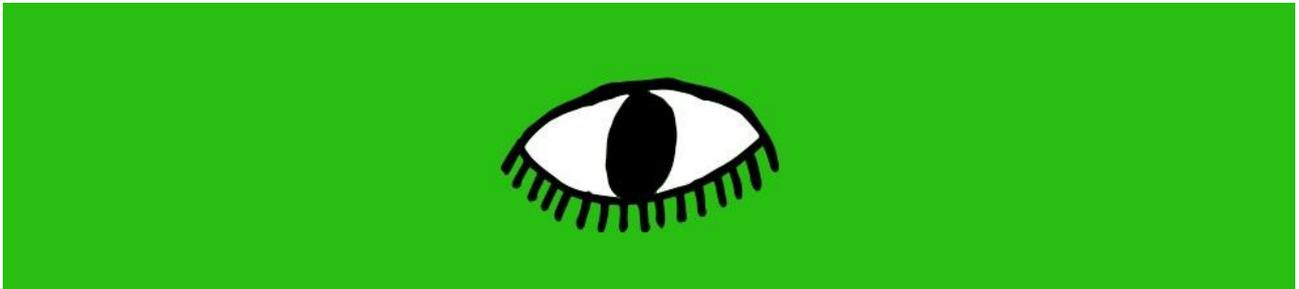


Press release  
13 November 2019

## No future without past!



**The third edition of the Roma film festival AKE DIKHEA? starts on 5 December 2019 with voices from survivors of the still little known genocide of European Roma and Sinti. With an awareness of the cruel past, glimpses into the future are also possible: with young and progressive perspectives, which also play an important role at this year's AKE DIKHEA?**

**From 5 to 9 December 2019, a total of 15 films, including short films, documentaries and feature films, will be screened as part of the third festival edition. AKE DIKHEA? – DO YOU SEE? will take place under the patronage of Dr. Klaus Lederer, Senator for Culture and Europe, at the Movimiento cinema.**

*"The Roma Film Festival has become one of the events that defines the city of Berlin in its diversity and cultural openness, which our society needs today more than ever. It locates Roma and Sinti in the middle of society, enables exchange and helps to reflect critically on traditional images. It is a plea for a free society for all people and of course it is a lot of fun".*

- Dr. Klaus Lederer on AKE DIKHEA

„We are still alive“ – Opening night on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December



MEMORY BOXES by Hamze Bytyçi (Copyright: Gabi Jimenez)

In addition to Dr. Klaus Lederer, the **Dutch Holocaust survivor and flower king Zoni Weisz will also be present on the opening evening.** Weisz lost his parents and siblings during National Socialism. After the war he became one of the leading florists in Europe and worked for the Dutch royal family among others. In 2011 he was the first representative of the Sinti and Roma to address the German Parliament on the occasion of the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of National Socialism.

In **MEMORY BOXES** (Thu., 5.12., 18.00) the florist talks about how he dealt with his trauma caused by the Nazi genocide. The animated short film was directed by **Hamze Bytyçi**, the artistic director of the festival, and celebrates its world premiere at AKE DIKHEA? Afterwards, the historian **Jana Mechelhoff-Herezi** and Zoni Weisz will have a discussion.

On the same evening the second animated short film **...THEY ONLY TAKE AWAY THE CRIMINALS** (18.00h) about the Auschwitz survivor Zilli Reichmann will be premiered.

## Strong international feature films



SEULE A MON MARRIAGE by Marta Bergman

Following the opening programme, AKE DIKHEA? will present the feature film **SEULE A MON MARRIAGE** (20.00h) by **Marta Bergman**. Pamela, a young Romni from Romania and a single mother, fights for the right to self-determination and a better future for her daughter.

A young woman also plays the central role feature film **FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY** (Fr., 6.12., 20.30h) by the Canadian director **Carmel Winters**. The gender-inverted version of the classic "Billy Elliot" is a powerful and contemporary story about the 15-year-old Frances' struggle for freedom, belonging and the right to resist.

The successful Hungarian Roma director **Árpád Bogdán**, awarded at AKE DIKHEA? 2018 for his film **GHETTO BALBOA**, processes the racist murder series against Roma in Hungary, 2009, in his feature film **GENESIS** (Sun., 8.12., 20.00h), showing a dramatic depiction of sin, catharsis, rebirth and the sudden end of a Roma boy's childhood.



GENESIS by Árpád Bogdán



SARA by Eva Cruells Lopez

## Young, queer and engaged

Young and diverse voices of Roma and Sinti from different European countries will also be heard this year. In the documentary short film **WE, QUEER ROMA: VALENCIA** (Sat., 7.12., 18.30h) by the Hungarian Roma LGBTIQ activist **László Farkas**, queer Roma from Spain deal with the question of having multiple identities and life as a minority within a minority.

The short film **TOBY G. STREET FACTORY** (Fr., 6.12., 18.00h) by the Roma dancer, director and doctoral student **Rosamaria E. Kostic Cisneros** documents the dance group of the Polish Roma immigrant Toby Gorniak, with whom he inspires and unites the youth of British Plymouth.

In the documentary **SARA** (Sat., 7.12., 18.30h), by director and media activist **Eva Cruells Lopez**, a Romni from Barcelona investigates the oppression suffered by her people during the Spanish Civil War and the Franco dictatorship. Sara, the title heroine's name, decides to change the outdated structures of her community.



## Networking and offers for professionals

Networking between filmmakers, activists and the specialized public with and without a Roma background is one of the most important goals of the festival. The festival brunch and the closing dinner will provide an appropriate, relaxed setting.

At the latter, this year's winners will be announced in the categories Best Film and Audience Award.

In the context of the workshop "**Filmfestivals as a space of reflection**" (Sa, 7.12., 16:00h, nGbK) under the direction of **Lea Wohl von Haselberg**, film scholar and expert for German-Jewish film history, festival organizers, cultural and media professionals as well as other interested parties will reflect on questions of organization, program, goals and audience of identity-based film festivals.

In the workshop "**Animated Documentary Films**" (Sa, 7.12., 16:00h, nGbK) the Macedonian filmmaker **Zharko Ivanov** gives a theoretical introduction to the topic, the history of animated documentaries and also explains the analog CutOut animation technique.

In the panel discussion "**Visegrad Forum: Self-Determined Stories**" (Sun, 8.12., 15:30h, place TBA), experts from Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary will deal with the question of how to tell self-determined stories in times of increasing racist attacks, smear campaigns against NGOs and right-wing populist politicians.

**The complete programme as well as further information can be found at [www.romafilmfestival.com](http://www.romafilmfestival.com) .**

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**The necessary funds are still missing: Crowdfunding campaign until 30 November!**

In order to maintain the important continuity, the independent festival looks for new possibilities of financing every year. On 15 October 2019, AKE DIKHEA? launched a crowdfunding campaign for the first time - not only to obtain the necessary funds shortly before the festival begins, but also to strengthen the festival's community character.

**The campaign can still be supported until 30 November at [www.visionbakery.com/roma-filmfestival](http://www.visionbakery.com/roma-filmfestival).**

*Carried out by Roma Trial. Funded by International Visegrad Fund, Foundation :do and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.*

