



britspotting british & irish film festival Veteranenstr. 21 10119 Berlin

Press information for britspotting film festival  
Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008

## **britspotting 08- the festival announces the programme!**

### **9<sup>th</sup> British-Irish film festival in Berlin 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

We are delighted to be launching britspotting 08 with the terrific prison-break drama “**The Escapist**“ directed by Rupert Wyatt, starring Brian Cox, Joseph Fiennes and Damian Lewis on Thursday, 10th April at 20.00 at Hackesche Höfe Filmtheater. Martin MacDonagh’s debut feature “**In Bruges**“ starring Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson will be closing the festival on Wednesday, 16th April at 20.00 at Hackesche Höfe Filmtheater.

For the first time at the festival – we’re delighted to be showing one of Asif Kapadia’s films. “**Far North**“ starring Michelle Yeoh, Michelle Krusiec and Sean Bean, set in the Arctic tundra is our centrepiece screening. The director will be present at the screening on Saturday, 12th April at 20.15 at Hackesche Höfe Filmtheater.

Nine films are competing for the audience feature film award:

“**32 A**“ by Marian Quinn, a huge success at this year’s Berlin film fest/Generation 14plus and winner of Best Film at the Galway Film Fleadh 2007. “**The Midnight Drives**“ by Cornish director Mark Jenkin, that depicts a divorced father and his two children struggling to rebuild a bond during a winter holiday. The romantic London set drama “**The Waiting Room**“ by Roger Goldby with Rupert Graves and Anne Marie Duff. “**Jetsam**“, a thriller by Simon Welsford, an exciting new British talent, that has been enthusiastically received at several festivals in both the UK and the US. Simon Welsford will attend the festival. Further competitors include the drama “**Unrelated**“ by Joanna Hogg, awarded the FIPRESCI Prize at the London Film Festival 2007; and the sensitive and ironic comedy “**Special People**“, directed by Justin Edgar – who is expected at the festival along with members of his production team and wonderful cast. “**In the Shadow of the Moon**“ by David Sington is also part of the competition, documenting the nine US Apollo missions in the socio-political context of the 1960s. And last but not least, the documentary “**The English Surgeon**“ by Geoffrey Smith, portraying a London brain surgeon engaged in voluntary work in Ukraine.

Ten more stimulating feature films to be presented out of competition:

“**The Deal**“ by Stephen Frears, a fictional insight into the parallel careers of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown; “**Sparkle**“ by Neil Hunter and Tom Hunsinger, with Stockard Channing, Bob Hoskins,

Lesley Manville and Anthony Head. Furthermore, the festival is proud to present the social drama **“Kings”** by Tom Collins, telling the personal story of six Irish migrant labourers living in London; and the fast-paced crime comedy **“Big Nothing”** by Jean-Baptiste Andrea with Natasha McElhone, David Schwimmer, Simon Pegg and Mimi Rogers. Martha Fiennes’ socio-critical satire **„Chromophobia“**, with an all-star cast of Penelope Cruz, Rhys Ifans, Kristin Scott Thomas, Damian Lewis and Ben Chaplin. The semi-autobiographical feature **“This is England”** by one of Britain’s most talented filmmakers working today - Shane Meadows – that is already considered as a modern British classic. The documentary **“Hold Me Tight Let Me Go”** by Kim Longinotto which portraits students with anti-social behaviour and the teachers who care for them. **“In Prison My Whole Life”** by Marc Evans documents the story of black rights activist Mumia Abu-Jamal, who has been on death row for 25 years after being convicted of murdering a white police officer. **“Derek”** by Isaac Julien is a personal approach portraying the life of artist and film maker Derek Jarman, who died in 1994.

To compliment **“Derek”** the festival is presenting a special screening of selected works of by Isaac Julien, one Britain’s leading film and video artists: **“Looking for Langston”**, **“Territories”** and **“The Attendant”**.

Never to be forgotten - the short film programmes also have much to offer: britspotting will be presenting five themed short film line-ups this year - **“Out of the Ordinary”**, **“Family Ties”**, **“Mixed Bag”**, and **“Experimental shorts”** will all be competing for the short film prize.

A special line-up (not included in the competition), - the **Club Des Femmes** programme **“Was She There”**, will address queer-feminist performance practices.

Detailed information on the festival programme can be found in the attachment. For further information please go to [www.britspotting.de](http://www.britspotting.de).

We will be happy to assist should you have any enquiries and can be contacted as follows:

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