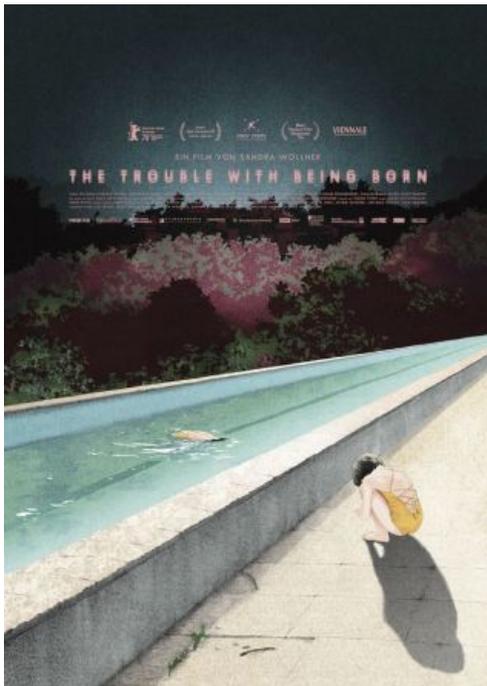


## GERMAN-MALTESE CIRCLE

12<sup>th</sup> German Film Festival 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Synopsis of the films being screened during the Festival:

### THE TROUBLE WITH BEING BORN



Somewhere in the forests outside of Vienna, there is a lonely house with a swimming pool. A man and a girl live there. Georg and Elli. Father and daughter? Probably, but they also appear to have sex. And in one shocking scene, we see that the girl is actually a puppet, with removable parts. Elli isn't human, or only human to the degree that Sandra Wollner seeks to explore in THE TROUBLE WITH BEING BORN. Elli possesses something like memory, but is it anything more than fragments of code? And how does an automated creature conceive of itself? These are some of the exciting questions Sandra Wollner and her co-author Roderick Warich pose here. Elli lives in a permanent now, as for Georg she is a fetish, a fixation, an object of melancholy never to change. But Elli walks away, follows a call, changes context. And she becomes a new person, as far as it is possible for someone who is actually neither "becoming" anything nor anything like a human subjectivity at least. Sandra Wollner follows up the inspired media-reflexivity of her debut feature DAS UNMÖGLICHE BILD with a truly

contemporary android thriller (Bert Rebhandl)

**GENRE** Drama/Science Fiction

**YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2020

**DIRECTOR** Sandra Wollner

**DURATION** 94 min

**CAST** Lena Watson, Dominik Warta, Ingrid Burkhard, Jana McKinnon

**AWARDS:** Austrian Film Award 2021 (Best Film)

# UNDINE



Undine works in Berlin as a historian and guide to the city's development. She has a small apartment at Alexanderplatz, a Master's degree in history, and a freelance contract. But underneath the appearance of her modern city life lurks an old myth: if the man Undine loves betrays her, she has to kill him and return to the water she once came from.

So when her lover Johannes leaves her for another woman, Undine thinks she has no choice – until in the moment of betrayal, she meets Christoph, an industrial diver, and unexpectedly falls for him. This is a new, happy and innocent love filled with curiosity and trust. But when Christoph starts to feel that Undine is running away from something, she has to face her curse once and for all. She doesn't want to lose this love.

**GENRE** Drama

**YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2020

**DIRECTOR** Christian Petzold

**CAST** Paula Beer, Franz Rogowski, Maryam Zaree, Jacob Matschenz

**RUNTIME** 90 min

**FESTIVALS** Berlinale 2020, Shanghai 2020, Haugesund – The Norwegian International Film Festival 2020, Espoo Ciné International Film Festival 2020, New York Film Festival 2020, BFI London Film Festival 2020, Busan International Film Festival 2020, Hamptons International Film Festival 2020, Chicago International Film Festival 2020, Vancouver International Film Festival 2020, Mill Valley Film Festival 2020, Montclair Film Festival 2020, Montreal Festival du Nouveau Cinéma 2020, Göteborg International Film Festival 2021, Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival 2021, Hong Kong International Film Festival 2021

**AWARDS** Silver Bear Best Actress & FIPRESCI Award Berlinale 2020, Special Jury Prize for Acting (Paula Beer).

## HELLO AGAIN – A WEDDING DAY (Ein Tag für immer)



GROUNDHOG DAY meets MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING in this topsy-turvy romantic comedy, that turns the fairy-tale of finding the one great love upside down. Zazie lives with her buddies, womanizer Patrick and sweetheart Anton, in a flat share. All three are completely incapable of being in a relationship. Finding the great love? No need. Zazie is sure of that. When Philipp, Zazie's best friend from childhood, sends an invitation to his wedding, Zazie is shocked to find out that he wants to marry stuck up and vicious Franziska. She is definitely the wrong girl for Philipp! Zazie decides to do everything she can to save him from making the biggest mistake of his life. But will this turn out to be her own path to happiness?

**GENRE** Romantic Comedy  
**YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2020  
**RUN TIME** 95 min  
**DIRECTOR** Maggie Peren

**CAST** Alicia von Rittberg, Edin Hasanovic, Emilia Schüle, Samuel Schneider, Tim Oliver Schultz

## OEKOZID



The year 2034: The consequences of the climate catastrophe are dramatic. Drought and floods destroy the livelihoods of millions of people. After the third storm tide in a row, the headquarters of the International Court of Justice was evacuated. In a provisional interim building in Berlin, the climate change and the ongoing catastrophe becomes the subject of legal proceedings. Two lawyers represent 31 countries of the global South, which are doomed to destruction without the support of the international community. They raise questions of responsibility, demand compensation and a right of nature to integrity in order to ensure their own survival. High-ranking representatives from politics and industry are invited as witnesses. The court must decide whether German policymakers are to be held accountable for their failure to protect the climate and thus set a precedent for climate justice.

**GENRE** Science/Docu-Fiction  
**YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2020  
**RUN TIME** 89 min  
**DIRECTOR** Andreas Veiel  
**CAST** Edgar Selge, Ulrich Tukur, Nina Kunzendorf and many more ...

## FREIES LAND/ FREE COUNTRY



Two cops investigate the disappearance of two teen sisters in a remote town, where it seems like everyone has something to hide – including the bodies...

In autumn of 1992, police inspectors Patrick and Markus are sent off to a remote corner of the country to examine the disappearance of two teen sisters, 15 and 16. Did the two pretty girls just run away from their hick town, or did something more sinister happen to them? In this remote part of the country, the effects of the East German regime still muddy the waters. No one saw anything, the inspectors are greeted by iron silence. A photo negative showing the two girls naked and tied up in a hunting lodge seems to indicate a sex crime has been committed. The terrible suspicion is tragically confirmed when the girls' dead bodies are found, raped and brutally murdered. While the relatives of other young women who have been missing for years

come forward, the iron silence toward the cops turns into open hostility. Who has what to hide and why? When the detectives start to unravel the mystery, they soon wind up in danger themselves...

**GENRE** Thriller

**YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2019

**DIRECTOR** Christian Alvart

**CAST** Trystan Pütter, Felix Kramer, Nora von Waldstätten

**RUNTIME** 127 min

**FESTIVALS** Arras 2019, Cleveland 2020

## BERLIN - ALEXANDERPLATZ



When Francis, 30, the only survivor of an illegal crossing from Africa, awakes at a beach in Southern Europe, he swears an oath to God: From now on he wants to be a new, a better, a decent man. Soon after, Francis finds himself in Berlin, where he realizes how hard it is to be righteous when you are an illegal refugee in Germany – without papers, without a nation and without a work permit. When he receives an enticing offer from the charismatic German Reinhold, 31, to earn easy money, Francis initially resists the temptation, maintains his oath and stays away from Reinhold's shady dealings. But eventually he is sucked into Berlin's underworld and his life spirals out of control.

**GENRE** Drama

**YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2020

**DIRECTOR** Burhan Qurbani

**CAST** Welket Bungué, Albrecht Schuch, Jella Haase, Joachim Król

**RUNTIME** 183 min

**FESTIVALS** Berlinale 2020, Istanbul 2020, Busan International Film Festival 2020, Cleveland International Film Festival 2021

**AWARDS** German Film Awards 2020: Best Feature Film (Silver), Best Supporting Actor, Best Cinematography, Best Score, Best Production Design