

Press Release - 29.10.2018

German premier of 360° film Lionhearted at the 60th Nordic Film Days Lübeck

Lionhearted, the diploma film of the Filmacademy Baden-Württemberg, is celebrating its German premiere at the 60th Nordic Film Days Lübeck (30.10.-04.11.18). The VR film will be shown to the wider public in the middle of the historical centre of Lübeck in a 360° dome.

Lionhearted (*Löwenherz*) tells the story of the 8-year old Rida, who lives in Athens at the Hotel City Plaza. The self-proclaimed "Best Hotel of Europe" has no minibar, no room service and no porters. In fact it's more like a squat in which refugees are living in a self-organised structure.

In the last months, the film was screened at several international film festivals in the USA and in Canada, such as the renowned FIVARS Festival in Toronto, and the *Chico Independent Film Festival California*, where it won an award for the "Best New Media". It is going to be also shown in Germany in the following few months; starting from 30.10- 4.11.2018 visitors can watch the film in the Full-Dome cinema in the centre of Lübeck.

The Director of the film, Ricarda Saleh, illustrates: "It's great that the film is getting such positive feedback and interest! In the current discussion on displaced people, the solution to bury one's head in the sand is an absolute dead end. Instead we should debate possible ways of integration."

She continues: „The Hotel City Plaza is an extraordinary model. We are in a heated political situation in Germany, with widening extremes across the political spectrum- we need dialogue and exchange of ideas for an inclusive society”

The Nordic Film Days in Lübeck has been showing 360° films now for three years. Ralph Heinsohn, the curator of immersive media at the Nordic Film Days, says: "We are overjoyed to be able to show **Lionhearted** at our festival in Lübeck. This sensibly told VR documentary is Zeitgeist media art."

The Nordic Film Days Lübeck is the only film festival in Germany and Europe which entirely focuses on films from the North and Northeast of Europe. The festival starts every year at the beginning of November, and shows the newest feature films, documentary films and shorts from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Island, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden. In addition the film festival creates a peephole into the filmic creations of north Germany.

„This year we are showing 14 immersive films, sound installations and interactive VR experiences designed specifically for the dome. The settings of the stories take place over the continent, from the far North, stretching over the Mediterranean Sea and reaching towards the Middle East. 360° is an impressive narrated surrounding which becomes a wonderful group experience!", enthuses the curator Ralph Heinsohn.

The Director of **Lionhearted**, Ricarda Saleh, will be present at the 31.10.18 after the screening of her film (beginning: 18.00) for a Q&A.

More info on the VR film **Lionhearted** (D: *Löwenherz*) can be found at the project blog at <https://lionhearted360.weebly.com>

Trailer: https://youtu.be/epf--b4RE_A

Nordic Film Days Lübeck: <http://www.luebeck.de/filmtage/en/index.html>

Director Ricarda Saleh: <http://www.ricardasaleh.com>