

5th Press Release

April 11, 2008

This year's *seh süchte* program has been finalized. Altogether 137 films from 34 countries have been selected from nearly 1000 entries in the official competition. Along with the traditionally strong presence of German and Eastern European films, other countries with a strong showing are Israel and USA.

The program team got “square” eyes in the past weeks from viewing **some 1000 submissions**. Added to the 800 films for the main program were entries to the Music Video, Focus and Screenplay Awards. Of these, a total of **137 films** were selected to all be screened at *seh süchte.08*. The result is a multifaceted selection that presents the creativity of young filmmakers from all over the world. The *seh süchte.08* program accordingly promises a **colorful mix of genres** and national styles from animated to feature films up through documentaries from all over the world. What is more, there are many experimental films that will tie viewers to their seats.

Altogether **122 films from 30 countries** (including the children's block and music videos), including works already screened at the Berlinale, will run in the **regular festival program**. In addition, *seh süchte.08* will present nine films from four countries in its Focus section, this year replete with promising discoveries from Africa. Nine films will also be showcased as part of the Producer's Award, all of them from Germany. Altogether **120 films from 30 countries** were selected as **competition entries for the main program**. Eight Focus films and nine works from the Producer's Award round these out.

The *seh süchte.08* program often takes up **socially critical issues**. Interpersonal relationships, joy, isolation and solidarity are foci of attention. Program team member Paula Syniawa identified a trend in this year's program: “Thematic emphases are actually **stories that move between two worlds**, between two different cultures, between two generations, etc.” Thus, the program guarantees dialog and reconciliation of interests among peoples, cultures and generations and *seh süchte.08* stands for an international student film festival that has class and gives it an essential touch.

As always, German film schools sent in many submissions, a large part of which will also be screened in the program. The **established number of films from Eastern Europe** at *seh süchte* is also striking. Many of this year's submissions came from Poland in particular. Moreover, other nations from all five continents are represented of course. In this regard, films from the **USA and Israel** constitute an emphasis in the

sehsüchte

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program. Another program team member Arne Brücks has designated the Israeli film “Roads” his personal favorite: “A film by Lior Geller about a young boy who works as a drug dealer and cheats the gang leader out of a great deal of money in order to escape the morass of drugs.” It is but one of many highlights in this year’s *sehüchte* program.

To the great delight of the *sehüchte* team and surely every award winner, the total prize money rose another 2000 euros. **55,700 euros spread among fifteen awards is the largest purse ever awarded at the *sehüchte* festival.**

Interested media representatives will be able to receive other important information at our **press conference at the Film and Television Academy Konrad Wolf in Potsdam-Babelsberg at 2 p.m. on April 21, 2008.** We look forward to a broad response and invite all guests.


Please contact us if you have any questions:

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37th *sehüchte* International Student Film Festival

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Festival Movie Theater:

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