



## Press Release

### ***Berlinale Talents* and *Perspektive Deutsches Kino* "Kompagnon" Fellowships Go to Nora Fingscheidt, as well as Levin Peter and Elsa Kremser**

This evening at the final festive event of *Perspektive Deutsches Kino*, the "Kompagnon" fellowships were awarded for the first time to a screenwriter and/or director from *Berlinale Talents* 2017 and a *Perspektive Deutsches Kino* alumnus from 2016. The fellowships include stipends of EUR 5,000 and the Berlinale warmly congratulates the winners.

With the "Kompagnon" fellowships, *Berlinale Talents* and *Perspektive Deutsches Kino* have joined forces to support talented directors and screenwriters residing in Germany. The initiative does not, however, merely intend to further concrete film projects. In addition to strengthening the artists' signatures, the mentoring programme will provide the winners with professional coaching and a chance to network with the industry.

The jury members - filmmakers Feo Aladag, Sigrid Hoerner, and Johannes Naber - picked the treatments *Systemsprenger* (*System Crasher*) by Nora Fingscheidt (*Berlinale Talents* 2017), and *Der grüne Wellensittich* by Levin Peter and Elsa Kremser (*Perspektive Deutsches Kino* 2016).

#### **Jury statement:**

Nora Fingscheidt's *Systemsprenger* (*System Crasher*) outlines the story of nine-year-old Benni, a problem child whose mother, unable to cope, hands her over to the authorities. But Benni proves resistant to all corrective measures - that is, until social worker Micha decides to risk establishing a personal relationship with the child and in doing so crosses a line.

A disquieting, sensitive, and very well researched portrayal of our educational system and a poignant humanistic plea for those labelled difficult, non-conformist, or dysfunctional.

Nora Fingscheidt refrains from providing answers, but instead lets the questions she has raised resound in space. *Systemsprenger* touched our hearts and lastingly affected our thinking.

#### **Jury statement:**

*Der grüne Wellensittich* plays in Belarus and recounts the story of 34-year-old Mischa. At night he works as an autopsy assistant, during the day he paints corpses in oils. Mischa gets to know 17-year-old Anna, whose suicide attempt made it possible for them to meet in the first place. For

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both of them, loneliness has led to an obsession with death - yet out of this situation, authors Levin Peter and Elsa Kremser unleash the most beautiful forms of feeling alive: creativity and love.

This fiction film treatment has realistic protagonists, in particular Mischa, who is supposed to play himself. Interweaving documentary principles and staged components, this experimental hybrid exploration promises to produce an extraordinary film in both form and content. This is all the more so because the authors never seem to judge or interpret - neither the people, nor the world in which they are trying to define themselves. Instead they observe and let spaces emerge that are driven by compelling images and characters, and not by authorial narrative intentions.

When a radical trust in one's material is stronger than all fears of rejection, then it becomes possible for unforgettable films with a heartbeat to evolve. *Der grüne Wellensittich* has this potential.

For more information and photos of the award ceremony, please contact:

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