

PRESS RELEASE

15th Pornfilmfestival Berlin 2020/21 – a Pornfilmfestival in times of the coronavirus

The 15th Pornfilmfestival Berlin 2020/21 will take place as a reduced edition in a cinema space. In addition, selected films will also be made available for digital streaming. A retrospective on the theme „A Virus Knows No Morals – The Aids Era in Cinema“ with weekly screenings extends the festival into November. In addition, each month until September 2021, a short film program will be shown as special screening in the Movimiento cinema.

A porn film festival in times of the coronavirus – how can that work? We have been dealing with this question over and over again throughout the entire coronavirus summer in Berlin. The decision to present a **reduced festival program**, consisting of **nine features** and **six short film programs** from **October 20th to 25th** in our festival cinemas Movimiento and Babylon Kreuzberg, while observing all applicable hygiene and distancing regulations, is our commitment to the central challenge of today: to once more bring people together for events in public spaces.

Due to limited seat capacities, for the first time this year part of the festival program will be available via **online streaming**, in cooperation with pinklabel.tv. Six feature films and more than 30 short films from the festival program will be shown online after the festival week from October 26 to November 1. Tickets for the entire digital program can be purchased in advance from October 1 to 25. A **discourse program** with a series of panel discussions will also be made available via online stream. Unfortunately, this year we cannot offer accreditation for press and professional visitors. However, upon request we'll be happy to provide digital access to screeners of the invited films.

The 15th Pornfilmfestival Berlin 2020/21 opens on October 20th, 2020 with the world premiere of the anthology film „Urban Smut“ (**opening film**). In five short films a diverse and playful panorama of contemporary urban sexualities unfolds, which also reflects the sexual and aesthetic diversity of the Pornfilmfestival program. As our **closing film** on October 25th, we will show a European premiere: With „Goodbye Seventies“, New York filmmaker Todd Verow has staged a nostalgic and melancholic homage to the Golden Age of Gay Porn.

Further titles in the **feature-length program**: a queer-lesbian porn experiment from Canada („EEG Orgy“, Almond), an explicit, tragicomic French porn feature („Vivante“, Anoushka), a visually stunning gay variation on Bertolucci's Last Tango in Paris („The Acrobat“, Rodrigue Jean), as well as documentaries on the New York voguing scene („Pier Kids“, Elegance Bratton) and the cultural history of female ejaculation („Female Ejaculation & Other Mysteries of the Universe“, Julia Ostertag).

Under the title „**Ein Virus kennt keine Moral – Die Aids-Ära im Kino**“ (**A Virus Knows No Morals – The Aids Era in Cinema**), we'll present a retrospective that takes a look back at the Aids pandemic of the 80s and 90s in light of current events. It starts during the festival and continues with weekly screenings in the Movimiento cinema throughout November. With films by Rosa von Praunheim, Wieland Speck and Arthur J. Bressan, Jr., the retrospective first plunges deep into a time of uncertainty in the 1980s, traces the grief of the countless victims as well as the different activist approaches that sought to find the right way to deal with the virus between protecting lives and standing up for sexual freedom. John Greyson's musical „Zero Patience“ emphatically does away with the search for scapegoats and moralistic discourses of guilt, while the second half of the retrospective looks back on forms of artistic Aids activism in documentary („United in Anger: A History of ACT UP“, Jim Hubbard & „Rettet das Feuer (Rescue the Fire)“, Jasco Viefhues) as well as in fictional form („120 BPM“, Robin Campillo).

As every year, the festival program will be completed by a series of **short film programs**. In addition to our annual short film competition as well as established programs such as „Fun Porn Shorts“, „Experimental Porn Shorts“, „Gay Porn Shorts“, „Lesbian Porn Shorts“ or „Fetish Porn Shorts“, this year for the first time we present the short film programs „Sex in Times of Corona Porn Shorts“, „Theory Porn Shorts“ and "Men's Bodies/Men's Images Porn Shorts". In contrast to the usual festival structure, this year's short film program will continue far beyond the festival week, with monthly screenings in Movimiento cinema until September 2021, thus building a bridge to the 16. Pornfilmfestival Berlin 2021, which we hope to celebrate again in the usual form with numerous guests and visitors.

Jürgen Brüning, Manuela Kay, Paulita Pappel & Jochen Werner
Curators of the Pornfilmfestival Berlin

**15th Pornfilmfestival Berlin 2020/21
20.–25.10.2020**

**Retrospective & Special Screenings: October 2020 – September 2021
Movimiento & Babylon Kreuzberg
Start of ticket sales: 1st October 2020
www.pornfilmfestivalberlin.de**

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