



7th Press Release

April 24, 2008

***seh süchte.08* has begun! At the ceremonial festival opening at Potsdam's Thalia Movie Theater, Film and Television Academy President Dieter Wiedemann, Brandenburg's Minister President Matthias Platzeck and Potsdam's Mayor Jann Jakobs welcomed all the guests to the 37th *seh süchte* International Student Film Festival. The screening of the opening films was followed by a spectacular opening gala at the Film and Television Academy Konrad Wolf with a superb supporting program.**

The international film festival *seh süchte* has opened. Europe's biggest student film festival started for the thirty-seventh time at Potsdam's Thalia Movie Theater. Prominent guests had accepted invitations to the festival opening and the hosts were pleased at the many visitors there otherwise.

In his speech, Film and Television Academy President Dieter Wiedemann recognized the *seh süchte* team for its innovative organization of the festival program and highlighted his students' abilities. "I can only say to every media institution, if they are looking for capable young employees, they are certain to find them here", according to the Film and Television Academy's President. At the same time, Wiedemann praised the *seh süchte* festival for presenting itself musically this year. The band member's performance of the *seh süchte* song "Treasures of this World" demonstrated this to the guests later on.

In view of such great projects as *seh süchte*, Minister President Matthias Platzeck pledged the state's continued and full support for the Film and Television Academy. In addition, he praised the reputation *seh süchte* has acquired over the years through such films as Robert Thalheim's "Netto" that was even released in theaters. He wished the *seh süchte* team even more visitors than last year when approximately 10,000 film fans attended.

Potsdam's Mayor Jann Jakobs was also thrilled that such a prestigious event as *seh süchte* is held in the capital and Potsdam is again able to be an important supporter. He also rated the introduction of the children's film block as a particular attraction intended to arouse the younger audience's enthusiasm for cinema. The mayor is proud of the biggest student film festival in Potsdam and also wished the *seh süchte* team great success with the public.

The organizers had selected the Film and Television Academy acting students Marleen Lohse and Florens Schmidt, who have already appeared in numerous television films and series, to moderate the event. This they did personally and entertainingly.

# sehsüchte

37. Internationales Studentenfilmfestival

Head of the International Film and Broadcast Academy in Lagos Victor Okhai also received much applause for his sincere words. He was especially pleased that *sehsüchte* is presenting the Focus on Africa this year and explained the phenomenon of “Nollywood”. Nigeria has become one of the largest film nations in the world and is called “Nollywood” in allusion to other major film industries. Creatively turning great ideas into films with much devotion and commitment and without large budgets is Nollywood’s great achievement. He appealed to all film students in attendance to tell their stories to the world and turn them into films.

The prominent guests’ speeches were framed by creative clips by Enis Selmanagic, which thanked all the sponsors, jurors and supporters and presented the *sehsüchte* team. The official part was followed by the highly anticipated opening film block with many sophisticated works. The Israeli film “Roads” by Lior Geller left a particularly lasting impression. Like all the other works, it will naturally be screened once again in the film program.

The *sehsüchte* opening gala held at the Film and Television Academy afterward was spectacular in every respect. Not only the impressive set design of the party premises drew the guests in hordes but also the musical program could stand on its own. The youth symphony orchestra Spandau directed by Eberhard Schallenberg performed sophisticated arrangements from such blockbusters as “Titanic” and “Pirates of the Caribbean”.

Afterward, “Le Clap” from Berlin provided music festival atmosphere with its impulsive Electropop. The international trio “Jahcoozi” from Berlin lived up to its reputation as a headline act. Then, with a colorful mix of House, Black Music and all time favorites, DJ Cire demonstrated why he’s the most popular DJ in the capital right now. The public demonstrated amazing stamina and danced exuberantly until the wee hours of the morning. The *sehsüchte* team was especially pleased at the unexpected onslaught of guests at the gala. The entire atrium of the Film and Television Academy was filled well into the night.

Tomorrow, the *sehsüchte* festival will focus on the continent of Africa, not only in discussion but also in the program. For all the program information visit <http://2008.sehsuechte.de/programm.html> or pick up a copy of the *sehsüchte* catalog.

The weekend is right around the corner and some time still remains to visit *sehsüchte*. You really shouldn’t miss it!

Please contact us if you have any questions:

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## **37th *sehsüchte* International Student Film Festival**

April 23-27, 2008  
Film and Television Academy Konrad Wolf  
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## **Festival Movie Theater:**

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