

FILM

ALL FILMS ARE
IN OV WITH
GERMAN
SUBTITLES
UNLESS
OTHERWISE
STATED

STARTS MAY 12 Mr. Gaga

D: Tomer Heymann (Israel, Sweden, Germany, Netherlands 2015) documentary

◆◆◆◆ Reintroducing renowned choreographer Ohad Naharin, this film sheds light on various turning points in his professional and personal life: from his spinal injury to the loss of life partner/lead dancer Mari Kajiwaru, and of course his development of the Gaga movement – which, as a language of self-expression, has nothing to do with the pop princess. Snapshots of Naharin's pieces, such as *Virus* and *Ana-phase*, reveal not just softly transitioning frames but also the eccentric mind behind the moves. SB



STARTS MAY 12 Victor Frankenstein

D: Paul McGuigan (USA, UK 2015) with James McAvoy, Daniel Radcliffe

◆◆◆◆ Many have attempted to do justice to Mary Shelley's Gothic masterpiece, and this Victorian-set reimagining is yet another failure. The film aches to do what Guy Ritchie did for *Sherlock Holmes*, right down to the fast-paced dialogue and stylised visuals, but crucially forgets some much-needed panache. Thematic winks to the source material and steampunk set pieces notwithstanding, nothing redeems a lifeless script and the pantomime execution. Not even McAvoy's scenery-chewing turn can keep it aliiiiiiiive. DM



STARTS MAY 12 Remainder

D: Omer Fast (UK, Germany 2015) with Tom Sturridge

◆◆◆◆ Adapted from Tom McCarthy's cult novel of the same name, this stylish debut sees a young Londoner attempt to reconstruct his memories following a mysterious accident. Fast's M.C. Escher-esque thriller is handsomely crafted and a thematic cousin to Christopher Nolan's *Memento*, but the comparison doesn't always work in its favour. *Remainder* can be unnecessarily confusing, and not in a gripping way. All in all, though, Sturridge's excellent performance and the film's experimental ambition make for a rewarding experience. DM



STARTS MAY 19 Petting Zoo

D: Micah Magee (Germany, Greece, USA 2015) with Devon Keller

◆◆◆◆ Telling her own story of an unwanted pregnancy at 17, which, without her estranged parents' consent to an abortion, seems set to steer the rest of her life, first-time director Micah Magee brings us a delicate profile of Layla (Keller), as we follow her around the parking lots and roadhouses of San Antonio's backwaters. With poetic cinematography from Armin Dierolf and a haunting sense of loneliness, this is a sensitive portrait of self-termination in the Lone Star State. MW



Flicks our picks

Special screenings, festivals and retrospectives you shouldn't miss this month

MAY 1-5

All about Kelly

Of the crop of American social realist directors to emerge at the beginning of the 21st century, Florida-born **KELLY REICHARDT** has, over the course of her 22-year career, proven herself to be the most versatile, and perhaps the best. Now Kino Arsenal will screen all of the director's features to date chronologically. Catch a restored print of little-seen debut *River of Grass*, followed by the quietly devastating road movie *Old Joy*, her two collaborations with Michelle Williams – *Meek's Cutoff* and *Wendy and Lucy* – and her recent eco-terrorist thriller *Night Moves*. ROC ► [THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE – DIE FILME VON KELLY REICHARDT](#) | Arsenal, Potsdamer Str. 2, Mitte, S+U-Bhf Potsdamer Platz

MAY 4-31

Frei and breezy

It's time to pull out those folding lounge chairs and embrace the elements again as the open-air cinema season kicks off at **FREILUFTKINO KREUZBERG** on May 4 with the Coen brothers' *Hail, Caesar!*. Fellow Berlinale alum *Remainder* (see review, left) also books an exclusive preview date on May 9 in presence of director Omer Fast. For the rest of the month, an eclectic mix of recent cinematic highlights including *The Martian*, *45 Years*, *Carol* and the freshly minted 2016 German Film Awards nominees (shown with English subtitles), will all get the *Freiluft* treatment. Over at **FREILUFTKINO HASENHEIDE**, things get going on a more sombre but no less prestigious note with three-time Oscar winner *The Revenant* on May 25. ZS ► [OPEN AIR CINEMA](#) | various venues, check websites for details

MAY 19-22

Decent exposure

At 11, Berlin's **XPOSED INTERNATIONAL QUEER FILM FESTIVAL** has finally reached a *Schnapszahl* year, once again demonstrating how ingrained queer cinema is in the city's cultural fabric. So treat yourself to four days of decidedly adventurous filmmaking at the ever-supportive *Moviemento*. Among the shorts, Céline Devaux's exquisitely animated *Le repas dominical* represents the (light) experimental while the funny, touching *A Woman With a Past* about an intersex sex worker is wonderfully off-mainstream. The festival has

an additional focus on HIV/AIDS, as seen in Joaquim Pinto's lengthy autobiographical doc *What Now? Remind Me*, among others. Need a party reminder? Get down with festival peeps at queer homebase Südblock on opening night. As always, the best films will receive the coveted Lolly Award at the end of the sure-to-be-epic festivities. Full programme at [www.xposedfilmfestival.com](#). WC ► [XPOSED INTERNATIONAL QUEER FILM FESTIVAL](#) | Kino Movimento, Kottbusser Damm 22, Kreuzberg, U-Bhf Schönleinstr.

MAY 25, 20:30

Soul for rent

As an encore to our April Kottbusser Tor issue, we're dedicating our monthly film night to Berlin-based filmmaker Angelika Levi's **MIETE ESSEN SEELE AUF**, a documentary centred around the little wooden hut on Kotti that since 2012 has become the focus point for protests against rent increases in the neighbourhood. While other capitals have long suffered and survived the gentrification of their inner cities, it's hard to resist this uniquely Berlin story with its unmistakable sense of community and plea for solidarity. Our screening, accompanied by English subtitles, complimentary drinks and the director herself, also kicks off a mini-retrospective of her celebrated filmography at Lichtblick running till May 30. Be sure to catch such essayistic works as *Absent Present* or *Mein Leben Teil 2* that documented Levi's travel experiences and familial memories in beautiful, unexpected ways. MW ► [EXBLICKS: MIETE ESSEN SEELE AUF](#) | Lichtblick Kino, Kastanienallee 77, Prenzlauer Berg, U-Bhf Senefelderplatz

MAY 26, 20:00

Voice from Nepal

Mitte film lovers rejoice! *Exberliner* is teaming up with iconic arthouse cinema Hackesche Höfe Kino for a new monthly film series. First up is the premiere of German director Susan Gluth's poignant, inspiring documentary **URMILA – MY MEMORY IS MY POWER**. Set in Nepal, the film follows the struggles of 25-year-old Urmila Chaudhary who, having laboured under horrific conditions for 12 years after being sold by her parents at age six, now works as a freedom activist seeking to end child slavery. The result is a thought-provoking journey that offers rare insights into a national crisis through the eyes and very personal feelings of a survivor. Both Gluth and Chaudhary herself will be in attendance for this special inaugural screening. HS ► [PREMIERE: URMILA – MY MEMORY IS MY POWER](#) | Hackesche Höfe Kino, Rosenthaler Str. 40-41, Mitte, U-Bhf Weinmeisterstr.