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## Homage Jeanine Meerapfel

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Press release

Potsdam/ Berlin, 012 May 2022

**This year, a homage will be dedicated to the director, author and president of the Berlin Academy of Arts, Jeanine Meerapfel. The homage goes beyond a mere show of works, as the films impress with their timeless personal reflection of the condition humaine.**

Filmmaker Jeanine Meerapfel was born in Argentina in 1943 as the daughter of Jewish immigrants who fled fascism and anti-Semitic persecution in Europe. In her films, she analyses history and society from a personal perspective,

combining biography with social reflection, poetry and discourse. After studying journalism in Buenos Aires, she moved to Germany in 1960 and now lives in Berlin. Since 2015, Meerapfel has been president of the Akademie der Künste; in her body of work, she deals with central fractures of history and the social present in a committed and thoughtful way.

*"When you watch my films you can go from one to the next and back to the next. It's like one long film. "In the Land of My Parents", for example, ends with the story of Turks in a bazaar. The next film is called "Melek leaves" and it's about a Turkish woman who leaves the country because of experiences of racism. My films are a continuing exploration of people who have immigrated, people who ask themselves where am I at home? And: what kind of society is this in which I live? (quote Jeanine Meerapfel)*

The programme series shows a selection of films by Jeanine Meerapfel, which are distinguished by the fact that they are still of particular political relevance today and tell as much about their time of origin as they do about our social present.

Seven of her 16 works will be shown on the screen.

In her most recent film A WOMAN (2021), she deals with the biography of her mother. In an intimate way, she remembers a woman for whom the feeling of homelessness was a permanent condition. At the same time, it is the story of the exile experiences of an entire generation in the 20th century.

In MALOU (1981), Meerapfel tells two different yet similar love stories: the fate of her mother, who was forced into exile in Argentina with her husband, a Jewish merchant, with the scenes of a modern marriage in which a young woman struggles for independence.

IN THE LAND OF MY PARENTS (1981) she explores the question of what it means for Jews to live in Germany today.

MELEK LEAVES (1985) follows Melek, a 38-year-old Turkish woman who left West Berlin after 14 years to return to the country of her birth - disappointed by a society that is deeply marked by racism and has denied her participation.

LA AMIGA (1988) is the story of a close and contradictory friendship between two women against the backdrop of the military dictatorship in Argentina.

AMIGOMIO (1993) depicts the relationship between eight-year-old Amigomío and his father Carlos, who leave their Argentine homeland for political reasons and experience their time in exile in different ways.

ANNA`S SUMMER (2001): After the death of her husband, Anna, who lives in Berlin, goes to the Greek island of Symi, to the house of her deceased grandparents. There she plans to sell the house, but is increasingly confronted with memories of her own family history.

AMIGOMIO (1995) is set in Argentina in the 1970s: Carlos, an unemployed academic, and his wife Negra have recently separated. When Negra is abducted at the time of the Argentine military dictatorship, Carlos flees to Ecuador with his eight-year-old son Amigomío. For the two, it is the beginning of an adventurous journey in the midst of political unrest.

**The film A WOMAN opens the Jewish Film Festival Berlin | Brandenburg on 14 June at 7 pm at the Hans Otto Theater. Jeanine Meerapfel celebrates her 79th birthday on this day.**

In her films, Jeanine Meerapfel reflects on various themes that have - unfortunately - lost none of their relevance to this day. The racism Melek encounters in MELEK LEAVES, the anti-Semitic resentment and the refusal to deal with the past that come to light in THE COUNTRY OF MY PARENTS, the human dichotomy of exile in AMIGOMIO - social background for the biographical upheavals and personal fractures Meerapfel's protagonists have to

cope with. Films that show how it feels to be part of history without being accepted as such. Committed cinema, but without pathos, biased but not doctrinaire, clever and highly emotional.

The series goes beyond a mere retrospective of their work and combines two of their films with a thematically appropriate, current film by a young filmmaker.

The double features combine IN THE COUNTRY OF MY PARENTS with DISPLACED (Sharon Ryba-Kahn, DE 2020, 90 min) and MELEK LEAVES with ON THE OUTSKITS (Aysun Bademsoy, DE 2006, 83 min).

The Double Feature with subsequent panel discussion, to which both filmmakers are invited to talk about both films, their themes, backgrounds and reception, will take place here:

#### Filmmuseum Potsdam Double Feature

Thursday 16 June

17:00 In the Land of My Parents

19:00 Displaced

20:30 - Film discussion

#### Passage Kino (Berlin) Double Feature

Friday 17 June

15:00 - Displaced

17:00 - In the Land of My Parents

18:30 - Film discussion

On Friday 18 June, Jeanine Meerapfel will be at the Jewish Theatre Ship in Spandau for a screening of her film MALOU at 17:00 and EINE FRAU at 19:00. From 20.30 there will be an extensive discussion on EINE FRAU .

#### MS Goldberg Double Feature

Sunday 19 June

17:00 MELEK LEAVES

19:00 ON THE OUTSKITS

20:30 Film talk

(21:00 ANNAS SUMMER)

You can read an interview with Jeanine Meerapfel in our current festival magazine, download [here](#).

You can see a detailed interview with Jeanine Meerapfel [here](#) on our Youtube channel.

More information on the programme will follow, and you can keep up to date by clicking on our [website](#).

If you have any press enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact our [press department](#).

Look forward with us to an exciting Jewish Film Festival 2022!

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*In the [press area of jfbb.info](#) you can download the JFBB logo and motif of the JFBB 2022.*

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*The 28th Jewish Film Festival Berlin | Brandenburg (JFBB) will take place from 14 to 19 June 2022. The JFBB is supported by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH, the state capital Potsdam and the Capital Cultural Fund. Media partners are radio eins, rbb Kultur, Indiekino and 3sat.*