer and production and directing assistant, she studied at the German Film & Television Academy (dffb) in Berlin and landed her first success with her graduation film Das erste Mal (1996), which was named Best Graduation Film from a German film academy in that year. Since then, she has demonstrated her talents with various genres and formats with films such as: Boersday Blues (short, 1992), Der Clown II (TV, 1997), Tic Tac Toe (TV documentary, 1998), Hauptsache Leben (1998), Offene Rechnung (TV, 1999), Never Mind the Wall (Wie Feuer und Flamme, 2001), Im falschen Leben (TV, 2001), Und Tschuess, ihr lieben (TV, 2002), Ei in Japan (documentary, 2005), Mord in aller Unschuld (TV, 2006), 12 Means: I Love You (TV, 2007), and Long Shadows (Schattenwelt, 2008).

Screenings: Friday, 24 October, 19:00 h, Sala Sinopoli  Saturday, 25 October, 15:00 h, Salacinema Lotto  Sunday, 26 October, 19:30 h, Metropolitan Sala 2
Der Baader Meinhof Komplex

THE BAADER MEINHOFF COMPLEX

Germany in the 1970s: Murderous bomb attacks, the threat of terrorism and the fear of the enemy inside are rocking the very foundations of the yet fragile German democracy. The radicalized children of the Nazi generation led by Andreas Baader, Ulrike Meinhof and Gudrun Ensslin are fighting a violent war against what they perceive as the new face of fascism: American imperialism supported by the German establishment, many of whom have a Nazi past. Their aim is to create a more human society, but by employing inhuman means they not only spread terror and bloodshed, they also lose their own humanity. The man who understands them is also their hunter: the head of the German police force Horst Herold. And while he succeeds in his relentless pursuit of the young terrorists, he knows he’s only dealing with the tip of the iceberg.

Genre Drama Year of Production 2008 Director Uli Edel Screenplay Bernd Eichinger, based on the book by and in consultation with Stefan Aust, in cooperation with Uli Edel Director of Photography Rainer Klausmann Producer Bernd Eichinger Production Company Constantin Film Produktion/Munich, in co-production with Les Nouvelles Editions de Films/Paris, G.T. Film Production/Prague, NDR/Hamburg, BR/Munich, WDR/Cologne, Degeto Film/Frankfurt Principal Cast Martina Gedeck, Moritz Bleibtreu, Johanna Wokalek, Nadja Uhl, Heino Ferch, Bruno Ganz Length 149 min Format 35 mm, color, 1:1.85, Dolby Digital Original Version German Subtitled Version English World Sales Summit Entertainment Group, 1601 Cloverfield Boulevard, Suite 200, South Tower, Santa Monica, California 90404/USA, www.summit-ent.com

Uli Edel was born in 1947 and studied German Lanugage Studies and Theater Sciences before enrolling at the Munich University of Television & Film, where he first met Bernd Eichinger, whom he worked with on numerous films. A selection of his award-winning films include: Christiane F – Wir Kinder vom Bahnhof Zoo (1981), Letzte Ausfahrt Brooklyn (1989), an episode of the series Twin Peaks (1990) and numerous other US event movies and mini-series, Body of Evidence (1993), Der kleine Vampir (2000), Die Nebel von Avalon, (TV, 2001), King of Texas (2002), Julius Caesar (TV, 2003), Die Nibelungen (TV, 2004), and The Baader Meinhof Complex (2008), among others.

Screenings: Friday, 24 October, 19:30 h, Sala Santa Cecilia Saturday, 25 October, 20:00 h, Salacinema Lotto Sunday, 26 October, 22:00 h, Metropolitan Sala 2
The idea just was there. Like it happens with ideas, with good and with bad ones. Just a plain sentence: I bet you cannot kill a human being.

On a Sunday like any other Sunday in 1996, actually an ordinary Sunday in a small town, Adam and Tommek meet their friends at the square in their neighborhood. But this Sunday will end differently than any other. Out of their boredom comes a bet. The stakes? A human life.

**Seven Days Sunday** is a feature film based on true facts. A film telling the story of two 16-year-old boys who commit a murder on an innocent human being.

**Genre** Drama  
**Year of Production** 2007  
**Director** Niels Laupert  
**Screenplay** Niels Laupert  
**Director of Photography** Christoph Dammast  
**Producers** Thomas Bartl, Alexander Dierbach, Niels Laupert  
**Production Company** Bartl Laupert Dierbach Filmproduktion/Munich  
**Principal Cast** Ludwig Trepte, Martin Kiefer, Jil Funke, Karin Baal, Jennifer Ulrich, Lenn Kudrjawizki, Andreas Schmidt-Schaller  
**Length** 80 min  
**Format** Super 35, color, cs, Dolby Digital  
**Original Version** German  
**Subtitled Version** English  
**World Sales** ARRI Media Worldsales, Antonio Exacoustos, Tuerkenstrasse 89, 80799 Munich/Germany, phone +49-89-38 09 12 88, fax +49-89-38 09 16 19, email: aexacoustos@arri.de, www.arri-mediaworldsales.de

**Niels Laupert** was born in 1975 in Frankfurt am Main. He studied Production and Film & Television Directing at the University of Television & Film in Munich. He is also active as a producer. After directing numerous music videos, **Seven Days Sunday** (**Sieben Tage Sonntag**, 2007) was his feature directorial debut.

**Screening:** Saturday, 25 October, 19:00 h, Sala de Luxe (Casa del Cinema)
Farbtest.6 COLOUR TEST.6

Berlin 1968, a film experiment in the style of Earweard Muybridge, Andy Warhol and the New American Cinema: young men do a relay race passing a red flag in the midst of the traffic along a busy street, the last one carries the flag into City Hall. Inspired by this “study of movement and a symbol”, remakes ensue in Stockholm, Sulmona and Hong Kong.

Colour Test.6 is a synthesis of these four relays into one film – the “Colour Test of the Revolution” is carried on, with a prospect in Beijing.


Screenings: Sunday, 26 October, 20:00 h, Teatro Studio
           Monday, 27 October, 15:00 h, Teatro Studio
Masterclass with Volker Schloendorff

Political Memory

German cinema re-opens the history books

Masterclass by the Oscar®-winner Volker Schloendorff on the relations between German cinema of yesterday and today, and the tragic events of terrorism in the 70s. The encounter is co-organized with German Films within the framework of the German Days.

One of the strong characteristics of German cinema is its interest for historic subjects and situations. Traditionally, World War II and the fall of the Berlin Wall have been reflected upon recently. However, 40 years after 1968, the RAF and its implications on German society are currently in the focus of many filmmakers. The awakening of the interest for the subject, which was an important issue for many filmmakers in the 70s and 80s, gives the spectator the possibility to reflect this part of German history from a new perspective.

Saturday, 25 October, 10:00 h, Casa del Cinema
Extraordinary Filmmaking

German filmmakers and their view on film

Masterclass by Edgar Reitz (Heimat 1, 2, 3 & 4) on the perception filmmakers presently have of film in Germany.

The seminar, organized by the Roma & Lazio Film Commission in cooperation with the InFWA (International Film Workshop Academy), the Business Street and the Goethe-Institut, gives 15 participants the opportunity to meet with some of the most renowned filmmakers.

Saturday, 25 October, t.b.c., Green House
Anonyma – Eine Frau in Berlin

A WOMAN IN BERLIN

April 1945. The Red Army is invading Berlin. Women fall victim to rape in a half-destroyed house. One of them is Anonyma, who had been a journalist and photographer. In her desperation she decides to look for an officer who can protect her. What happens is what she had least been prepared for. A relationship develops with the Russian officer Andrej that would feel like love were it not for the barrier that keeps them enemies till the end.

Genre Drama Year of Production 2008 Director Max Faerberboeck Screenplay Max Faerberboeck Director of Photography Benedict Neuenfels Producer Guenter Rohrbach Production Company Constantin Film Produktion/Munich, in co-production with Tempus Film/Lodz, in cooperation with ZDF/Mainz Principal Cast Nina Hoss, Evgeny Sidikhin, Irm Herrmann, Ruediger Vogler, Ulrike Krumbiegel, Rolf Kanies, Joerdis Triebel, Roman Gribkow, Juliane Koehler Length 131 min Format 35 mm, color, cs, Dolby Digital Original Version German Subtitled Version English World Sales Beta Cinema/Dept. of Beta Film GmbH, Andreas Rothbauer, Gruenwalder Weg 28 d, 82041 Oberhaching/Germany, phone +49-89-67 34 69 80, fax +49-89-6 73 46 98 88, email: ARothbauer @betacinema.com www.betacinema.com

Max Faerberboeck produced plays at theaters in Hamburg, Heidelberg, and Cologne before writing and directing several episodes of the TV series Der Fahnder. He then wrote and directed four award-winning TV films (Schlafende Hunde, Einer zahlt immer, Bella Block – Die Kommissarin, and Bella Block – Liebestod) before making his feature film debut with Aimée & Jaguar, which was nominated for the Golden Globe Award 2000. His other films include: Jenseits (2002), September (2003), and A Woman in Berlin (Anonyma – Eine Frau in Berlin, 2008).

Screening: Saturday, 25 October, 15:00 h, Cinema Barberini 3
The Anarchist’s Wife

Die Frau des Anarchisten

Over a million people lost their lives in the Spanish Civil War, two million were taken prisoner and half a million expelled from Spain. Set during these harrowing years between Franco’s putsch and the end of World War II, this is the story of a couple and their undying love. Lawyer Justo Calderón is a glowing Republican who fights Franco both in the trenches and on the radio as the "Voice of the Revolution." His elegant young wife Manuela is spoiled, non-political, but a loving mother to their daughter Paloma and intensely in love with her husband. The young family undergoes all the horrors of the Civil War, all the pain of betrayal, imprisonment and torture, all the anguish of separation. When Franco’s troops win, Manuela loses all contact with Justo. Alone, without money, she and Paloma struggle to survive. Yet Manuela never gives up believing that she will find Justo again one day. In her tireless search for her husband, she sees a photo in a magazine article on former concentration camp prisoners and becomes convinced that it is Justo. Her search now takes on a new urgency …

Genre Drama
Year of Production 2008
Directors Marie Noëlle, Peter Sehr
Screenplay Marie Noëlle
Director of Photography Jean-Francois Robin
Producers Peter Sehr, Marie Noëlle
Production Company P’Artisan Filmproduktion/Munich, in co-production with ZIP Films/Barcelona, Ciné Boissière/Joinville-le-Pont
Principal Cast Maria Valverde, Juan Diego Botto, Nina Hoss, Ivana Baquero, Jean-Marc Barr, Laura Morante, Irene Visedo
Length 112 min
Format 35 mm, color, 1:1.85, Dolby SRD
Original Version Spanish/French
Subtitled Version English
World Sales Bavaria Film International/Dept. of Bavaria Media GmbH, Thorsten Ritter, Bavariafilmplatz 7, 82031 Geiselgasteig/Germany, phone +49-89-64 99 26 86, fax +49-89-64 99 37 20, email: international@bavaria-film.de, www.bavaria-film-international.com

Marie Noëlle and Peter Sehr have been working together since 1979, when Marie Noëlle began editing and writing many of Peter Sehr’s films. In 1988, they founded P’Artisan Filmproduktion and together they have co-directed Und nicht ein Tohuwabohu (1988) and The Anarchist’s Wife (Die Frau des Anarchisten, 2008). Her other films include: Ich erzaehle mir einen Mann (1995), Komm doch an den Tisch (1998), U-Store It, U-Lock It, U-Keep the Key (2001), 30 años al servicio del amor (2002), Kinder suchen Eltern (2003). His other films include: Serbian Girl (Das Serbische Maedchen, 1991), Kaspar Hauser: Crime Against a Man’s Soul (1993), Obsession (1997), and Love the Hard Way (2001).

Screening: Saturday, 25 October, 09:00 h, Cinema Barberini 3
Friedliche Zeiten PEACEFUL TIMES

Germany in the 1960s: Peaceful times in the West can start at last, if only Irene Striesow could manage to shake off the past. She is homesick for East Germany, mistrustful of the cease fire, and most of all, distraught about her husband Dieter’s other women. She would rather die young and she doesn’t make any efforts to hide it from Dieter and her three children Ute, Wasa and Flori. As their living room begins to look more like a war zone, her children decide to take matters in their own hands. They want their mother to finally be happy, that Dieter can crack light-hearted jokes about East Germany again, and that, if possible, the third world war doesn’t happen after all ...


Screening: Saturday, 25 October, 13:00 h, Cinema Barberini 3
Krabat

The Thirty Years’ War has brought much death and destruction to central Europe, and has left 14-year-old Krabat an orphan. Lost and devastated, Krabat’s keen survival instincts lead him to a remote valley, where he finds a mysterious mill run by an ominous figure known as the Master. The lure of a safe haven, hot meals and an apprenticeship under the Master is hard to resist … But gradually Krabat uncovers a horrifying secret: the mill is in fact a school of black magic and the Master is in league with satanic powers. While Krabat and his young colleagues revel in the teachings of the Master, they realize there is a price to pay: complete submission to the Master and even death. After Krabat witnesses Tonda, his closest friend at the mill, perish at the Master’s hands, the fire of rebellion starts raging within the young boy. Krabat is able to find strength through the lovely Kantorka. Armed with nothing but courage and their united love, together the young couple brave the Master …


Screening: Saturday, 25 October, 12:30 h, Cinema Barberini 5
Wolke 9  CLOUD 9

She didn’t ask for it. It just happened. There were stealing glances, attraction. But this was never supposed to happen.

Inge is in her mid-60s. She has been married for 30 years and loves her husband. But Inge is drawn to this older man Karl, already 76. It’s passion. It’s sex. And she suddenly feels like a young girl again …

Genre  Drama  Year of Production  2008  Director  Andreas Dresen  Story Development  Andreas Dresen, Cooky Ziesche, Laila Stieler, Joerg Hauschild  Director of Photography  Michael Hammon  Producer  Peter Rommel  Production Company  Rommel Film/Berlin, in co-production with RBB/Potsdam-Babelsberg, in cooperation with ARTE/Strasbourg  Principal Cast  Ursula Werner, Horst Rehberg, Horst Westphal, Steffi Kuehnert  Length  98 min  Format  35 mm, color, 1:1.85  Original Version  German  Subtitled Versions  English, French  World Sales  The Match Factory GmbH, Michael Weber, Balthasarstrasse 79-81, 50670 Cologne/Germany, phone +49-21-5 39 70 90, fax +49-21-5 39 70 910, email: info@matchfactory.de, www.the-match-factory.com

Andreas Dresen was born in 1963 and started shooting amateur films in 1979. From 1984 to 1985 he worked as a sound technician at the theater in Schwerin, and then apprenticed at the DEFA studios, working as an assistant director with Guenter Reisch. He then studied Direction at the “Konrad Wolf” Academy of Film & Television in Potsdam. Since 1992, he has been working as a writer and director for television, cinema, and theater. A selection of his award-winning films includes: Silent Country (Stilles Land, 1992), Night Shapes (Nachtgestalten, 1998), The Policewoman (Die Polizistin, 2000), Grill Point (Halbe Treppe, 2001), Vote for Henryk! (Herr Wichmann von der CDU, 2003), Willenbrock (2004), Summer in Berlin (Sommer vorm Balkon, 2005), and Cloud 9 (Wolke 9, 2008).

Screening: Saturday, 25 October, 11:00 h, Cinema Barberini 3