

PRESS RELEASE**9 July 2026****7–16 August 2026, 10/5 Euro****Open Air Cinema in the Humboldt Forum****Blockbusters and Guests from Argentina, Brazil, India, Nigeria, Thailand, Vietnam**

Box Office Around the World

For the fourth year running, the Schlüter Courtyard hosts cinematic journeys around the world. The Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss presents popular films from six countries, eagerly anticipated not only by members of the respective communities. The programme brings together some of the most talked-about films of recent months: productions that have sparked debate, captivated audiences and, in some cases, broken box-office records in their countries.

Ahead of each screening, distinguished guests join thematic film talks that offer audiences an engaging introduction to the film. Personal stories, fascinating background insights, and cultural perspectives set the stage for the cinematic experience that follows.

Film curator Dorothee Wenner, who co-curated the programme with representatives from the participating communities, explains: “The international film landscape is changing rapidly. Not least because of streaming platforms, audiences today have access to an almost limitless range of films. Together, we chose works that stand out from the crowd, for reasons that go beyond box-office success. A film’s connection with its audience can only be anticipated to a certain degree during production. There is always a certain mystery to it, something that can only be understood after a film’s release. That is exactly what fascinates us, and what lies at the heart of this festival.”

Over two weekends in August, the Schlüter Courtyard at the Humboldt Forum will become a meeting place for communities and film lovers from Berlin and beyond. Accompanied by summer drinks and snacks, the festival offers a chance to discover some of the most talked-about films from around the world. The films will be screened in their original languages with English subtitles.

Programme

Gohan (Thailand 2026, 141 min., Thai with English subtitles)

7 August 2026

8 pm: Talk and Gohan lookalike contest with Jenisa Pungsaeng (Thai influencer from Berlin) & Dorothee Wenner (host) in German and Thai

9 Uhr: Film

Directors: Chayanop Boonprakob, Atta Hemwadee, Baz Poonpiriya

Few films have captured the hearts of Thai audiences quite like GOHAN. The film became one of the year's biggest box-office hits, while the dog playing the title role as an adult went on to achieve TikTok stardom. Appearing outside a supermarket as an orphaned white ball of fluff with a pink nose, Gohan embarks on a journey through the lives of several people. He is first taken in by a lonely Japanese manager, later rescued from an animal abuser by a courageous Burmese migrant, and eventually adopted by a young artist couple.

In three episodes, three Thai directors tell the stories of the people whose lives are touched and transformed by this clever four-legged companion. What connects the narratives is a shared question: what remarkable effect can dogs have on human beings? A film that will make audiences laugh and cry in equal measure.

Oversabi Aunty (Nigeria 2025, 129 min., Englisch and Yoruba with English subtitles)

8 August 2026

8 pm: Talk with Toyin Abraham (director and lead actress) & Yemi Daramola (co-curator/film distribution consultant) & Olachi Opara (co-curator/Nigerian Community in Berlin) & Dorothee Wenner (host)

9 pm: Film

Directors: Toyin Abraham

Toun is a woman of unwavering principles. A Yoruba Christian, married to an Igbo man, she keeps her family of four firmly in line while working as a church caretaker. But it is at a wedding, of all places, that her tightly controlled world begins to unravel, triggering turmoil across her sprawling extended family.

In her debut as lead actress, director, producer and screenwriter, Toyin Abraham explores a family conflict poised between faith, religious hypocrisy and blind fanaticism. Both funny and dramatic, her comedy about tribalism and generational tensions became a major success far beyond Nigeria's borders.

Mesdames Thanh Sac (Vietnam 2026, 124 Min., Vietnamese with English subtitles)

9 August 2026

8 pm: Talk with Đức Ngô Ngọc, Hồng Quang Trương und Dorothee Wenner (host)

9 pm: Film

Director: Vu Duc Thang

Based on a true story, the film recounts a tale of jealousy set amid the glittering nightlife of 1960s Saigon. At its centre are two prominent women of high society: the dancer Cam Thanh and Madame Sac, the wealthy owner of a legendary diamond collection and the famed Kim Do nightclub. At this luxurious haunt of Saigon's underworld, Cam Thanh rises through the ranks to become the city's most celebrated dancer. But when she attempts to break free from the influence of her domineering patron, the rivalry between the two women spirals out of control.

The film's lavish production design alone makes it a remarkable contribution to Vietnamese cinema. Yet its elegant reconstruction of Saigon's nightlife in the 1960s is equally compelling for the ways in which it resonates with the present day.

Batwara 1947 (India 2026, 150 min., Hindi with English subtitles)

14 August 2026

8 pm: Performance and Talk with Tom Luther (Co-Curator), Masalakraut and Dorothee Wenner (Host) in English, Hindi and Urdu

9 pm: Film

Director: Rajkumar Santoshi

Few Indian films this year have been anticipated as eagerly as Batwara 1947. The Humboldt Forum is presenting the film alongside its world premiere. Starring Bollywood icons Sunny Deol, Preity Zinta and Shabana Azmi, this historical drama explores the aftermath of the 1947 Partition of India.

At the heart of the story is a Muslim family that flees from Lucknow to Lahore and is assigned the home of a displaced Hindu family. But Mai, who still lives there, refuses to accept the arrangement and insists that the house remains hers. Out of this fraught co-existence emerges a moving story about loss, displacement and the possibility of reconciliation.

The screenplay is based on Asghar Wajahat's play *Jis Lahore Nai Vekhya, O Jamiya E Nai* (One Who Has Not Seen Lahore Has Not Lived), which was banned in Pakistan.

Nuestra Tierra (Argentina 2025, 122 Min. Spanish with English subtitles)

15 August 2026

8 pm: Talk with María Alché (screenwriter), Julieta Zarankin (curator) & Dorothee Wenner (host)

9 pm: Film

Director: Lucrecia Martel

The man who murdered Javier Chocobar was carrying not only a gun but also a camera when he killed a member of the Indigenous Chuschagasta community and seriously injured two others in October 2009. The footage was uploaded to YouTube, yet it would take another nine years before it was shown in court. For years, the trial of the perpetrators, a landowner and two former police officers, was repeatedly delayed. In her documentary, Lucrecia Martel traces the crime back to its colonial roots and follows its reverberations into the present day. Drawing on years of research, the film chronicles the community's long struggle for justice. In doing so, it lays bare the systemic disenfranchisement of Indigenous people while revealing the lasting impact of the murder on the Chuschagasta community.

The film is a gripping and highly topical documentary thriller that is currently generating considerable attention not only in Argentina but far beyond its borders.

Velhos Bandidos (Brasil, 94 min., Portuguese with English subtitles)

16 August 2026

8 pm: Talk with Leonardo Barros (Producer), Sidney Martins (Curator) & Dorothee Wenner (Host) in German and Portuguese

9 pm: Film

Director: Cláudio Torres

Nancy works for a cruise company and has access to passenger data, the perfect setup for burglaries while they are away from home. But when she and her sidekick Sid break into the house of Rodolfo and Marta, they get an unexpected surprise: the retired couple are looking for accomplices for a meticulously planned bank robbery. After all, Rodolfo once designed the bank himself as an architect ...

Heist movies are currently among the most popular genres, so the success of Velhos Bandidos came as little surprise, especially given director Cláudio Torres's ability to assemble an all-star cast. Cinema legends Fernanda Montenegro and Ary Fontoura shine as a pair of aristocrats of crime, while their younger counterparts, Bruna Marquezine and Vladimir Brichta, discover they still have a thing or two to learn.

Box Office Around the World

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