

to benefit movies

BERLINER FILMBALL

2008

Press release

BERLIN FILM BALL 2008

Dear Editor,

The management of the 2008 Berlin Film Ball would like to take this opportunity to provide you with the latest information on the event and to thank you in advance for your kind support.

09.01.2008

The Berlinale dances

The Berlin Film Ball is almost in a position to celebrate an anniversary. After it last took place in the year 1959, when the star guests included the young Romy Schneider, the Film Ball is today, after an interval of almost fifty years, being held once more in the glow of international and German stars from the worlds of music and film.

Thursday, 14 February 2008, The Ritz-Carlton, Berlin, Potsdamer Platz.

The fact that this event is positioned just ahead of "Echo" and the Golden Bear awards is no accident. As a complementary prestige event the Berlin Film Ball rolls out the red carpet for its German and international guests, providing them with a glamorous meeting point and accordingly with a prominent appearance in the full media spotlight.

Radical constructivism

To put it in cultural-philosophical terms with a certain amount of Berlin constructivism, the chutzpa of the two organisers, Alexander Wippert and Daniel Arancibia, is based on the desire to re-invent themselves again and again. "Berlin has a way of bringing out new and creative ideas," says Alexander Wippert. The old / new idea of the Berlin Film Ball was initially regarded with some suspicion by the Berlinale, but in the meantime the international film festival has come to wish the Film Ball well, combined with respect for a major event which is financed entirely without public funds.

Media and guests

Representatives of regional, national and international print and online media have applied for accreditation.

Invited guests

These include Katja, Riemann, Mario Adorf, Michael Mendl, Senta Berger, Barbara Schöneberger, Verona Poth, Heino Ferch, Christoph M. Ohrt, Bernhard Schir, Dirk Martens, Michèle Marian, Leander Modersohn, Tobias Hoesl and many more. In addition the "Echo" management and their international artists who are still to be named have announced their participation.



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The Ritz-Carlton is the favourite hotel of Robbie Williams, who will not fail to take advantage of the Berlin Film Ball as an occasion to make an impression.

Tribute

Johannes Heesters, lifetime achievement honoured

The list of honours awarded to Johannes Heesters is a long one. The tribute to be paid to him at the Berlin Film Ball is new and remains a rare opportunity. Mr Heesters has received the Bambi six times (1967, 1987, 1990, 1997, 2003, 2007) and in 2001 he was awarded a platignum Romy for his life's work. In August 2006 the Berlin Academy of the Arts opened an exhibition devoted to Johannes Heesters.

In spite of his ripe old age he is as active as ever and is still looking for new challenges, including new stage and screen roles.

Johannes Heesters and his wife Frau Simone Rethel very much wish to receive the tribute of the Berlin Film Balls in person, even though they have a tight schedule in that Mr Heesters is expected for a function in his home town in the Netherlands the very next day.

In the course of his work in the theatre Alexander Wippert, the initiator of the Film Ball, came to know Simone Rethel as early as 1985, followed a few years later by Johannes Heesters.

Award ceremony

The Berlin Film Ball is first and foremost an occasion for pure celebration, but in spite of this awards will be presented for three categories of film which devote themselves to socio-political and (multi-) cultural themes.

The ball committee does not occupy itself with film as an art form and, rather than artistic aspects, the jury focuses on the commitment shown by the content of the works. Accordingly music and video clips as well as advertising spots and documentaries also qualify for nomination.

The nominations
in three categories

independence

GOING UNDERGROUND: the film project in the Berlin underground railway

documentary

MEMORIE BOOKS, the Africa documentary by Christa Graf about children, parents infected by HIV and family memories

advertising

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The jury

Daniel Arancibia

Peter Decker-Altenkirch

Patrick Skillen

Alexander Wippert (chairman)

Professional consultant

Hans-Jörg Kopp

Moderator for the event

Harald Pignatelli (rbb)

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For enquiries please contact the organisers:

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