

## Press Release

06.02.2023

### 20th Academy Discussion Content versus Film

With **Dominik Graf, Thomas Heise, Nicolette Krebitz, Carolin Schmitz and Jeanine Meerapfel. Moderation: Andreas Kilb**

**Monday, 13 February 2023, 7 pm**  
**Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz 4, 10117 Berlin**  
**For press tickets, please email [presse@adk.de](mailto:presse@adk.de)**  
**or telephone 030 200 57-15 14.**

What constitutes a good film? At what point did the content of a film come to be prized above its aesthetic form, and where does this tendency come from? What happened to the appreciation of cinema as a composition of images, colours and sounds?

Jeanine Meerapfel and Dominik Graf talk to Thomas Heise, Nicolette Krebitz and Carolin Schmitz about the essence of cinema and what makes a film unique. In 2018, in the run-up to the Berlinale, Jeanine Meerapfel began inviting film-makers and representatives of the film industry to take part in her Academy Discussions series to debate matters relating to the politics of film.

With:

**Dominik Graf**, film director, actor, member of the Akademie der Künste

**Thomas Heise**, film and theatre director, director of the Film and Media Arts Section at the Akademie der Künste

**Jeanine Meerapfel**, film director and president of the Akademie der Künste

**Nicolette Krebitz**, film director and actor

**Carolin Schmitz**, film director and screenwriter

Moderation: **Andreas Kilb**, film critic and culture correspondent for the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* in Berlin

**Dominik Graf** is a director and actor. His directing credits include feature films like *The Cat*, *Geliebte Schwestern* (Beloved Sisters) and series such as *Tatort* (Crime Scene). He has been a member of the Academy of Arts since 1994 and a professor of feature film directing at the ifs Internationale Filmschule Köln since 2004. In 2012 he won the Grimme Award for the tenth time. His feature film *Fabian: Going to the Dogs* screened in competition at the Berlinale in 2021 and was nominated for the German Film Award in ten categories. He has shot two new films for television: *Das Gesicht der Erinnerung* (The Face of Memory; airing on Das Erste, 8.2.2023) and *Mein Falke* (My Hawk, 2022).

**Thomas Heise** is a writer and director for theatre, film and audio drama and has been director of the Film and Media Arts Section at the Akademie der Künste since

### Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit

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2018. He is also a professor of art and film at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. His documentaries were either banned or not shown in East Germany. He was a member of the Berliner Ensemble from 1990 to 1997. His documentary film *Jammed: Let's Get Moving* (1992) won multiple awards, as did other of his films. In *Heimat Is a Space in Time* (2019), the focus is on the human relationship with history, based on an account of Heise's own family. The film was screened in the Berlinale Forum in 2019 and won the Caligari Film Prize, along with other awards.

**Jeanine Meerapfel** has been president of the Akademie der Künste since 2015. The film-maker and screenwriter has made a number of award-winning documentaries and features, including the documentary *Im Land meiner Eltern* (In the Country of My Parents, 1981) and the feature film *The German Friend*, 2012. Between 1990 and 2008 she taught film directing at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne. Her film essay *A Woman* tackles themes like emigration and remembering and forgetting. It was shown at numerous international film festivals in 2022 and had its theatrical release in December. It has been shortlisted for the 2023 German Film Award (documentary category).

**Nicolette Krebitz** is an actor, film director, screenwriter and musician. Since the 1980s she has appeared in over sixty films for cinema and television and began directing her own films in the early 2000s. In 2016 *Wild* was invited to the Sundance Film Festival and picked up various prizes, including four Lolas at the German Film Awards in 2017. In 2019 she won the Berlin Art Prize. Her feature film *A E I O U: A Quick Alphabet of Love* ran in competition at the Berlinale in 2022.

**Carolin Schmitz** is a director and screenwriter. Her powerful, rigorous works have garnered her regular invitations to the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen since 2000. In 2003 Carolin Schmitz was a founding member of the women's documentary film network LaDOC. Her stylistically unusual documentaries include *Portraits deutscher Alkoholiker* (Portraits of German Alcoholics, 2010) and *Schönheit* (Beauty, 2011). Her current film *Mother*, starring Anke Engelke, presents a complex picture of motherhood. It has been shortlisted for the 2023 German Film Award (feature film category).

#### Event details

#### 20th Academy Discussion

#### Content versus Film

Monday, 13 February 2023, 7 pm

In German

Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz 4, 10117 Berlin

Admission € 6/4, under-19s free

Press tickets can be reserved by telephoning 030 200 57-15 14 or emailing [presse@adk.de](mailto:presse@adk.de).

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