



Africa Film Special – "New films from North and South Africa"

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SEVEN INTERNATIONAL GUESTS ATTEND START OF FILM EVENT IN COLOGNE

FilmInitiativ was delighted to welcome seven international guests at the opening of this year's "Africa Film Special". The event took place in front of a packed audience at Cologne's Filmforum in Museum Ludwig on Thursday (12.9). The guests, including Egyptian directors Alia Ayman, Mona El Naggat and Iman Kamel (who has come to Cologne with her co-screenwriter Klaus Freund), Algerian filmmaker Anis Djaad, the Moroccan Mahdi Alaoui and Birgit Morgenrath, a journalist who specialises on South Africa, will be available for discussions with the public and interviews with the media in the coming days. Tunisian director Mahmoud Ben Mahmoud arrived in Cologne on Friday morning.

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To kick things off on the opening night, musicians Ben Othman, Moucef Dridi and Ziad Souabni played traditional Tunisian music featuring instruments such as the mesuet (bagpipes), darbuka and tabla (drum), as well as the keyboard, to the approx. 180 attendees (including many North Africans). In the foyer of the Filmforum, the Tunicare association offered North African specialities, before the film programme got underway with the Tunisian feature film "Manmoutech" (Hidden Beauties) about two young women who have to defend themselves against patriarchal authority in their community. Running until September 22nd, the event will showcase 21 films from North and South Africa, and 11 guests have been invited to discuss the films with the audience. (Full listings are available at www.filme-aus-afrika.de)

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE COLOGNE FILM EVENT

The series of films being screened in Cologne featured strongly not only in the Algerian media (there were reports about the Algerian films and the guests who are present in Cologne in the coming days in all of the country's major newspapers and on national radio), but also on Tunisian websites (see www.cinematunisien.com). The Cologne film event was also promoted on the website of the South African embassy in Berlin (www.suedafrika.org).

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