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Background

The Kurdish Film Festival Berlin, organized by mîtosfilm, was founded in 2002 and will celebrate its eleventh edition in October 2021. In its uniqueness, the festival is the largest event on Kurdish film in Europe. The wide-ranging program enables insights into the diversity of Kurdish society and creates space for personal encounters and exchanges between filmmakers and the Berlin audience. Films and encounters not only create an understanding of cultural diversity, but also reveal what moves people together, regardless of their origin. We support the breakdown of prejudices and make a contribution to intercultural understanding and the development of cosmopolitanism and tolerance.

Focus Program

Our festival is in its eleventh round and in this festival edition we are focusing on the south of Kurdistan, in Kurdish: Bashur Kurdistan. We will take a closer look at what has been filmed there over the last 20 years. So much in advance, there was a lot going on. The Kurdish film industry is at home in Bashur. What is offered is what is censored and sabotaged by repressive regimes in Rojava- (West), Bakur- (North) and Rojhilat-Kurdistan (East). Bashur has attracted visitors and filmmakers from all over the world through international film festivals such as the Duhok International Film Festival and created a film market for Kurdish filmmakers and productions. Bashur is a space of opportunity for Kurdish and international filmmakers, and it is precisely this space of opportunity that gives Kurdish cinema a completely new, almost unknown stability.

11. FESTÎVALA FÎLMÊN KURDÎ BERLÎN

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Locations

The 11th Kurdish Film Festival will take place this year in Babylon, Movimiento and FSK Kino cinemas. Other locations for the supporting program and our children's program are the cultural institution Villa Ulme 35. This year, artists Lisa Calan and Esra Gültekin will present the exhibition "Where hope ends, our stubbornness begins". Afterwards, our cooperation partner Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights e.V. will hold an artist talk with the Kurdish filmmaker and activist Lisa Calan and her journey of healing after an ISIS attack. As a new partner, we have been able to welcome the cult cinema FSK Berlin in Kreuzberg since last year, where we will show our experimental program and part of our short film competition.

In addition to our Berlin festival program, we are also available online again and will show a selection of the program nationwide and many of the films worldwide for 30 days from the official start of the festival. This gives us the opportunity to reach a wider audience, especially in the Kurdish region.

The Online pass comes in three versions:

24h pass
7Day Pass
30Day Pass

The online passes will be available from the official start of the festival on October 14th, 2021 at www.kurdisches-filmfestival.de

Of course, we offer the common payment methods such as Visa and PayPal.



 **11. KURDISCHES
FILMFESTIVAL BERLIN
14. – 20.10.2021**

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Program

The festival program of 2021 is put together from around 40 feature films, documentaries and short films, as well as supporting events such as panel discussions. The short film competition, as the experimental program, is entering its second edition due to the high level of demand and positive reactions. From May 2021, filmmakers were able to take part in our open call, which we published via our social media channels, website and film free-way, a festival platform. From the large number of submissions, we selected 11 short films from all regions of Kurdistan and the diaspora, as well as from international filmmakers who dealt with Kurdish topics in their short films, for the 2nd short film competition.

This year's opening film in the feature film section is „The Exam“ by Shawkat Amin Korki and will celebrate its German premiere at the 11th Kurdish Film Festival in Berlin. In August, the film by the renowned director was screened in the Crystal Globe Competition of the 55th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, where it celebrated its world premiere. Tickets are available at www.babylonberlin.eu

Other films of our program include two feature films by the Kurdish-French director Hiner Saleem, such as *Après la Chute* from 2009. The film shows the fall of the dictator Saddam Hussein from the perspective of the Kurdish diaspora in Berlin.

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Current relevance

The Kurdish community in Berlin now includes over 100,000 people from the countries of origin Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran. In the wake of more refugees coming from these regions in the past years the number of Kurdish refugees who found protection in Berlin also grew. The rise in prejudice, aggressiveness and racism in society towards people with a migration background sadly has increased, too.

In order to counter divisions and prejudices within our multicultural society it is of great importance that people from different cultural backgrounds enter into a personal dialogue and thus to create an understanding of various realities of life. The goal of the Kurdish Film Festival Berlin is to give a cinematic outlet to the multiplicity of being Kurdish and hopefully by this creates larger empathy in the broader German society.

Partner

The Kurdish Film Festival is funded by the Berlin Senate for Culture and Europe under the cross-sectoral support of four-year festival. We welcome Dr. Klaus Lederer as this year's patronage. The Goethe Institute Iraq has been the official partner of the Kurdish Film Festival Berlin since 2018. In cooperation with the Kurdish parents' association Yekmal e.V., a series of children's films is planned, which we will present in addition to our supporting program at our location partner Interkulturanstalten Westend — Ulme35. Our supporting program is kindly arranged by the Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights e.V. We look forward to welcome our partners and thank everyone for their years of support in giving Kurdish cinema a home in Berlin.