

Friday, 18.10.2019

9:30 a.m.

Prof. Dr. Stefanie Knauss (Villanova, US):

Religious Phenomena in Film

Keynote speech, followed by debate

11:15 a.m.

Film V: Ovsjanki (Silent Souls)

Fedor Fedorchenko, Russia, 2011, 75 min.

The Russian director Aleksei Fedorchenko tells in this literary adaptation with great seriousness, but ironic ambiguity of the alleged survival of pagan traditions in today's Russia.

Introduction: Christian Gürtler (Erlangen, DE), followed by discussion

4.15 p.m.

Prof. Dr. Kay Kirchmann (Erlangen):

Religious Signatures in Contemporary Cinema

Theses and discussion

7:15 p.m.

Panel discussion and conclusions, conducted by Prof. Johanna Haberer (Erlangen)

Introduction and appreciation of INTERFILM



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Professur für Christliche Publizistik

Religious Elements in Contemporary Cinema

INTERFILM Seminar in Erlangen

October 16-18, 2019
“Kreuz und Quer” –
Haus der Kirche Erlangen,
Bohlenplatz 1, 91054 Erlangen

in cooperation with the Department of Theology
of the Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen

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October
16-18
2019

interfilm
international interchurch
film organisation

Religious Elements in Contemporary Cinema

The cinema surprises us again and again with films in which elements of religious tradition find their echo, their transformation, reinterpretation and appropriation. They testify to a resilience of religious life in the midst of secular modernity. However, they are mostly overlooked or misunderstood not only there but also in the churches. These films show a sometimes risky, but always striking combination of spiritual and aesthetic inspiration. Especially the innovative authors of cinema are rediscovering the power of religious traditions, not only Christian, but also of other cultures or other historical strata.

The seminar will cover the processing of religious motifs in current cinema and their narrative and visual traces in individual films. Thus, Alice Rohrwacher's „Lazzaro felice“ (2018) shows a combination of magical, Christian, sociocritical and political motives in the tradition of Pier Paolo Pasolini and Vittorio de Sica. Ildiko Enyedi's „On Body and Soul“ (2017) mixes elements of the dream, the emotional desire and the religious mystery in the Eastern European context and on the level of psychic experience. Alireza Khatami's „Oblivion Verses“ (2018) opens up the political and religious dimension of history, memory and commemoration in an original interfaith overlap, and Fedor Fedorchenko “Silent Souls” (2011) (re)constructs them.

The seminar aims to arouse understanding of the multi-dimensional fabric in which the individual films are both embedded and how they are created. In addition to lectures and introductions, screenings and film talks, group discussions are also planned. The event will take place within the framework of the General Assembly of INTER-FILM, the International Church Film Organization, which holds the Ecumenical Juries at international film festivals jointly with the Catholic partner organisation SIGNIS.

Wednesday, 16.10.2019

8.30 p.m.

**Film I:
The Brand New Testament,
(Le tout nouveau testament)**
*Jaco von Dormael, Belgium,
France, Luxembourg, 2015,
115 min.*

Comedy that „corrects“ the biblical tradition by confronting God's daughter Ea with her misanthropic-despotic father, who lives with his wife and child in Brussels. The ten-year-old girl is whirling around God's sadistic world order as she reveals to people their exact date of death.

Introduction: Piet Halma (Baarn, NL), followed by discussion



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Thursday, 17.10.2019

9.30 a.m.

Prof. Dr. Hans Jürgen Luibl (Erlangen):

Das Andere Sehen. Film und Transzendenz.

Lecture and discussion

11.00 a.m.

**Film II: Lazzaro felice
(Happy as Lazzaro)**
*Alice Rohrwacher, Italy,
France, Germany, Switzerland
2018, 128 min.*

On a secluded piece of land a few dozen peasants and farm laborers toil in slave-like conditions under the rule of a Marquesa. One of them is the young Lazzaro, who does not seem to be quite of this world; with his unconditional devotion, which does not demand anything in return, he breaks up the exploitation chain.

Introduction: Karsten Visarius (Frankfurt, DE), followed by discussion

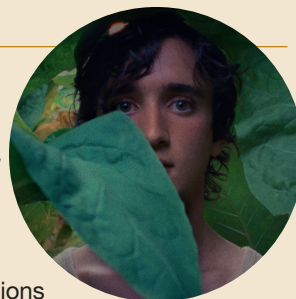


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2:30 p.m.

**Film III: Los versos del olvido
(Oblivion Verses)**
*Alireza Khatami, France,
Germany, Netherlands, Chile,
2018, 92 min.*

An old man works in the morgue on a South American cemetery. The traces of dictatorship and state terror are still noticeable in the young democracy, even if society is fleeing into oblivion. When the old man is attacked by a death squad, he decides to take an active stand against collective amnesia.

Introduction: Charlotte Wells (Uppsala, SE), followed by discussion

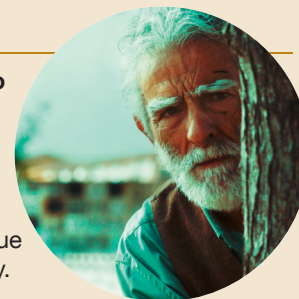


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4:30 p.m.

Discussion/Workshops

7:30 p.m.

**Film IV: Teströl és lélekröl
(On Body and Soul)**
*Ildikó Enyedi, Hungary, 2017,
116 min.*

The introverted financial director of a Hungarian slaughterhouse and an autistic quality inspector learn by chance that they have identical dreams in which they walk as deers through a peaceful forest. The knowledge leads both of them to move towards each other in life.

Introduction: Viktor Kókai-Nagy (Budapest, HU), followed by discussion



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