



MORE BRITS

Britspotting 07, the British and Irish film festival, once again presents an eclectic mix of films which have not (yet) found a distributor in Germany. Decide for yourself whether you find that to be justified. Terry Gilliam's uneven and at times shocking *Tideland* seems to be destined for the eternal festival circuit, whereas Nicholas Hytner's entertaining *The History Boys* (eight lads studying for an exam that will land them at Oxford or Cambridge/ photo) is bound to find a wider audience. *Kidulthood* (Menhaj Huda) looks at teenagers through an entirely different lens. After one of their classmates has killed herself (a result of constant bullying), a group of London schoolkids hang out on their day off. *Kidulthood* draws inspiration from older US ghetto films like *Boyz n the Hood* and more recent portrayals of (sub)urban youth like *The House is Burning*. Sometimes formulaic - especially in its portrayals of the parents - it nonetheless has a great rhythm. If you can understand what the kids are saying, that is. If there's one thing that characterizes film from the UK, it's an utter commitment to local dialect, even if that might make it practically inaccessible to Anglophones from other continents. Less extreme than *Kidulthood*'s Jamaican is the Scottish tint of Steve Hudson's *True North*. Most of the film is set (and actually filmed) on a trawler, creating an oppressive, almost claustrophobic atmosphere, and not much is said as the skipper's son (Martin Compston, an enormous talent) makes a fatal decision and tragedy takes its course with Shakespearean inevitability. /ÄT

Britspotting 07, Apr 19-25. ACUD, Veteranenstr. 21, Mitte, U-Bhf Rosenthaler Platz; fsk am Oranienplatz, Segitzdamm 2, Kreuzberg, U-Bhf Kottbusser Tor; Filmkunst 66, Bleibtreustr. 12, Charlottenburg, S-Bhf Savignypl.; and Thalia (Potsdam), Rudolf-Breitscheid-Str. 50, S-Bhf Babelsberg. Check www.britspotting.de for complete program, including talks, the annual Horror Video Challenge and parties.