



PRESS RELEASE

20 July 2023

11–25 August 2023, 8/4 Euro

Open-air cinema in the Schlüter Courtyard

Box Office Around the World

On three weekends in August, the Schlüter Courtyard will become a meeting place for communities with film-loving Berliners from all over the world with summery drinks and snacks. The *Box Office Around the World* festival presents six current cinema productions that are audience successes and box office hits in their countries of origin, but have not yet been seen on the big screen in Germany. Together with representatives of the Berlin communities from Thailand, Argentina, Nigeria, Vietnam, Brazil and India and the curator Dorothee Wenner, the films were selected and an accompanying programme developed. Before the open-air screenings, a thematic spotlight – with a star-studded line-up – will be directed at each film.

Unlike Hollywood productions that are designed for the global market, box office hits from other regions of the world often allow surprising insights into what moves people in Ho Chi Minh City, Rio or Bangkok. For example, generational conflicts in large families that are fought out in hostile restaurants. Or tricky everyday problems of digital natives who try to thread analogue love stories... The Box Office Around the World festival presents six current cinema productions that are audience successes and box office hits in their countries of origin. They will be now presented for the first time in Germany.

India: Afwaah

11 August, 7:30-11:10 p.m.

7:30 p.m.: Talk about the film with Sudhir Mishra (director) and Dorothee Wenner (curator Box Office Around The World) in English language.

9 p.m.: Film screening

In the Indian political thriller *Afwaah* a woman seeks to escape her engagement to a violent politician. When a stranger comes to her aid, the two face an onslaught of bigotry and hate. Hate speech and the media outrage over a supposedly violent Muslim is the spark that escalates fermenting social conflicts.

Nigeria: Battle on Buka Street

12 August, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.: Talk about the film with Funke Akindele (director, leading actress and producer), Moses Babatope (producer) and Dorothee Wenner in English language.

9 p.m.: Film screening

Nollywood at its best: The half-sisters Yejide and Awele, who have been enemies since birth, and their children pester each other so inventively that the whole family and neighborhood get involved. The venue for the fights is Yejide's successful street restaurant – and Awele's freshly opened kitchen competition directly across the street! The family drama tells in flashbacks how this enmity came about – and: how the clan then finds its way back together.

Brazil: Regra 34

18 August, 7:30-11:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m.: Talk about the film with Sol Miranda (leading actress) and Dorothee Wenner in English language. **9 p.m.:** Film screening

Director Julia Murat won the Golden Leopard for Regra 34 at the recent Locarno Film Festival. The film centers on a dedicated black law student who defends women in abuse cases – by day. In her private life, Simone offers live sex on the Internet to make money and because it excites her to experiment with her desires.

Argentina: Argentina, 1985

19 August, 7:30-11:20 p.m.

7:30 p.m.: Talk about the film with Dario Sztajnszrajber (Philosopher) and Dorothee Wenner in Spanish with simultaneous English translation. **9 p.m.:** Film screening

Two years after the end of the military dictatorship, democracy in Argentina is shaking. A court case will decide the country's future. But how fair will this trial be? Historically documented in this short period is the decisive role of one man: Federal Prosecutor Julio Strassera. Director Santiago Mitre stirringly reconstructs the dramatic situation from his perspective. A historical feature film that raised a lot of dust in today's Argentina and was entered in the race for the Oscar for Best Foreign Film in 2022.

Thailand: OMG! Oh My Girl

24 August, 7:30-11:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m.: Conversation about the film with Komsakon Boonna (Thai-German Influencer) and Dorothee Wenner (Curator Box Office Around The World) – in German language. **9 p.m.:** Film screening

Guy and June could be a dream couple, but the course of the love story is thwarted and disturbed from the very beginning. This ancient motif of film history is varied in such a surprising, funny and contemporary way that one is only too happy to be caught in one's own moments of recognition while watching. The star cast from the Thai serial world and pop culture provides additional cinema magic.

Vietnam: Nhà Bà Nữ

25 August, 7:30-11:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m.: Talk about the film with Pocket Hazel (YouTuber, Influencer and Moderator) and Dorothee Wenner in German language. **21 p.m.:** Film screening

Five strong women from three generations and a rather useless man under one roof – there's always something going on! Especially since the matriarch rigorously tries to determine the family rhythm. When the younger daughter falls in love with a man who comes from a better background and promises her a different, freer life, the established order of her family is thrown out of joint. This brilliant success with Vietnamese audiences owes its popularity not least to its sophisticated examination of traditional role attributions.

Duration 11-25 August 2023

Location Schlüter Courtyard, Schlossplatz, 10178 Berlin

Admission 8 / 4 Euro

Programme humboldtforum.org/en

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