

Press release 10

52nd Hof International Film Festival 2018

Award of the City of Hof and German Cinema New Talent Award 2018

Award of the City of Hof 2018 Goes to Alfred Holighaus

Hof, 25 October 2018 – This year's Award of the City of Hof goes to Alfred Holighaus, President of the SPIO, the organization which represents the interests of the German film industry.

"When the festival was in a jeopardizing situation two years ago, it was Alfred Holighaus that we could rely on. In Hof and in the German film industry, we know what we have in him." Dr. Harald Fichtner, Lord Mayor of the City of Hof.

The City of Hof and the Hof International Film Festival are honoring Alfred Holighaus with this prize this year for his many years of service and loyalty to the Hof International Film Festival. The non-monetary Award of the City of Hof is considered a very special award in the German film industry. Since 1986, the Award of the City of Hof honors personalities which have been important catalysts for German films and are closely connected to the film festival on the banks of the Saale River. And this characteristic applies particularly to Alfred Holighaus:

Alfred Holighaus, born in 1959, was initially a film critic, the Berlin correspondent for the trade magazine *Filmecho/Filmwoche*, subsequently editor-in-chief of the Berlin *TIP-Magazine*. After stations at Senator Film as head of the development department, dramatic advisor, acquisitions as well as producer and managing director of Senator Film's distribution arm, he headed up the Berlinale sidebars *Perspektive Deutsches Kino* and *German Relations* from 2001-2010, during which time he worked closely with Heinz Badewitz. In 2010 he moved on to the German Film Academy to manage operations there. Since 2015, he has been President of the SPIO.

Alfred Holighaus was a close friend of the late director of the Hof International Film Festival and has been closely affiliated with the festival for decades. After the sudden passing of Heinz Badewitz in 2016, he decisively supported the festival as one of three curators.

"With Alfred Holighaus we have not only a competent partner in the industry, but more so a really good friend on our side. I am very happy about his award." Thorsten Schaumann, artistic director of the Hof International Film Festival

German Cinema New Talent Award goes to the film KAHLSCHLAG, Special Mention for the film FÜNF DINGE, DIE ICH NICHT VERSTEHE

The German Cinema New Talent Award for Best Film goes to **KAHLSCHLAG**, Max Gleschinski's first feature film.

An isolated lake in the woods, the calm is deceptive. The best friends Martin and Eric have become pestilent rivals for their common love interest Jenny. What is seemingly a classic love triangle unfolds in this film in a dramaturgically unusual and thrilling manner – something we haven't seen in a German film in a long time. The film relies on the inherent means of cinema, the power of images, the montage, and the excellent actors, foremost Bernhard Conrad in a double role. The film challenges its viewers with an unusual dramaturgy which confides in secrecy rather than explanation. The narration is always one step ahead of the audience and maintains this distance to the surprising end.

The film was made by filmmakers from Rostock, which is not known as a film location, where there is no film school, no regional funding or television broadcasters – not less than a sensation!

About the film: In a small town on the edge of the Ruhr Valley, a young farmer's son is searching for his place in the world. Torn between the city and the country, between his best friend and his brother, between the present and tradition, Johannes searches for recognition and adventure.

Special Mention for FÜNF DINGE, DIE ICH NICHT VERSTEHE

A young man is told that he is too young to drive a tractor and that his father's land should be used as a wildlife corridor. That he should look after his grandmother, help out during the hunt, and keep his hands off Rosa who makes pudding pretzels for him. He should fulfill himself, understand Diogenes, be punctual, be calm, and give back his newly found motorcycle jacket. What he wants himself, he really doesn't even know. How should he...?

Henning Beckhoff tells a story of his own hometown in a loving and laconic manner, casted amateurs and actors, shows us a world in which we would all love to delve into. Dialogues in which not one word too many is uttered, imagery which simultaneously captures the beauty and gloom of the provinces, a film which makes use of time and space to narrate the turmoil of growing up. Particularly notable is the way current political topics penetrate this seemingly intact world.

We thank Henning Beckhoff and his team for this wonderful film!

This year's jury: Karoline Schuch (actress), Andreas Amstedt (director and producer), and Frieder Schlaich (director and producer).

Best regards

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Hof International Film Festival

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