

## Report 2020

The German Short Film Association – with members including film festivals, film and art schools, short film distributors and sales companies, as well as film industry institutions – is the representational and lobbying body for German short film. Its ambition is to improve the public awareness of German short film, both nationally and internationally. In this regard, the association functions as a service centre for makers and producers of shorts, as well as for various short film institutions. Furthermore, it is a contact source on German short film for political bodies, the film industry, cinemas and film festivals.

As of December 2020, the association has 47 members.

One of the most important components of the association's work is the promotion of German short filmmaking at home and abroad. The diverse promotion and marketing activities include the annual short film catalogue "German Short Films" with a current selection of 100 German short films. In addition, various preview DVDs support AG Kurzfilm's appearances at the international film festivals and film markets in Clermont-Ferrand, Berlin, Cannes and Annecy, as well as at national cinema fairs. As a further service, an online catalogue offers over 900 short films for viewing by festivals, curators and media educators.

The film political lobbying is aimed at improving the conditions for short film with regard to production, exploitation and distribution, as well as strengthening the position of short film within the film industry. Since 2004, AG Kurzfilm has been a shareholder of German Films and has a seat on the board of directors of the German Federal Film Board (FFA), where it lobbies for an improvement in the legal funding conditions in the areas of production, screening, distribution and sales of short films.

The association, with its complex scope of tasks, works for the entire short film industry and expressly does not limit itself to looking after its members. Since its foundation in 2002, the AG Kurzfilm's office has been located in Dresden. The majority of activities are coordinated and organised from here.

### The AG Kurzfilm:

- is a promotion and coordination centre for German short film.
- supports national and international festivals, film institutes, cinemas and other exploiters with professional information, film and programme proposals on German short film.
- informs filmmakers about the general funding situation, current funding instruments as well as distribution and sales opportunities.
- represents German short film at national and international film markets, fairs and industry events.
- develops new concepts for the presentation and exploitation of short films in close cooperation with the media and cinema industry.
- provides the short film with a seat and a voice in the nationwide bodies of film politics and film funding.
- is the contact person for the interests of short film in film funding legislation.

### Overview of the 2020 business year

As with any other cultural institution, the work of the AG Kurzfilm in 2020 was also significantly influenced by the Corona pandemic. Many projects had to be adapted again and again to the current circumstances and in some cases could not be carried out as originally planned. For most of the projects that took place from March onwards, online or hybrid versions were developed. This represented a considerable additional effort for the staff, as new structures had to be established first.

Important focal points of work in 2020 were the coordination of the ninth nationwide SHORT FILM DAY, the KURZ.FILM.TOUR - The German Short Film Award. In cinemas. and the film market appearances in Clermont-Ferrand and Berlin, as well as the online market appearances in Cannes and Annecy.

Furthermore, the German Short Film Association acts as a year-round representative of the interests of German short film and its representatives with its diverse, broadly effective products and projects (see the following individual presentation) as well as through comprehensive services (e.g. individual advice for filmmakers, assistance and research on short film-specific topics).

In order to further increase the visibility of the German short film scene and its protagonists, great attention was also paid to social media presentation (Facebook, Instagram) in 2020. For example, through continuous and up-to-date information, the number of subscribers to the Instagram account was increased from 1356 at the end of 2019 to currently 2368.

In the nineteenth year of its existence, the German Short Film Association was able to maintain its position as an important contact for the film and cinema industry, for film politics and as a direct contact for filmmakers and actors in the short film scene.

### **Cooperation with German Films**

The intensive cooperation with German Films within the framework of the representation abroad was once again one of the most important pillars of the AG Kurzfilm's work in 2020.

Under the new managing director Simone Baumann, short film is perceived even more strongly as a natural part of the promotion of German film abroad.

The cooperation with Martin Scheuring as contact person for the short film sector deserves special mention. The joint measures taken so far have been successfully continued and adapted to the Corona situation.

### **General meetings**

Due to the pandemic, only one general meeting was held in 2020 - during the Berlinale in February (schedule p. 20 of the report).

During this general meeting, a new board was elected. The board members Alexandra Gramatke (Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg), Eva Steegmayer (Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg) and Andrea Wink (exground filmfest) were re-elected. Ute Dilger (Academy of Media Arts Cologne) and Arne Papenhagen (FiSH-Festival Rostock) were elected as new board members by the member institutions.

## Activities and Projects 2020

### 1. Representing the interests of short film in Germany

The daily work of the office is determined by tasks of coordination, presentation as well as the implementation of various projects with a national or international reference and networking for the industry. The majority of publications are aimed at both national and international target groups.

#### 1.1 Short film service, advice, coordination:

The office is a contact point for short film makers, institutions and producers, offering a comprehensive information and advisory service on all issues related to short film. This includes advice and information on film funding and applications, information on short film exploitation, arranging contacts for programme enquiries from national and international organisers, as well as advising and supporting young talent.

The provision of information on the industry, active participation in forums and initiatives, as well as the communication of film policy events and funding decisions are also part of the tasks.

For festival submissions and submission deadlines for funding, the association offers a range of assistance: Every year in November, the printed annual calendar (see point d) is published with dates of German and international festivals for the coming year. Furthermore, current festival dates and deadlines are published regularly on [shortfilm.de](http://shortfilm.de).

For years, this field of activity has also included coordinating the submission of proposals by members of the German Short Film Association for the German Short Film Award. In 2020, a total of 98 short films were submitted to the BKM by the AG Kurzfilm.

#### a) Seminars on short film funding and festival exploitation

The information events in film schools initiated in 2019 by Jana Cernik and Jutta Wille on topics such as short film funding, festival submissions and strategies at festivals were somewhat reduced in 2020. Since only a few festivals could physically take place, there was only such an event at the FILMFEST DRESDEN in September 2020. It is planned to offer such service formats online in the future.

#### b) Short Film Catalogue and Preview DVD “German Short Films”



The short film catalogue "German Short Films", which was published in its 17th edition in 2020, is the oldest regular publication of the AG Kurzfilm. Every year, the catalogue brings together 100 of the most interesting current German short films, is bilingual throughout and has an extensive service section on German short film with an annually updated address list. The pre-selection is coordinated by the office and made by the association's members.

Each year a new jury of association members is appointed to compile the final selection of 100 short films.

The catalogue traditionally has its premiere at the short film festival in Clermont-Ferrand. Since 2006, the catalogue has been published with a preview DVD, which in turn presents a

selection of the catalogue films - in 2020 there were 15 films featured there. This film selection is made by the jury, which also oversees the selection for the short film catalogue. The AG Kurzfilm

office is responsible for coordinating the production of the DVD and the short film catalogue. The preview DVD addresses exclusively professional audiences such as festival curators and buyers.

Since 2010, at the request of numerous children's and youth festivals, there has also been a preview DVD with films that are especially suitable for children and young people. In 2020, 12 short films were presented on the Children & Youth Edition.

The catalogue is sent free of charge to national and international film institutes, festivals, multipliers as well as cultural institutes, distribution and sales companies, buyers and television stations. It is also presented at film markets, festivals and other important industry events.

Filmmakers who receive travel support from the AG Kurzfilm (see point 2.4) take the catalogue and other information material from the AG Kurzfilm with them to international festivals. In this way they act as ambassadors for German short film and also expand the network of AG Kurzfilm.

#### c) Preview Module „Online Preview“



In addition to the print edition, a database-based web application of the catalogue was created. Via the preview module "Online Preview", almost 950 films from the short film catalogues 2007-2021 as well as various compilations are currently available on the website [www.ag-kurzfilm.de](http://www.ag-kurzfilm.de). The service is

password-protected and is aimed exclusively at the film industry, in particular festival makers, programme curators, film journalists, cinema operators, TV and rights buyers or representatives of institutions. It offers, for example, the possibility of researching current German short films by director, year, genre, title and length or on specific topics. Since 2010, there has been a separate viewing option for media educators and representatives of educational institutions, for which over 650 films are currently activated.

#### d) Festival Calendar

The festival calendar of AG Kurzfilm has been published since 2006. Since then, it has become a popular tool for the film industry, both as a wall calendar and in its digital version. It presents the dates and submission deadlines of over 150 short film festivals and festivals with short film competitions worldwide in a clear and concise format. The dates are supplemented by the festivals' web addresses. The calendar can be ordered in printed form from AG Kurzfilm and is also available as a download at [www.ag-kurzfilm.de](http://www.ag-kurzfilm.de). The dates are also provided as an iCal file and can thus be imported into personal online calendars. The calendar is usually published in mid-November, and each festival represented on the calendar receives a sample copy. The majority of the calendars are distributed at the film markets in Clermont-Ferrand and Berlin and sent free of charge to interested parties upon request.

The calendar enjoys extraordinary popularity in the short film scene worldwide and is increasingly in demand, also by international short film institutions.

#### e) Short Film Portal "shortfilm.de"



The bilingual short film portal [shortfilm.de](http://shortfilm.de) has existed since 2001 as a service and news portal for the German and international short film scene. Between 2004 and 2014 AG Kurzfilm and the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen were joint operators; since autumn 2015 AG Kurzfilm has been the sole publisher of the short film portal.

In 2020, shortfilm.de naturally focused on the effects of the Corona pandemic on the international short film scene. A number of articles (e.g. the four-part series "Waiting for the Wave" by Reinhard Wolf) were published on the current topic as well as an extensive, constantly updated collection of online short film content, especially in the early days of the pandemic. The filmmakers themselves also had their say, in several articles on the subject of online festivals.

In its in-depth articles, the KurzfilmMagazin thus once again picked up on current trends and developments. This was demonstrated, for example, with an article by Sophia Glasl on submission fees at festivals, which received a great response.

The MAGAZINE section continues to be filled with new articles, analyses and background reports every three months, as well as regular PORTRAITS on filmmakers living in Germany who, over a longer period of time, have repeatedly or exclusively expressed themselves in the form of short films. For each quarterly update, a newsletter in German and English is sent to currently about 700 subscribers, in which the latest articles are announced.

Every month, festival successes at international short film festivals are listed and the dates section is updated so that festival dates and deadlines are always available three months in advance. In the NEWS section, interesting short news from the German and international short film scene is published on an ongoing basis.

As editor in charge, Reinhard W. Wolf continues to work closely with the AG Kurzfilm office on the content of shortfilm.de. With varying guest authors, shortfilm.de regularly brings different voices to the short film scene. The following articles and portraits were published in 2020:

LONG ARTICLES and PORTAITS (approx. 12,000 characters each)

Sections: Topic / Analysis / Background... - 9 publications

- Reinhard Wolf: Review of award-winning short films in 2019 – a brief analysis
- Luc-Carolin Ziemann: Short Film Goes to School
- Willy Rollé: Interview with Ron Dyens, French Short Film Producer, SACREBLEU
- Madeleine Bernstorff: Online, please not forever! - Some Experiences of Filmmakers
- Sofia Glasl: Entry Fees
- Reinhard Wolf: Film Festival Corona Strategies – A Critical Look at Techniques and Formats (Part One)
- Reinhard Wolf: Online Strategies of Film Festivals
- Dennis Vetter: Portrait Nicolaas Schmidt
- Lina Krämer: Portrait Sylvia Schedelbauer

Share of third party authors: 6 of 9

MEDIUM LENGTH resp. HALF LENGTH ARTICLES (approx. 2,500 resp. 6,000 characters each)  
18 publications

- Andre Eckardt: Exhibition Jan Švankmajer (medium length)
- Reinhard Wolf: This March: Short Film Month at Kickstarter (half length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Danish Experimental Film in Online Archive "Danmark på film" (half length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Films by Women: Another Experiment by Women Film Festival and VoD Streaming
- Reinhard Wolf: Waiting for the Wave - Film Festivals between Shutdown and Hope (medium length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Waiting for the Wave 2 – Film Festivals between Shutdown and Hope (half length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Waiting for the Wave 3 – Relaxations (half length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Waiting for the Wave 4 – Hoping for Normality (medium length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Legal Information on Live Streaming (medium length)
- Anne Isensee: The Film Festivals of the Day After Tomorrow (medium length)
- Caroline Hamann: Experiences of a Filmmaker in the Corona Year 2020 (medium length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Too Much Content - Studies Show How #stayathome Influences Media Use (medium length)
- Reinhard Wolf: TV as an Alternative for Cancelled Festivals – An Overview (medium length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Gaming Platform as an Alternative to Event Venues (half length)

- Reinhard Wolf: The Reinvention of a Festival GIFF (medium length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Film Festivals: Spatio-temporal Expansion Leads to Distortions in the Cinema and Festival Landscape (medium length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Trend: Lifestyle Magazines Curate Short Films Online (medium length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Free Video Subtitling for online videos (half length)

Share of third party authors: 3 of 18

The format of the half-length article (approx. 6,000 characters) was again used more frequently in 2020, as many topics could be best implemented in this length. As a result, fewer medium-length articles (2,500 characters) and fewer long articles (12,000 characters) were published.

#### NEWS Short news

48 news from Reinhard Wolf (film programmes, exhibitions, distribution, film and media policy)

27 news from AG Kurzfilm (mainly domestic: calls for entries, successes of German short films, film politics)

#### Special item:

Short film offerings in times of Corona (from March to July 2020 continuous collection of content with a total of more than 100 links)

#### f) Short.Film.Tour. – The German Short Film Award. In Cinemas.



Since 2008, the AG Kurzfilm has been organising the cinema tour of the winners and nominees of the German Short Film Award on behalf of the BKM. In 2020, cinema operators were once again invited to compile their programme individually according to special focal points or the profile of the cinema from all the nominated and award-winning films of the German Short Film Award 2019. Due to the closure of the cinemas from March to July and then again from November, fewer screenings could take place in 2020 than in previous years. For the dates that could take place in the cinema, there was the option of inviting guests, which was also taken up for most of the dates. All dates and information on the films of the Kurz.Film.Tour. were published on the website <http://2020.kurzfilmtournee.de/>, the facebook page of the Kurz.Film.Tour. as well as on the instagram account of AG Kurzfilm.

New compared to the previous year were several online events at Goethe-Institutes abroad. A programme of the Kurz.Film.Tour. was also among the online offers on SHORT FILM DAY.

The cinema tour celebrated its kick-off again in 2020 as part of the Max Ophüls Prize film festival in Saarbrücken in January.

The coordination and acquisition of the programme's cinema dates was taken over by the AG Kurzfilm. This included logistical and organisational services such as booking, scheduling the DCPs and BluRays and creating and sending out the advertising material (individual flyers for each cinema, posters, trailers, programme booklets), arranging and coordinating the guests for the individual cinemas (directors, film team, jury members) and, in consultation with the press agency Noise Film PR, advertising the events in the local press. For the municipal cinemas, the Bundesverband kommunale Filmarbeit (Federal Association of Municipal Cinemas) took over the coordination of booking the cinema events.

## g) Short film programmes, industry events in Germany

*FEINKOŠT – Czech-German Short Film Tour*

Since 2010, AG Kurzfilm has been organising the German-Czech project FEINKOŠT as part of the Czech-German Culture Days, which take place in the Elbe-Labe Euroregion.

Over the past ten years, the concept has been steadily developed. Two annual projections in Dresden and Prague have become a touring programme of short films in the Czech Republic and Germany, accompanied by the filmmakers. A binational networking meeting and a cooperation with DOK Leipzig have been part of FEINKOŠT for several years.

After the long-time partner Czech Film Center was no longer available for the project due to structural reasons, AG Kurzfilm found a new partner organisation on the Czech side in the association krúton, z.s., the organiser of the ELBE DOCK Festival. Through the cooperation with ELBE DOCK, the programmatic focus for 2020 was placed on short documentary film in all its forms. In September, the preview took place at ELBE DOCK in Ústí and on 8 October the premiere was celebrated in Dresden at Programmokino Ost with guests. Since no guests from the Czech Republic were allowed to come to Germany at that time, short 2-3 minutes statements by the filmmakers were produced in a very short time. These were shown online and in cinemas. In October, a total of 3 events took place in Germany and the Czech Republic before the cinemas in both countries had to close. An online version took place as part of the Brno 16 festival in December. Individual dates can be arranged to make up for the cancelled dates in 2021 if necessary.

## Programme 2020:

*KDO SE SE MNOU ZATOČÍ* (Adela Křižovenská, Animadok, CZ 2019); *EADEM CUTIS: DIESELBE HAUT* (Nina Hopf, Animadok, DE 2019); *M E Z E R Y* (Nora Štrbová, Animadok, CZ 2019); *APPARATGEIST* (Marie-Magdalena Kochová, experimenteller Dokumentarfilm, CZ 2019); *DIE NAVIGATOIR* (Carsten Knoop, Dorit Kiesewetter, docu-fake, DE 2019); *HNŮJ VEZDEJŠÍ* (Nikola Krutilová, Dokumentarfilm, CZ 2019); *BRAND* (Alexander Lahl, Jan Koester, Animadok, DE 2019); *SCHICHTELN* (Verena Wagner, Dokumentarfilm, DE 2019)

AHOJ NACHBARN! at „film.land.sachsen“

AG Kurzfilm is part of a cooperation of Saxon film festivals and institutions that has been trying to bring film culture to the countryside since 2019 under the title "film.land.sachsen".

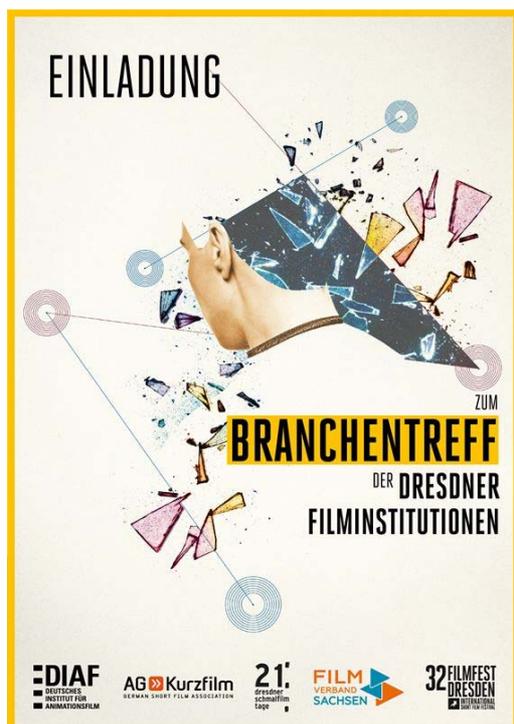
The aim is to counteract the cultural loss caused by the decline of cinemas in rural regions in Saxony. "film.land.sachsen" is based at the Saxony Film Association, other partners are the Saxon film festivals FILMFEST DRESDEN, DOK Leipzig, Filmfestival SCHLINGEL, Kurzsuechtig, Neißer Filmfestival as well as AG Animationsfilm and the DIAF. The aim is to find committed comrades-in-arms throughout the federal state in order to multiply the film culture on offer. These can be individuals with an affinity for film or cultural actors such as socio-cultural centres, youth centres or other alternative cultural spaces.

In 2020, the AG Kurzfilm provided the programme AHOJ NACHBARN! for the programme pool of "film.land.sachsen". This programme brings together three German and three Czech short films - these are some favourite films from past FEINKOŠT years.

Programme:

*ALIENATION* (Laura Lehmus, D 2014) *PŘÁTELSKÉ SETKÁNÍ NAD SPORTEM* (Adam Koloman Rybanský, CZ 2017); *HALMASPIEL* (Betina Kuntzsch, DE 2017); *POUŠTĚT DRAKA* (Martin Smatana; CZ/SK/PL 2019); *BIOTOP* (Paul Scholten, DE 2019); *HAPPY END* (Jan Saska, CZ 2016)

## h) Reception of the Dresden-based Film Institutions at the Filmfest Dresden



Since 2008, there has been a joint reception of Dresden's film institutions as part of the Filmfest Dresden. For the 32nd FILMFEST DRESDEN, which took place in September 2020, all organisers jointly invited to the St. Pauli Ruin not far from the Schauburg cinema, the main venue of the festival.

Traditionally, in addition to FILMFEST DRESDEN, the DIAF, the Filmverband Sachsen, the dresdner schmalfilmtage and the AG Kurzfilm were involved in the reception. The aim of the reception was to present the various institutions together, to introduce their work, to encourage conversations and to offer a platform for networking between filmmakers and institutions.

## 1.2. Ninth Nationwide SHORT FILM DAY



On 21 December 2020, the nationwide SHORT FILM DAY took place for the ninth time. Once again, the event was under the patronage of Monika Grütters, Minister of State for Culture. As in previous years, the project team of AG Kurzfilm coordinated the nationwide events.

Each SHORT FILM DAY has been unique so far: With ever new ideas for events; with special programmes; with the steadily growing number of events and thus also of visitors. The ninth SHORT FILM DAY had a completely new dimension: there were almost no face-to-face events. As late as October, everyone involved (AG Kurzfilm as well as the many organisers) had firmly believed that at least smaller events would be possible under appropriate hygiene conditions. But in vain - instead: A flood of event cancellations or relocation to digital spaces.

For the SHORT FILM DAY 2020, 97 events - mostly digital - could be realised. A few took place in a closed setting, e.g. in day-care centres, or in a special form, such as a screening in shop windows.

Under the motto #WirKommenZuEuch, seven film programmes were offered as free streams for 24 hours on the website [www.kurzfilmtag.com](http://www.kurzfilmtag.com) in cooperation with the distributors. With this streaming offer, too, importance was attached to creating an offer for different target groups. There were film programmes for children, young people and senior citizens, among others.

In 2020, there were also prominent ambassadors who told of their relationship to the short format in personal video messages - criminal psychologist Lydia Benecke, Fridays For Future activist Leonie Bremer, presenters Philipp Walulis and Yared Dibaba, and actor Samuel Koch.

The AG Kurzfilm actively searched for organisers, arranged contacts, network programme providers, cinemas and filmmakers and coordinated the uniform advertising and press work. For a better localisation in the area, there were six regional managers who specifically took care of the acquisition and networking on site.

All events were advertised on the homepage [www.kurzfilmtag.com](http://www.kurzfilmtag.com) and on Facebook. The team of the AG Kurzfilm was available to answer all the organisers' questions about the SHORT FILM DAY.

## 1.3. „Kurzfilm ins Kino!“



The overriding goal of this working focus is to inspire more cinema operators to use short films.

The Short Film Working Group has set itself the task of informing cinemas about the FFA's screening subsidies for short films as supporting films and for short film programmes.

2020 was of course a very difficult year for the cinema industry as a whole. For this reason, short film activities could only be pushed forward here to a limited extent.

With a short film offer, the AG Kurzfilm was also part of the #kurz\_zurückinsKino campaign. Inspired by an initiative of the Schauburg Bremen, the short film distributors and the AG Kurzfilm had developed film programme proposals. The campaign aimed to rebuild confidence in safe cinema attendance through the flexible use of short films and programmes, among other things. Last but

not least, it offered the chance to experience short film where it belongs: on the big screen! The background to this was the widespread uncertainty among cinema operators and the public about the opening of cinemas after the first lockdown in spring 2020.

The film theatre congress KINO - normally a fixed date in the spring calendar - was completely cancelled in 2020.



Fortunately, the Film Art Fair, the second important industry event for the cinema scene, was able to take place on site in Leipzig on a largely regular basis in September.

Traditionally, the pre-film test "Kurz vor Film" is an important programme item at the Filmkunstmesse. In tried and tested cooperation with interfilm Berlin and the Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg, AG Kurzfilm presented a programme of short films that are particularly well suited as supporting films. The aim was to get the cinema industry and the audience excited about short films as supporting films.

The audience was invited to vote for their favourite. The winner of the evening was HORS PISTE by Oscar Malet, Camille Jalabert and Léo Brunel (France, 2018) distributed by interfilm Berlin.

AG Kurzfilm will continue to promote the FFA's funding opportunities for short film screening at industry fairs and other opportunities.

## 2. Representation of the Interests of Short Film Abroad

The focus of the work in this area is directed towards improving the external representation of the German short film. The following examples are intended to give an insight into the extensive field of work. In this area, the AG Kurzfilm works very closely with German Films.

### 2.1. Presence at International Film Markets

In 2020, the German Short Film Association, in cooperation with German Films, again represented the interests of German short film at the major film markets of the festivals in Clermont-Ferrand, Berlin, Cannes and Annecy. International travel was no longer possible as of March 2020, so a variety of online solutions were devised to compensate for this.

- a) **Marché du Film Court/ Festival International du Court Métrage Clermont-Ferrand**



At the world's most important festival for short film, the Festival du Court Métrage Clermont-Ferrand, the AG Kurzfilm has been present since 2003, with its own stand at the film market since 2004. As every year, the annual short film catalogue "German Short Films" and the corresponding preview DVDs were presented to the public for the first time in Clermont Ferrand in 2020. At the stand, trade visitors had the opportunity to find out about the latest news on the German short film scene, material was made available and contacts were arranged.

A firm tradition is the market screening *Matinée Allemande*, which presents a selection of current German short films for interested trade visitors every year.

In 2020, the following films were presented at the *Matinée Allemande*:

*NEST* (Sonja Rohleder, DE 2019); *FragMANts* (Art Collective NEOZOOM, DE 2019); *BRAND* (Jan Koester, Alexander Lahl, DE 2019); *EUPHRAT* (Jelena Ilic, D 2019); *INSIDE ME* (Maria Trigo Teixeira, DE 2019); *IN DEN BINSEN* (Clara von Arnim, DE 2019); *GRAVEDAD* (Matisse Gonzalez, DE 2019); *GIVE UP THE GHOST* (Zain Duraie, DE/JO/SE 2019); *DER ENGEL DER GESCHICHTE* (Eric Esser, DE 2019); *DIE NAVIGATOURE* (Carsten Knoop, Dorit Kiesewetter, DE 2019); *REVOLVO* (Francy Fabritz, DE 2019); *SERIAL PARALLELS* (Max Hattler, DE/HK 2019); *DER ZAUBERLEHRLING* (Kyne Uhlig, Nikolaus Hildebrand, DE 2019)

Since 2010, AG Kurzfilm has been a partner of the European Co-Production Forum for Short Films "Euro Connection", which takes place as part of the film market in Clermont-Ferrand. The Euro Connection is a platform for European producers whose portfolios include the development of short films as European co-productions. Producers meet there with representatives of funding agencies and television stations to look for potential cooperation partners. A network of contacts in the partner countries is responsible for selecting the 15 or so projects that will be presented. The AG Kurzfilm is responsible for coordinating the selection of the German project that can be proposed for presentation in Clermont-Ferrand. In 2020, German filmmaker Irina Rubina was given the opportunity to present her animation project OSJA in this setting.

## b) European Film Market / Berlinale



Since 2003 the AG Kurzfilm, under the umbrella of German Films, has been represented with a stand at the European Film Market of the Berlinale. The main focus of its presence there is to present an overview of German short film production, to arrange contacts and to offer a comprehensive advisory service for filmmakers and festival representatives. The current short film catalogue and the corresponding DVDs will also be presented. For the fifth time, AG Kurzfilm, in cooperation with German Films, also produced a flyer with all the German short films in the official Berlinale programme. At the 70th Berlinale, AG Kurzfilm - Bundesverband Deutscher Kurzfilm was once again a partner of the Short Film Station. As part of the Berlinale Talents, the association informed participants about the work of AG Kurzfilm and the special features of the German short film scene.

As every year, a general meeting of the AG Kurzfilm was held during the Berlinale. In 2020, the Short Film Reception traditionally took place in the Red Salon of the Berlin Volksbühne. The AG Kurzfilm invited German and international colleagues from the industry as well as

filmmakers to network, deepen existing contacts, make new ones and celebrate short film in Berlin.

## c) Short Film Corner Cannes / Festival de Cannes



Cannes was one of the first major events to be affected by the Corona pandemic. The AG has been represented at this important international festival since 2004. Cannes 2020 was finally cancelled after several postponements and took place in November with only a minimal selection of films.

The film market "Marché du Film" moved to the digital space in June. From 22 to 26 June 2020, AG Kurzfilm and German Films presented current German short film productions in the virtual German Pavilion. Among other things, the new viewing DVD "German Short Films Part 2" was presented, whose films can also be viewed for the first time via the AG Kurzfilm online preview. Registered users were also invited to view all the short films in the new compilation for 12 months via the industry platform T-Port.

Unfortunately, the 10th anniversary of the short film programme "Next Generation | Short Tiger" could only be celebrated with 2 online screenings at the Marché du Film online. Despite this, there were a number of offers for the participants: A virtual market tour, talks about the cinema situation, several workshops with international experts and a virtual Q&A were offered.

Selection for preview DVD "German Short Films 2020 – Part 2":

*ERWIN* (Jan Soldat, DE 2020); *FOR REASONS UNKNOWN* (Tom Otte, DE 2020); *IN DEUTSCHLAND* (Christoph Mushayija Rath, DE 2019); *LA ESPERA* (Danilo Do Carmo, Jakob Krese, DE 2020); *MAMANAM* (Linda-Schiwa Klinkhammer, DE 2020); *MASEL TOV COCKTAIL* (Arkadij Khaet, Mickey Paatzsch, DE 2020); *ONUN HARICINDE, İYİYİM* (Eren Aksu, DE 2020); *PANNÓNIA DICSÉRETE* (Borbála Nagy, DE 2020); *SCHICHTELN* (Verena Wagner, DE 2019)

d) **Marché International du Film d'Animation / Festival International du Film d'Animation d'Annecy**



The MIFA film market associated with the most important festival for animated film, the Festival International du Film d'Animation in Annecy, also took place in digital form in 2020.

Thus, the traditional joint stand of AG Kurzfilm and German Films at MIFA (MARCHÉ INTERNATIONAL DU FILM D'ANIMATION) was only accessible virtually from 16-19 June for interested trade visitors and offered information on the German animation scene.

Just in time for the festival, AG Kurzfilm, in cooperation with German Films, presented the new edition of the viewing DVD New German Animations for the 14th time. This year, for the first time, the 13 short animated films included in the compilation could be viewed via the AG Kurzfilm online preview. The offer is aimed at festival representatives, curators and buyers:

*ALTÖTTING* (Andreas Hykade, DE 2020); *DER NATÜRLICHE TOD DER MAUS* (Katharina Huber, DE 2020); *DER SCHORNSTEINSEGLER* (Frédéric Schuld, DE 2020); *FREEZE FRAME* (Soetkin Verstegen, DE/BE 2019); *GRAVEDAD* (Matisse Gonzalez, DE 2019); *HAVE A NICE DOG!* (Jalal Maghout, DE/LB 2020); *HOW MY GRANDMOTHER BECAME A CHAIR* (Nicolas Fattouh, DE 2020); *INSIDE ME* (Maria Trigo Teixeira, DE 2019); *JUST A GUY* (Shoko Hara, DE 2020); *KANTENTANZ* (Elisabeth Jakobi, Camille Geißler, DE 2019); *PORTRAIT OF SUZANNE* (Izabela Plucinska, DE 2019); *THE BEAUTY* (Pascal Schelbli, DE 2019); *UZI* (Dina Velikovskaya, DE/RU 2019)

e) **Torino Short Film Market**

As part of the fifth Torino Short Film Market (also held entirely online) organised by the Italian Short Film Center, a selection of current German short films was presented for the second time in the video library of the film market from 20 to 24 November 2020. In 2020, the Torino Short Film Market attracted over 500 accredited trade visitors. For this, AG Kurzfilm selected 22 short films: 9 feature films and documentaries that were presented for the first time in June as part of the online film market in Cannes as well as 13 short animated films that were presented as New German Animations for the online film market MIFA of the Annecy International Animation Film Festival. The selected films will be available for online viewing by registered users for six months from November 2020.

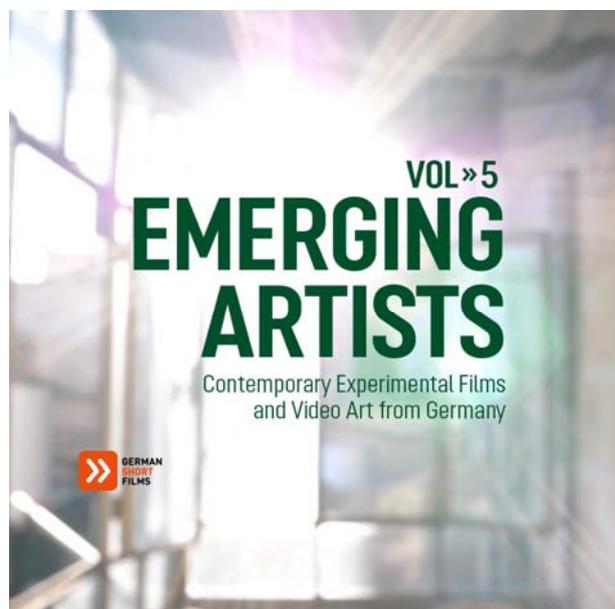
## 2.2. Festival Service

In the 2020 financial year, the day-to-day business of the AG Kurzfilm's office in Dresden again included processing or forwarding enquiries from a wide range of festivals.

Essentially, these enquiries result from the AG Kurzfilm's presence at the international film markets in Clermont-Ferrand, Berlin, Cannes and Annecy. Every year the AG Kurzfilm publishes four preview DVDs that reach the professional audience at the international film markets. Filmmakers who travel to international festivals with the support of AG Kurzfilm also take the DVDs with them, thus ensuring the worldwide distribution of AG Kurzfilm materials. This results in a variety of requests from international festivals, which invite films from the DVDs into their competitions or request other forms of cooperation.

## 2.3. Kurzfilmprogramme im Ausland

- a) Emerging Artists – Contemporary Experimental Films and Video Art from Germany



For the first time in 2012, the AG Kurzfilm - at the suggestion of its association members - put together a programme in cooperation with German Films exclusively dedicated to young experimental film and video art in Germany. With this programme, German Films and the AG Kurzfilm would like to support experimental, strongly artistically oriented young works that can also be exploited via the art market in museums, galleries, etc.

The programme is curated every two years. In 2020, the fifth edition was announced. Over 130 works were submitted. The selection jury, which met in Dresden at the end of August, consisted of members of AG Kurzfilm: Sarah Adam (A WALL IS A SCREEN), Carsten Aschmann (filmmaker and representative of the Lower Saxony Film and Media Office), Anne Gaschütz (Co-Festival Director FILMFEST

DRESDEN) and Anne Turek from the AG Kurzfilm office. With Tobias Hering, a freelance curator was invited as a member of the selection jury for the second time.

The 5th edition of the compilation was published at the end of 2020 and premiered at the beginning of 2021 as part of the online version of the Stuttgart Film Winter and at the Clermont-Ferrand online film market. The programme is available for screenings at home and abroad, acquisition started in February 2021.

Film selection: *FLÜSSIGE WESENSZÜGE EINER BILDAPPARATUR* (Vera Sebert, DE 2019); *NICER, SOON* (Julius Weigel, DE/IL 2019); *BEASTS OF NO NATION* (Krzysztof Honowski, DE 2019); *IF THERE IS LOVE, YOU WILL TAKE IT* (Daniel Hopp, DE 2020); *CENTAURESS* (Deniz Şimşek, DE 2020); *FROM MY DESERT* (Veneta Androva, DE 2019); *LETTERS FROM SILIVRI* (Adrian Figueroa, DE 2020); *TOP DOWN MEMORY* (Daniel Theiler, DE 2020)

b) Soirée Allemande • coup du cœur – Le court métrage allemand | SHORT EXPORT - Made in Germany



Since 2006 the International Short Film Festival in Clermont-Ferrand has also been the premiere venue for the Soirée Allemande. This unusual project was initiated by a Franco-German cooperation group consisting of AG Kurzfilm - Bundesverband Deutscher Kurzfilm, the Goethe-Institut Lyon, the Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg, German Films and the festival management in Clermont-Ferrand. The films in the short film programme are selected by the partners from almost 600 German festival submissions to the festival in Clermont-Ferrand.

Once again, the festive premiere of the programme took place in Clermont-Ferrand in the presence of some of the filmmakers with a reception followed by a German party called "The German Fest".

Afterwards, the programme - as usual with German, French and English subtitles - went on tour under the name "SHORT EXPORT - Made in Germany". As an alternative for events that could not take place on site due to corona, an online version was very quickly conceived. In some cases, there were also online question and answer sessions with the filmmakers.

In 2020, 30 Goethe-Institutes worldwide were won over as screening venues, 27 of which showed the programme online. Overall, SHORT EXPORT 2020 even held more events than in the previous year. The management of the project, including the coordination of subtitling and DVD production, as well as the conclusion of licensing agreements with producers and the acquisition of event organisers, was the responsibility of the AG Kurzfilm.

Film Selection 2020: *ASCONA* (Julius Dommer, DE 2019); *UZI / Y3bI* (Dina Velikovskaya, DE 2019); *DER PROBAND* (Hannes Schilling, DE 2019); *FACELIFT* (Jan Riesenbeck, Dennis Stein-Schomburg, DE 2019); *DIE TINTE TROCKNET NICHT* (Felix Herrmann, DE 2019); *HOT DOG* (Marleen Valien, Alma Buddecke, DE 2019)

#### 2.4. Zuschüsse für Reisekosten, Zusatzkopien und Untertitelungen

Since 2004, filmmakers have been able to apply to AG Kurzfilm for grants for travel expenses as well as additional copies and subtitling. The condition is the participation in a competition at a foreign festival. Applications are processed and approved by the office in consultation with German Films, and the settlement is handled by German Films. Of course, much fewer festival trips could take place in 2020, since from March onwards the festivals took place almost exclusively online. A total of 30 applications for travel support or DCP or subtitle funding were granted in 2020.

If trips can take place, the filmmakers take material (catalogues, info flyers, preview DVDs) to the festivals and thus act as ambassadors for German short film. Afterwards, short festival reports written by the filmmakers are published on the website of AG Kurzfilm (<https://ag-kurzfilm.de/en/festivalberichte.html>). This has already resulted in an extensive archive of festival reports from the perspective of the filmmakers, whose experiences are helpful to others.

### 3. Film Policy

#### 3.1. Film-political Lobbying

With a seat on the Board of Directors of the German Federal Film Board, AG Kurzfilm has represented the interests of the German short film scene in the FFA's bodies since 2004. Jana Cernik has held this position in the film industry's highest body since 2013 to represent the interests of short film here. Since February 2020, she has also been a member of the FFA's ten-member executive committee. She is also a member of the FFA's Commission for Innovation and Structural Issues, and Alexandra Gramatke (board member of AG Kurzfilm and managing director of the Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg) is a member of the Commission for International Cooperation and EU Film Issues.

The federal association is the contact for the BKM and the German Federal Film Board (FFA) for all matters concerning short film funding and the short film scene. Representatives of the Federal Association regularly take part in forums and discussions on the amendment of the FFG. One of the goals of its film policy lobbying is to improve funding conditions for short film with regard to production, exploitation and distribution.

The AG Kurzfilm researched and provided extensive information on the relocation or online orientation of festivals, not least to prevent filmmakers from being placed at a disadvantage in terms of film policy, e.g. in reference funding.

Since 2020, AG Kurzfilm has been one of the nine associations and organisations working on film policy under the name INITIATIVE ZUKUNFT KINO + FILM (Initiative Future Cinema + Film) at various levels for an equal perception of culture and business in film and cinema. Joint position papers on the topic "Save film culture!" on the FFG amendment as well as on the Corona situation and its effects on the film industry were written in 2020.

##### a) Short Film on Television

Improving the visibility of short films on television remained an important topic for the AG Kurzfilm in 2020. The workshop discussions with representatives of ARD and ARTE that began in 2017 could not be continued in 2020. A continuation is planned for 2021 on important topics such as the presence of short films on public broadcasters and their fair remuneration.

Some TV stations - including MDR and RBB - had organised short film competitions and increased purchases of short films during the pandemic.

The German Short Film Association is in regular contact with the editors of the MDR short film magazine Unicato and suggests films for thematic focuses. In December, the AG Kurzfilm was itself the subject of a Unicato programme on the occasion of the KURZFILMTAG. During a visit to the office of AG Kurzfilm, interviews were conducted with the directors and the project manager of KURZFILMTAG. The films for the programme were also selected and presented by the staff of AG Kurzfilm.

##### b) Short Film in Film Education

Short films are excellently suited for use in film education outside of school as well as in schools and kindergartens. The AG Kurzfilm has been advocating for years that this potential be used more intensively.

The open letter that AG Kurzfilm wrote together with the Federal Association of Municipal Film Work, the initiative FILM MACHT SCHULE, the HVC - Hauptverband Cinephilie, the Producers' Association and the Association of German Film Critics 2019 on the occasion of the call for proposals for the management of Vision Kino triggered a constructive and fruitful debate and brought forth reactions from various sides and actors in film education. In a detailed first meeting with the new managing director of Vision Kino in August 2020, common interests were discussed and a cooperation for the future was agreed upon. At a working weekend initiated by the HVC at the Filmhaus Nuremberg, the topic of film education was discussed intensively. The resulting position paper was published by the HVC in 2020. ([http://www.hvcinephilie.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/HvCPositionspapier\\_Filmbildung.pdf](http://www.hvcinephilie.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/HvCPositionspapier_Filmbildung.pdf))

The AG Kurzfilm will continue to be involved here as well.

### 3.2. Lobbying in Cultural Policy

Since the end of February 2017, the AG Kurzfilm has been a member of the German Media Council - Film, Broadcasting and Audiovisual Media of the German Cultural Council and contributes to current discussions on cultural, film and media policy there and in various expert committees.

The AG Kurzfilm is also a member of the "Netzwerk Kultur Dresden", an association of over 60 independent cultural institutions and initiatives, founded in 2014. The network is committed to fair working conditions in the cultural sector as well as greater transparency in cultural policy. Together with cultural institutions of the municipality and the state as well as the creative industries, "Netzwerk Kultur Dresden" promotes civil society engagement and the culture of democratic discourse.

### 3.3. Overview of Committee Work / Jury Work

Jana Cernik represented the AG Kurzfilm

- on the Board of Directors of the FFA
- on the Executive Board of the FFA
- in the Committee for Innovation and Structural Issues of the FFA
- in the shareholders' meeting of German Films Service + Marketing GmbH
- Network Culture Dresden

Jutta Wille represented the AG Kurzfilm on the

- German Media Council - Film, Broadcasting and Audiovisual Media of the German Cultural Council as well as in the expert committees on copyright, media and education of the German Cultural Council
- on the advisory board on film of the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony
- Network Culture Dresden

Alexandra Gramatke (board member) is

- Deputy Member of the Board of Directors of the FFA
- Member of the Committee for International Cooperation and EU Film Issues Committee for European Affairs of the FFA

Jutta Wille was a member of the

- Jury of the International Competition of the schmalfilmtage dresden

Anne Turek was a member of the

- Selection Committee for Experimental Film at Kurzsuechtig – Mitteldeutsches Kurzfilmfestival

## **Important Meeting Dates 2020 (selection)**

### **Board meeting AG Kurzfilm**

24.02.2020 in Berlin

31.08. – 02.09.2020 Retreat in Dresden

### **General Meetings of the Association**

24.02.2020 in Berlin

### **Meetings of the Board of Directors of the FFA**

26.02.2020

18.06.2020 online meeting

22.10.2020 online meeting

### **Meetings of the Executive Board of the FFA**

19.03.2020 online meeting

03.06.2020 online meeting

17.09.2020 online meeting

10.12.2020 online meeting

### **Shareholders' Meetings German Films**

29.09.2020 online meeting

14.12.2020 online meeting

### **Deutscher Kulturrat / German Media Council - Film, Broadcasting and Audiovisual Media**

11.03.2020

10.06.2020 online meeting

09.09.2020 online meeting

25.11.2020 online meeting

### **German Cultural Council / Copyright Committee**

07.07.2020 online meeting

### **German Cultural Council / Media Committee**

12.03.2020

03.09.2020 online meeting

### **German Cultural Council / Education Committee**

19.02.2020

08.09.2020 online meeting

02.12.2020 online meeting

## Financing of the Association

Institutional support for staff and operating budget:

- Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Wissenschaft und Kunst (SMWK)
- Kulturredaktion der Landeshauptstadt Dresden

Short film service, advice, coordination, project support and development - grant for personnel and administrative expenses:

- Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (BKM)

Membership Fees / Joining Fees

Project Funding:

- German Films Service + Marketing GmbH
- Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (BKM)
- FFA - Filmförderungsanstalt
- Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung (MDM)
- Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen
- Verwertungsgesellschaft für Nutzungsrechte an Filmwerken mbH (VGF)
- Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg
- Sächsische Staatskanzlei
- Film- und Medienstiftung NRW
- MFG - Filmförderung Baden-Württemberg
- FFF Bayern
- Nordmedia
- Deutsch-Tschechischer Zukunftsfonds
- Landesdirektion Sachsen
- Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein
- Thüringische Staatskanzlei
- HessenFilm und Medien GmbH