

## **No short films for young audiences at the 71st Berlinale 2021 – Open letter to the directors of Berlinale**

Dear Mariette Rissenbeek and Carlo Chatrian,

The 71. Berlin International Film Festival is scheduled to take place in 2021. First decisions for the festival have been made. In 2021 NO SHORT FILMS will be shown in the GENERATION section.

Every festival director currently faces the task of making difficult decisions. We respect that. Nevertheless, we deeply regret this decision taken by the world's largest audience festival and are concerned about the message it sends and its consequences.

The cancellation of an entire platform for the short form at the Berlinale signifies the failure to address various target groups at once: audience and industry. For more than 40 years, GENERATION has been inspiring young audiences with its selection of short and feature films, introducing them to a richly diverse and artistic cinema.

A large number of the films selected at GENERATION find international distributors and sales agents, TV stations and festivals through the Berlinale's high-profile seal of approval. There are very few A-film festivals in the world that place so much emphasis on children and youth, and therefore on the audience of tomorrow.

We hope that the decision will be reconsidered, that the Berlinale will live up to its pioneering role and that the short form will also be presented to young audiences in 2021.

With cineastic greetings,

AG Kurzfilm - German Short Film Association  
AG Dok (German association of documentary filmmakers)  
Bundesverband kommunale Filmarbeit (German Association of Municipal and Cultural Cinemas)  
Crew United  
Directors Guild of Germany (BVR)  
HVC Hauptverband Cinephilie (cinephilie association of Germany)  
MAGNETFILM GmbH (sales, distribution) Georg Gruber  
Vision Kino - Network for Film and Media Competences  
ZDF / ARTE, Dr. Catherine Colas

Agencia Audiovisual Freak, SL, Millan Vazquez-Ortiz, Spain  
Agencia – Portuguese Short Film Agency, Salette Ramalho  
Association of Filmmakers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgarian National Film Center,  
Croatian Audiovisual Centre (HAVC),  
Czech Film Center,  
Estonian Film Institute, Peter Murdmaa  
EYE Film Museum, Netherlands  
FiDAN – Iranian Short Film Magazine and Distribution  
Film Centre Of Montenegro  
Filmlab: Palestine  
Finnish Film Foundation, Otto Suuronen  
Greek Film Centre  
Icelandic Film Centre, Christof Wehmeier  
IndieLisboa – International Film Festival, Miguel Valverde, director, Portugal

Iranian Short Film Association (ISFA)  
Kapitein Kort Distribution, Hidde de Vries, Netherlands  
KLIK distribution, Ursula van den Heuvel, Netherlands  
LEMONADE FILMS (Festival Distribution), Marija Milovanovic, Austria  
Lithuanian Short Film Agency "Lithuanian Shorts", Rimante Daugelaite  
Marvin&Wayne Short Film Distribution, Spain  
Miyu Distribution, Luce Grosjean, France,  
National Film Institute, Hungary  
Network Ireland Television, Derry O'Brien  
New Europe Film Sales, Marcin Łuczaj, Poland  
North Macedonia Film Agency  
Norwegian Film Institute, Toril Simonsen, Arna Marie Bersaas  
Ouat Media, Inga Diev, Canada  
Portugal Film – Portuguese Film Agency, Margarida Moz, director/programmer  
SEE NL, Netherlands  
Short Film Conference (International Short Film Association), the board  
Slovak Film Institute  
SND Films, Sydney Neter, Netherlands  
Square Eyes Film (Festival Distribution), Wouter Jansen, Netherlands  
Swedish Film Institute, Jing Haase  
SWISS FILMS  
Tampere Film Festival, Jukka-Pekka Laakso, festival director, Finland  
Turku Animated Film Festival, Kimmo Sillanmikko, festival director, Finland  
Vila Do Conde, Shortfilm Festival, Spain

PS: This open letter will thereafter be sent to representatives of the press and industry for their information.