

Press information for britspotting film festival
Tuesday, 4th March 2008

britspotting 08- the festival
9th British-Irish film festival in Berlin 10th-16th April 2008

A diverse selection of British and Irish films will be wowing their audience in April 2008 in Berlin

From 10th to 16th April 2008 over 15 feature films and documentaries and more than 40 short films will be shown in Berlin's arthouse cinemas Filmtheater Hackesche Höfe and fsk-Kino am Oranienplatz during britspotting film festival. Britspotting was founded back in 2000 as the "British Independent Film Festival" and, over the course of time, has developed into Germany's most important festival which features British productions. In 2004 the festival content was widened to include Irish productions and hence, britspotting was created to stand for "British and Irish Film Festival".

Britspotting considers itself to be an annual showcase of film productions from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and presents young and often as yet undiscovered film-making talent to Germany's film-going public. Films from renowned directors are also shown in the festival.

A variety of different film genres will once again be vying for the top prize in this year's feature film competition. Being shown, amongst others, is the thriller "Jetsam" from Simon Welsford- a film which has already been enthusiastically received at many festivals in the UK and the USA. "Unrelated", a drama directed by Joanna Hogg, has previously been honoured with the FIPRESCI Prize 2007 at the London Film Festival. The insightful and ironic low-budget comedy "Special People", created from his original short film of the same name by Justin Edgar, will also be competing. Tom Collins' "Kings" is a social drama which picks up on the personal dimension of Irish immigration to England. The documentary "The English Surgeon" by Geoffrey Smith, telling the story of a neurosurgeon from London, will also feature in the competition, as will "In prison my whole Life" by Marc Evans, a documentary about black rights activist Mumia Abu-Jamal, who has been on death row for 25 years after being convicted of murdering a white police officer.

Furthermore, britspotting will also be presenting five short film line-ups this year. The films from "Out of the Ordinary", "Family Ties", "Mixed Bag", and experimental shorts will all be competing for the short film prize, and a special line-up outside of competition will address queer-feminist performance practices.

The festival's accompanying program will offer the opportunity for rumination and discussion at two different venues. In the Festival-Bar at Hackesche Höfe, you will be able to meet up with film-makers and film-lovers, both before and after the screenings, in order to mull over what you've seen. In Kreuzberg, not far from fsk-Kino, the bar "Tante Horst" provides a hub for cineastes. There you will find from April 1 to 20, the britspotting 08 exhibition. On 12th April 2008 britspotting will also be taking part in the "Lange Buchnacht" ("Long Book Night") with a reading.

Britspotting will be adopting the motto "Tanzen statt Sitzen" ("Don't just sit there, dance!") for its various festival-parties. On 29th March 2008 a Warm up-Party with BritMusic from the Karrera-Club DJs, also featuring several British bands, will be taking place in the BangBang-Club in Mitte, Berlin. After the opening film on 10th April, the britspotting team would like to extend an invite to the "Opening Night Party" in Schokoladen, also in Mitte, so that the inauguration of this year's festival can be suitably celebrated. "Club de Femmes", as an extension of their short film line-up, will be hosting a party for women in Möbel Olfe in Kreuzberg, Berlin, on 14th April 2008.

Following the festival in Berlin, britspotting will be taking its films on tour. From 24th to 27th April they will be shown in the Kölner Filmhaus in Cologne, and from 1st to 7th May in the Corso Kino in Stuttgart. Selected films will additionally be featuring in the "School of Life" section during the School Film Week in Potsdam, in collaboration with the Filmmuseum Potsdam, at the end of April 2008.

Further information can be found at www.britspotting.de.

We will be happy to assist in case of any enquiries and can be contacted as follows:

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