



**PRESS RELEASE**

**10 July 2024**

**16–31 August 2024, € 8/4**

**Outdoor cinema at the Humboldt Forum**

**Blockbuster films with guests from Argentina, Brazil, India, Nigeria, Thailand, and Vietnam**

## **Box Office Around the World**

**What films captivate audiences in Nigeria, Vietnam, or Argentina? Which productions sell out cinemas in Thailand, Brazil, or India? Over three weekends in August the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss will host the film festival *Box Office Around the World*, highlighting big-screen cinema from these six countries. Under an open sky in the Schlüterhof, we will present the latest films which, although they might be blockbusters in the countries in which they were produced, audiences in Germany have had little chance to see. After a successful series start last year, film curator Dorothee Wenner has put together yet another diverse programme together with representatives from Berlin's communities. Discussions and workshops held before each film will set the stage for each production. Directors Funke Akindele and Luciana Bezerra and the Sensation Dance Team are just a few of the guests who will be appearing at the festival.**

Unlike Hollywood productions aimed at the global market, blockbusters from other regions of the world can offer relevant yet previously unknown perspectives of the issues that move audiences in Lagos, Rio, or the Mekong Delta today. Topics range from the trials and tribulations of an extended matriarchal family or contact with the dead through artificial intelligence to the cinematic portrayal of three women trapped in a system determined by outmoded views or the financial challenges posed by throwing a children's birthday while simultaneously saving someone's life.

Curator Dorothee Wenner: "When films inspire local audiences in their countries of origin, they give people in other parts of the world the opportunity to learn something special about the realities of their lives that would otherwise be difficult to tell. This makes them precious gifts for people who want to see the bigger picture."

On three weekends in August, this film festival in the Humboldt Forum's Schlüterhof will become a meeting point for Berlin's communities and film lovers from around the world. It is the first time these films will be shown in Germany on the big screen and in the original language with English subtitles. Summery drinks and snacks will be served.

**India: Stree 2**

**16 August**

**8:15 pm: Mini Musical from Belaku Chitra Nataka and Movie Quiz mit Masalakraut**

**9 pm: Film**

Director: Amar Kaushik

To coincide with the cinema release in India, the Humboldt Forum is showing the long-awaited sequel to the adventures of Vicky, the "tailor of hearts" in Chanderi. Fans of super star Rajkummar Rao are already under high tension. Every year, during the biggest religious festival in Chanderi in the north of India, Stree comes to the small town at night - a ghost in the shape of a woman who terrifies and panics everyone by murdering men. According to the legend, jealous men had killed her and her lover in the past - now she is seeking revenge. Vicky, the "tailor of hearts", is chosen to free the city from this curse - with the help of his friends and a mysterious woman, a love at first sight. But she disappeared into invisibility last time. Will she return for the next festival - and who is she?

**Thailand: The Undertaker** (SUP PA RER)

**17 August**

**8 pm: Talk with Mike Piromporn, artist (tbc)**

**9 pm: Film**

Author and Director: Thiti Srinuan

The wild mix of genres in this film about an undertaker in the province of Isaan - a lot of comedy, a little horror, a little "Sopranos" - surprisingly became an absolute audience favorite in Thailand. The film is a discovery for anyone who wants to venture on a film trip to a Thailand far off the beaten track. Joed is spending the time until his law exams with his father, who works as an undertaker in the province of Isaan. A young woman has hanged herself there and her ex-boyfriend wants to apologise for his bad behaviour by astral travelling before she is cremated. But he needs the help of the undertaker, who - like many in the village - is a real expert in the world between life and death. Contact is made traditionally, but also with the help of AI. 'The Undertakter' is a spin-off of 'Thibaan - The Series', with which Thiti Srinuan became famous.

### **Nigeria: A Tribe called Judah**

**22 August**

**8 pm: Talk with Funke Akindele (Director, Leading Actress and Producer)**

**9 pm: Film**

Directors: Funke Akindele and Adeoluwa Owu

With this fast-paced crime comedy, power woman Funke Akindele has surpassed not only her own box office records in Nigeria as lead actress, director, screenplay writer and producer. She's back again in the Schlüter Cortyard after last year's screening of her super hit 'Battle on Buka Street'. Jedidah is an unconventional rickshaw driver in Lagos who has five sons by five men, all from different ethnic backgrounds. Emeka, Adamu, Pere, Shina and Ejiro don't have much in common apart from their love for their mother, but 'Ma J' knows how to keep her clan in line as a street-smart and self-confident matriarch - until her alcohol consumption necessitates costly kidney treatment. But where does the money come from? The sons are called upon to mobilise all their contacts and decide on extremely risky measures to generate money, because their mother's life is at stake.

### **Brasil: A festa de Léo**

**23 August**

**8 pm: Talk with Luciana Bezerra (Director)**

**9 pm: Film**

Directors: Luciana Bezerra and Gustavo Melo

It's Léo's 12th birthday and his mum Rita wakes him up with new soccer shoes and kisses. But what follows is anything but a 'happy birthday': his father Dudu has stolen the money that Rita wanted to use to finance Leo's party. Things get even worse when armed creditors threaten Dudu's life, if not.... A family thriller from Rio, in which the notorious Vidigal favela is not a 'poverty porn' backdrop, but is staged as a social labyrinth with its very own laws. By and with people who know the favela, with its football pitches and rooftops with the Ipanema on the horizon well enough to move cleverly and smoothly also in front of the camera.

## **Argentina: Puan**

**30 August**

**7:30 pm: Talk with Leo Sbaraglia, actor (tbc)**

**8:30 pm: Film**

Directors: Maria Alché and Benjamin Naishtat

The biting humour of this social comedy which has been extremely successful in Argentina, has local colour of a special and rare quality that also works beyond its place of origin. Puan is not only the name of the metro station where the Faculty of the University of Buenos Aires is, it's also a 'cult'. At least that's how the widow of a philosophy professor who died while jogging refers to the it and that's where two unlikely heroes compete to succeed him. Marcelo, the underdog, and Rafael, the cosmopolitan poser, engage in a deeply sad yet hilarious duel for the chief chair in the midst of a society that has gone off the rails. They are flanked by impoverished academics and their entourage, society ladies, feminist activists and a film star. Who will win? The directing couple María Alché and Benjamín Naishtat last made waves with their film 'Rojo'.

## **Vietnam: Glorious Ashes (Tro tàn rực rỡ)**

**31 August**

**7:30 pm: Talk with Vanessa Vu, author**

**8:30 pm: Film**

Director: Bui Thac Chuyen

Jealousy, spurned love, an arsonist and three women who know exactly what they want - that's what this village drama from the Mekong Delta is all about. With fantastic images of an unreal beautiful landscape, the film tells of the relationships between people whose lives are deeply intertwined by traditions which they carry on but at the same time revolt against. Hậu is unhappily married to Dương, who is manically and desperately in love with Nhân, who lives on the opposite bank of the river with a chronic arsonist. The jealousy drama with a surprising outcome takes place under the watchful, curious eyes of the neighborhood, as do the older Loan's unconventional attempts to free herself from the trauma of rape. This movie is like an abduction into a world where words have little power. The director received multiple awards for his features and documentaries in Vietnam and abroad.

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| Duration  | 16–31 August 2024  |
| Location  | Schlüterhof am Schlossplatz, 10178 Berlin                |
| Admission | € 8/4. Tickets go on sale mid-July                       |
| Programme | <a href="http://humboldtforum.org">humboldtforum.org</a> |

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