

## Report 2021

AG Kurzfilm is the nationwide lobby institution for German short film. Members of this umbrella organization include film festivals, film and art academies, short film distribution and sales companies as well as institutions in the film and cinema industry. The aim is to improve the public perception of German short films at home and abroad. The association also sees itself as a service point for filmmakers and producers of short films as well as for various short film institutions, but also as a contact for politics, the film industry, cinemas and film festivals.

As of December 2021, 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. This is achieved primarily through presence at international and national film markets and fairs, for example in Clermont-Ferrand, Berlin, Cannes and Annecy, as well as at the cinema fairs in Baden-Baden and Leipzig.

The film policy 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 funding framework in the areas of production, screening, distribution and sales of short films.

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

The AG Kurzfilm:

- is a promotion and coordination center for German short film.
- supports national and international festivals, film institutes, cinemas as well as other exploiters with professional information, film and program proposals for the German short film.
- informs filmmakers about the general funding situation, current funding instruments as well as distribution and sales opportunities.
- represents the German short film at national and international film markets, trade 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 policy and film funding.
- is the contact person for the interests of short film in film funding legislation.

## Overview of fiscal year 2021

As with any other cultural institution, the work of AG Kurzfilm 2021 was significantly influenced by the Corona pandemic for the second time. Many projects had to be adapted again and again to the circumstances and in some cases could not be carried out as originally planned. The experiences from the first year of the pandemic were very helpful here. Online or hybrid variants could be developed for many of the projects carried out each year. Nevertheless, the further development of the necessary structures required a considerable additional effort on the part of the staff.

Important focal points in 2021 were the coordination of the 10th nationwide KURZFILMTAG, the KURZ.FILM.TOUR - The German Short Film Award. In the cinema. and the online film market appearances in Clermont-Ferrand, Berlin, 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 projects (see the following individual presentation) as well as

through comprehensive services (e.g. individual consulting for filmmakers, assistance and research on short film-specific topics).

To further increase the visibility of the German short film scene and its protagonists, a great deal of attention was also paid to social media presentation (Facebook, Instagram) in 2021. For example, through continuous and up-to-date information, the number of subscribers to the Instagram account was increased from 2368 (2020) to currently 2914.

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 policy and as a direct contact for filmmakers and other actors in the short film scene.

### **Cooperation with German Films**

The intensive collaboration with German Films within the framework of the foreign representation was once again one of the most important pillars of cooperation for the AG Kurzfilm in 2021.

Under the managing director Simone Baumann, who has been active since 2020, short film is perceived even more strongly as a self-evident component in the promotion of German film abroad.

The cooperation with Martin Scheuring as contact person for the short film sector should be particularly emphasized. The joint measures taken so far could be successfully continued or adapted to the Corona situation.

### **General meetings**

Due to the pandemic, only one general meeting was held in 2021 - in May as an online version (schedule on p. 21 of the report).

## Activities and Projects 2021

### 1. Representation of 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 national or international reference and networking for the industry. A large part of the publications is aimed at both national and international target groups.

#### 1.1. Short film service, consulting, coordination:

The office is a contact point for short film makers, institutions and producers and offers a comprehensive information and consulting service on all questions concerning (German) short film. This includes advice and information on film funding and applications, information on short film exploitation, the provision of contacts for program inquiries from national and international organizers, as well as advice and support for young filmmakers.

The provision of industry information, 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 November, the printed annual calendar (see point c) is published with dates of German and international festivals for the coming year. Furthermore, current festival dates and deadlines are continuously published 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 2021, a total of 79 short films were submitted to the BKM by the AG Kurzfilm.

#### a) Seminars on short film promotion 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 could only take place to a limited extent in 2021. Since only a few festivals took place physically, there was only one such event at the FILMFEST DRESDEN in July 2021. An online seminar was offered for the RheinMain University of Applied Sciences in Wiesbaden and filmarche. It is planned to offer such service formats increasingly and regularly online in the future.

#### b) Short Film Catalog and Preview DVD „German Short Films“



The short film catalog "German Short Films," which appeared in its 18th edition in 2021, is the oldest regular publication of the AG Kurzfilm. Every year since the first edition in 2004, the catalog has brought together 100 of the most interesting current German short films, is bilingual throughout, and features an extensive service section on German short film with an annually updated address directory. The pre-selection is coordinated by the office and made by the association members.

Each year, a new jury of association members is appointed to compile the final selection of 100 short films. Since the short film catalog is traditionally presented to the public for the first time at the film market of the short film festival

in Clermont-Ferrand, the decision was made here in 2021 to dispense with the printed version of the catalog. Both important markets at the beginning of the year - Clermont-Ferrand and the EFM of the Berlinale took place only as online versions. For this reason, the "German Short Films 2021" catalog appeared exclusively as a digital flip page version (including service section) on the AG Kurzfilm website: <http://catalogue21de.ag-kurzfilm.de>. The viewing DVD that has accompanied the short film catalog since 2006 (again a selection of the catalog films, 13 films in 2021) was also only available as a digital compilation: <http://annualcompilation2021part1-de.ag-kurzfilm.de>, the same applied to the selection for children and young people (2021 10 films) that has been published since 2010: <http://childrenandyouthedition2021-de.ag-kurzfilm.de>. This film selection is made by the jury, which also makes the selection for the short film catalog. The AG Kurzfilm office is responsible for coordinating the production of the compilations and the short film catalog. For reasons of sustainability, the printed catalog will continue to be dispensed with in the future. The compilations will also be offered online only. From 2022, the selection process for the short film catalog will therefore be revised and adapted once again.

### c) Viewing module "Online Preview"



In addition to the online flip page edition, a database-based web application of the catalog was created in 2021. Via the viewing module "Online Preview", more than 900 films of the short film catalogs 2007-2022 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, program designers, film journalists, cinema operators, TV and rights buyers, or representatives of institutions. It offers, for example, the possibility to filter current German short films by director, year, genre, title and length or to research specific topics. Since 2010, there has been a separate viewing option for media educators and representatives of educational institutions, for which over 600 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 working tool for the film industry, both as a wall calendar and in its digital version. Due to the many adjustments of festival dates and deadlines, the festival calendar has been slightly modified. Now only about 70 festivals are presented with their dates, including all member festivals of AG Kurzfilm as well as a selection of internationally important short film festivals and events. In the future, deadlines will not be listed, as it was not possible to obtain reliable data by the editorial deadline. The dates are supplemented by the web addresses of the festivals. The calendar can be ordered in printed form from the office of the 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 will be published in mid-November, and each festival represented on the calendar will receive a voucher copy. The majority of the calendars will be distributed at the Clermont-Ferrand Film Market (to be held locally in 2022) and sent free of charge to interested parties upon request.

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

## e) Short film portal “shortfilm.de“



The bilingual short film portal 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 fall 2015, AG Kurzfilm has been the sole

publisher of the short film portal.

In 2021, shortfilm.de again focused on the effects of the Corona pandemic on the international short film scene. Here, several thematic articles dealt with how festivals can hold their own in an era of online and hybrid events, and how synergies (keyword: festival networks) and new structures can be established here.

In its in-depth **articles**, the short film magazine has thus once again picked up on current trends and developments.

The interview section Talks'n'Topics was filled with interviews with the directors who had won or been nominated for the German Short Film Award in 2020. Curator Conny Klauß met the artists in Berlin or via video conference and interviewed them in detail about their films and their working methods.

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 have repeatedly or exclusively expressed themselves in short films over a longer period of time. 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 are published on an ongoing basis.

As the responsible editor, Reinhard W. Wolf worked in close cooperation with the AG Kurzfilm office on the content of shortfilm.de. With changing guest authors, shortfilm.de will regularly bring different voices to the short film scene. The following articles and portraits were published in 2021:

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

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

- Reinhard Wolf: Corona strategies of film festivals (part 2) - online streaming instead of cinema projections
- Luc-Carolin Ziemann: Victor Orozco Ramirez: A Documentarian in Animation's Clothing
- Reinhard Wolf: Review of the short film award winners 2020 - a small evaluation
- Christina Maria Ruederer: The Wound Gapes - Jovana Reisinger's Humorous Exposures of Contemporary Role Inscriptions
- Prof. Dr. Skadi Loist: Film festivals as a cultural contact zone - potential for the industry and cinema
- Reinhard Wolf: Paradigm shift in the festival landscape - cooperation, program exchange, networks
- Reinhard Wolf: Online representation of film festivals - a conversation on the topic
- Luc-Carolin Ziemann: Anne Isensee - Of megatricks, red wine and the art of artless commentary
- Madeleine Bernstorff: Adrian Figueroa – The scenic in documentary

Share of third-party authors: 4 out of 9

**MEDIUM-LENGTH or HALF-LENGTH ARTICLES (approx. 2,500 or 6,000 characters each)**

11 publications:

- Reinhard Wolf: Festival pandemic crisis sends online aggregators booming (half-length)
- Reinhard Wolf: The Art of Coding – Demos are now world cultural heritage (half-length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Norwegian online video art archive was transferred to Nasjonalmuseet (Oslo) (medium-length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Conflicting production decisions in the north - Nordisk Panorama at risk (medium-length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Short film festivals put their own histories online (medium-length)
- Reinhard Wolf: 20 years of Autour-de-Minuit - Anniversary in difficult times of change (half-length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Welcome or Stay at Home? Cessation of the cinema program at SFMOMA (half-length)
- Reinhard Wolf: YouTube Shorts – \$100 million for 60 seconds of cell phone videos (medium-length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Federal Archive restitutes avant-garde short film by Polish artist couple Themerson thought to be lost (half-length)
- Reinhard Wolf: Better image strategies for online festival conversations (half-length)
- Reinhard Wolf: AG Festival Work launches second survey (medium-length)

**NEWS News in brief**

46 News from Reinhard Wolf (film programs, exhibitions, distribution, film and media policy)

18 News from AG Kurzfilm (mainly domestic: calls for entries, successes of German short films, film policy)

**Special item:**

10 video interviews with filmmakers in Talks'n'Topics format

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



Since 2008, the AG Kurzfilm has organized the cinema tour of the winners and nominees of the German Short Film Award on behalf of the BKM. In 2021, cinema operators were again able to compile their program individually according to special focuses or the profile of the cinema from all nominated and award-winning films of the German Short Film Award 2020. Since it was not possible to operate cinemas until July, the Kurz.Film.Tour also had to accept a later start. This also meant that fewer screenings could take place in 2021 compared to the corona-free years.

For the dates that could take place in the cinema, there was the possibility to invite guests, which was used for numerous dates. All dates and information about the films of the Kurz.Film.Tour. were published on the website <http://2021.kurzfilmtournee.de/de/tournee.html> and the Facebook page of the Kurz.Film.Tour. as well as on the Instagram account of AG Kurzfilm.

Some cinemas used the new cooperation with Cinemalovers and booked the Kurz.Film.Tour. for their digital cinema screens. Online events were also held at Goethe-Institutes abroad. Furthermore, in the context of the KURZFILMTAG, a program of the Kurz.Film.Tour. was offered via Cinemalovers for online use. Fortunately, however, some events could also take place on site on the KURZFILMTAG.

Unfortunately, the opening of the Kurz.Film.Tour. as part of the Max Ophüls Prize film festival in Saarbrücken in January had to take place online due to the pandemic.

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

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

FEINKOŠT – Czech-German short film tour

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

The partner on the Czech side has been the ELBE DOCK Festival since 2020. Through this cooperation, the programmatic focus in 2021 was once again placed exclusively on short documentary films. In terms of content, documentaries offer a direct link to social realities in both countries and enable topical discussions on current events.

Of course, the 2021 year as a whole was also affected by the still ongoing Corona pandemic with many restrictions and ever new adjustments. For FEINKOŠT 2021, the

project partners selected a total of eight current short documentaries - four from Germany and four from the Czech Republic - and provided them with subtitles in the respective other language. The entire spectrum of documentary film was brought to bear: animated as well as classic documentaries, but also more experimental works were included.

Despite the restrictions, after the preview at ELBE DOCK at the beginning of October, opening events with many guests could take place in Prague as well as in Dresden. Until the end of the year, screenings took place in both countries, some of them with guests. A cooperation with DOK Leipzig enabled the filmmakers of the FEINKOŠT program to participate in this renowned festival.

## Program 2021:

*DER ÜBERS MEER KAM (THE ONE WHO CROSSED THE SEA)* – Jonas Riemer, animated documentary, DE 2020; *ZÁBRADLÍ (THE BANISTER)* – Barbora Sommers, documentary, CZ 2020; *TOP DOWN MEMORY* – Daniel Theiler, experimental documentary, DE 2020; *JOHANA* - Ondrej Pilát, documentary, CZ 2020; *27 SCHRITTE (27 STEPS)* – Andrea Schramm, documentary, DE 2021; *PANÍ ŠŤASTNÁ (MRS HAPPY)* – Nikola Klinger, documentary, CZ 2020; *VEVNITŘ (INSIDE)* – Viktorie Štěpánová, animated documentary, CZ 2020; *OBEN OFFEN (TOPLESS)* – Hannah Jandl, documentary, DE 2020



New cooperation with riesa efau - short film programs accompanying current exhibitions:

2021, a new cooperation was established with the culture forum riesa efau in Dresden. In the future, the AG Kurzfilm will curate a program to accompany the respective exhibitions. In July 2021, the AG Kurzfilm presented a program to accompany the exhibition "Gefühle (r)aus! Glocal Emotions" the program "Short Emotions" with six short films from different editions of the Emerging Artists program. This collaboration is to be continued in 2022, initially in January 2022 for the exhibition "nahe bei".

## Program 2021

*SURFACE GLAZE* (Lotte Meret Effinger); *SIEBEN MAL AM TAG BEKLAGEN WIR UNSER LOS UND NACHTS STEHEN WIR AUF, UM NICHT ZU TRÄUMEN* (Susann Maria Hempel); *PLATEAU* (Vanessa Nica Mueller); *BEYOND BEACH* (Clara Winter & Miguel Ferraez); *FROM MY DESERT* (Veneta Androva); *BEASTS OF NO NATION* (Krzysztof Honowski)

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 death of cinemas in rural regions in Saxony. "film.land.sachsen" is based at the Filmverband Sachsen, other partners are the Saxon film festivals FILMFEST DRESDEN, DOK Leipzig, Filmfestival SCHLINGEL, Kurzsuechtig, Neißer Filmfestival as well as the AG Animationsfilm and the DIAF. The goal is to find committed comrades-in-arms throughout the state in order to multiply the film-cultural offerings. These can be individuals with an affinity for film or cultural actors, such as socio-cultural centers, youth centers or other alternative cultural spaces.

In 2020, AG Kurzfilm provided the program AHOJ NACHBARN! for the program pool of "film.land.sachsen". This program gathers three German and three Czech short films - these are some favorite films from the past FEINKOŠT years. This program was still offered through film.land.sachsen in 2021 and shown in Hainichen.

*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 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 33rd FILMFEST DRESDEN, which took place in July 2021, all organizers jointly invited to the premises of the Filmnächte am Elbufer.

A keynote speech by Prof. Dr. Skadi Loist on the cultural significance of film festivals stimulated discussions.

In addition to FILMFEST DRESDEN, the AG Kurzfilm, the DIAF, the Filmverband Sachsen, the dresdner schmalfilmtage and, for the first time, the Move It Filmfestival traditionally invited guests to the reception. The aim of the reception was to present the different institutions together, to introduce their work, to encourage conversations and to offer a platform for networking between filmmakers and institutions.

## 1.2. Tenth nationwide SHORT FILM DAY



On December 21, 2021, the nationwide SHORT FILM DAY took place for the tenth time. As in previous years, the nationwide events were coordinated by the project team of AG Kurzfilm.

After almost no attendance events could take place in 2020 due to the nationwide lockdown, the KURZFILMTAG in its anniversary year was also marked by the Corona pandemic and the accompanying restrictions on public life. Due to the regionally different circumstances - in Saxony, for example, all cultural venues were closed - the organizers had to react very differently to the situation. From mid-November, more and more events were canceled. Despite more than 100 cancellations, **231 KURZFILMTAG events** could be counted, which can be considered a success in view of the difficult circumstances.

For the anniversary edition, the SHORT FILM DAY team had filmmaker Erik Schmitt produce six trailers that amusingly address the question **"What's better when it's short?"** which were distributed via social media as well as cinema advertising. Among others, Yvonne Catterfeld and Bjarne Mädel were part of the cast. In addition, the SHORT FILM DAY published

congratulatory videos from long-time partners, organizers and former ambassadors on Facebook, Instagram and the newly created blog "News" on the SHORT FILM DAY website.

For the first time, the SHORT FILM DAY went into an extension: from December 22-31, short film enthusiasts could watch film programs in the digital theaters of cinemas that are part of the Cinemalovers network as part of the **SHORT FILM DAYplus**. Cinemalovers is a solidarity-based streaming platform that enables real cinemas in Germany to expand their offerings into the digital space.

The AG Kurzfilm actively searched for organizers, established contacts, networked program providers, cinemas and filmmakers and coordinated the uniform advertising and press work. For better localization, there were five regional coordinators who specifically took care of acquisition and networking on site.

All events were advertised on the homepage [www.kurzfilmtag.com](http://www.kurzfilmtag.com), on Facebook and on Instagram. The team of the AG Kurzfilm was available to the organizers for all questions regarding the SHORT FILM DAY.

### 1.3. "Short film to the cinema!"



The overriding goal of this work focus is to inspire more cinema operators to program short films.

AG Kurzfilm has made it its business to inform cinemas about the FFA's screening subsidies for short films as supporting films and for short film programs. 2021 was a very difficult year for the cinema industry as a whole. As a result, short film activities here could also only be pushed forward to a limited extent.

The KINO film theater congress - normally a fixed date in the spring calendar - was held online in 2021. Together with the Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg and interfilm Berlin, the online portal of the congress offered appointments for cinema operators and presented the AG Kurzfilm's offers for cinemas as well as the portfolio of distributors with trailers and digital information flyers.



In September, the Filmkunstmesse, the most important industry event for the arthouse cinema scene in Germany, was fortunately able to take place on site in Leipzig on a largely regular basis.

Traditionally, the supporting film test "Kurz vor Film" is an important program item of the Filmkunstmesse. In cooperation with interfilm Berlin and the Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg, AG Kurzfilm presented a program of short films that were particularly well suited as supporting films. The aim was to inspire the cinema industry and the public to use short films as supporting films.

The audience was again invited to vote for their favorite. For the first time, two films scored exactly the same number of points and thus became equal winners of the evening: CUCKOO by Jürgen Scholtens (NL) and UZI by Dina Velikovskaya (RU/DE), both 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.

Together with the DFF - Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum, AG Kurzfilm was also the initiator of a workshop at the Filmkunstmesse: The Cinemini Europe project, which aims to introduce the youngest target group of 3 to 6-year-olds to the world of film in curated, thematic short film programs, was presented. Likewise, CinEd, in which the DFF together with the German Film Academy invites children and young people aged 6-19 to discover European film classics.

## 2. Representing the interests of short film abroad

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

### 2.1. Presence at international film markets

In 2021, 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. These were severely affected by the Corona pandemic and took place predominantly online.

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



The AG Kurzfilm has been present at the world's most important festival for short film, the Festival du Court Métrage Clermont-Ferrand, since 2003, with its own stand at the film market since 2004.

This took place in 2021 in an online version. The AG Kurzfilm had adapted its traditional offers for this purpose.

The market screening *Matinée Allemande*, which presents a selection of current German short films for interested professional visitors every year, was available for online viewing. Also screened as on the film market were the

latest editions of the *Soirée Allemande* / SHORT EXPORT program and the Emerging Artists program (see point 2.3.).

In 2021, the following films were presented at the *Matinée Allemande*:

*SCHIFFE MIT WAREN UND STOFFEN AUS ALLER WELT STOSSEN MIT IHREN WELLEN*  
*DIE BIBBY CHALLENGE AN* (Adnan Softic); *ALTÖTTING* (Andreas Hykade), *DUNKELFELD*  
 (Marian Mayland, Ole-Kristian Heyer, Patrick Lohse); *ALL HER DYING LOVERS* (Anna Benner,  
 Eluned Zoe Aiano), *SUGAR* (Bjørn Melhus); *DIESER FILM HEIßT AUS RECHTLICHEN*  
*GRÜNDEN BREAKING BERT* (Anne Isensee); *Klusā daba* (Anna Ansone), *LABOR OF LOVE*  
 (Sylvia Schedelbauer)

The popular party "The German Fest" was also brought into the digital space: with an online quiz and a reception in a lovingly and wittily designed virtual room, an attempt was made to create some authentic festival atmosphere.

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. Euro Connection is a platform for European producers whose portfolio includes the development of short films as European co-productions. Producers meet there with representatives of funding agencies and TV stations to look for potential cooperation partners. A network of contact persons in the more than 20 partner countries is responsible for selecting the projects that are proposed to the international selection jury in Clermont-Ferrand. The jury then decides which projects will be invited to pitch. The AG Kurzfilm is responsible for coordinating the selection of the German project that can be proposed for presentation in Clermont-Ferrand. In 2020 the German project proposal *GIRL DOG CANCER SPACE* by Kiana Naghshineh was unfortunately not selected for pitching.

## b) European Film Market / Berlinale



Under the umbrella of German Films, AG Kurzfilm presented its current project portfolio within its digital booth at the European Film Market, addressing industry representatives, filmmakers, producers, distributors as well as festivals and providing information and contacts on all aspects of German short film.

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



From July 6 to 15, 2021, the AG Kurzfilm together with German Films presented the current German short film production in the German Pavilion at the virtual Marché du Film in Cannes. Among other things, the new compilation "German Short Films Part 2 2021" was presented, whose films can again be viewed via the AG Kurzfilm online preview. In Cannes, the compilation was available for viewing at the Short Film Corner, the industry platform in Cannes for short film. This also took place in hybrid form from July 12-16, 2021.

Film selection for viewing compilation „German Short Films 2021 – Part 2“:

*27 SCHRITTE* (Andrea Schramm); *AÏCHA* (Faraz Shariat, Laura Bleck); *BITING THE DUST* (Art Collective NEOZOON); *EIN OZEAN* (Paul Scheffler); *GENOSSE TITO, ICH ERBE* (Olga Kosanovic); *LIEBE, PFLICHT & HOFFNUNG* (Maximilian Conway); *MONA & PARVIZ* (Kevin Biele); *SALIDAS* (Michael Fetter Nathansky); *POMMES PARADIES* (Paulo Menezes); *THE DOOR OF RETURN* (Anna Zhukovets, Kokutekeleza Musebeni); *THEORIE UND PRAXIS* (Leonie Minor)

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



The MIFA film market, affiliated with the most important festival for animated film, the Festival International du Film d'Animation in Annecy, also took place in digital form in June 2021.

The traditional joint booth of AG Kurzfilm and German Films at MIFA (MARCHÉ INTERNATIONAL DU FILM D'ANIMATION)

this time offered information on the German animation scene in virtual form for interested trade visitors.

There, for the 15th time, AG Kurzfilm in cooperation with German Films presents the new viewing compilation New German Animations, which could be seen for the first time at the MIFA Partner Screenings. For the first time, the compilation with 14 short animated films was not released as a DVD in 2021, but can be viewed exclusively via AG Kurzfilm's online preview. The offer is aimed at festival representatives, curators and buyers.

Film selection for viewing compilation „New German Animations“:  
*EXTRACTION* (Till Nowak); *FAMILIE ZILLA MACHT PICKNICK* (Christian Franz Schmidt);  
*REVOLYKUS* (Victor Orozco Ramirez); *THE LOST WEDDING RING* (Elisabeth Jakobi);  
*PEOPLE in MOTION* (Christoph Lauenstein); *BENZTOWN* (Gottfried Mentor); *JEIJAY*  
 (Maren Wiese, Petra Stipetic); *ES GEHT UM MÜLL* (Lisa Meier); *DOOM CRUISE* (Hannah  
 Stragholz, Simon Steinhorst); *NIGHT* (Ahmad Saleh); *STEAKHOUSE* (Špela Cadež);  
*JEROBOAM* (Bianca Caderas); *BIS ZUM LETZTEN TROPFEN* (Simon Schnellmann);  
*BESEDER* (Gil Alkabetz)

e) Cooperation with T-Port

Registered users can view almost all short films from the new compilations (German Short Films Part 2 and New German Animations) on the industry platform T-Port for 12 months.

f) Torino Short Film Market

As part of the sixth Torino Short Film Market organized by the Italian Short Film Center, a selection of current German short films was presented for the third time in the Video Library of the Film Market in early December. 2021 Torino Short Film Market counted over 450 accredited professional visitors. For this event, AG Kurzfilm selected 22 short films: 11 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 11 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 starting November 2021.

As part of the professional program, a panel organized by the AG Kurzfilm in cooperation with the TSFM took place on December 1, 2021 on the topic of **Short Film Audiences: Where and How to Find Them?** The professional visitors were able to gain an overview of successful formats and initiatives in the field of audience development with short films. Four keynotes gave insights into the concrete fields of work:

1. short film in the ÖRR with a focus on ARTE,
2. the German short film festival landscape with a focus on FILMFEST DRESDEN,
3. short films in German cinemas with a focus on short film distribution and
4. raising awareness for short films and reaching new target groups using the example of the nationwide KURZFILMTAG.

The keynotes were presented by Jana Cernik (AG Kurzfilm), Catherine Colas (ZDF/ARTE), Anne Gaschütz (FILMFEST DRESDEN) and Stine Wangler (Kurzfilm Verleih Hamburg). The second part of the panel consisted of a discussion with Italian representatives from the fields of festival, distribution and TV: Flavio Armone (Lights On), Simone Bardoni (Concorto Film Festival), Lia Fuxhi (Centro del Corto - Italian Short Film Center), Manuela Rima (Rai Cinema).

The panel was supported by Creative Europe Desk Italy and Creative Europe Desk Berlin-Brandenburg.

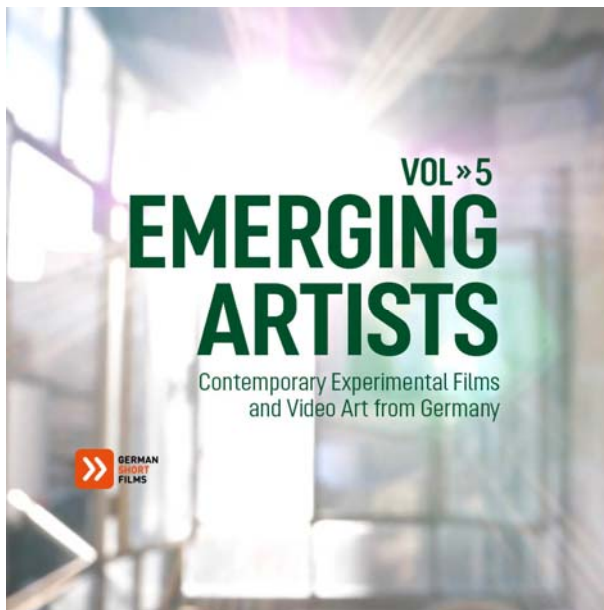
## 2.2. Festival service

The everyday business of the AG Kurzfilm office in Dresden in fiscal year 2021 again included processing or forwarding inquiries from a wide variety of festivals.

Essentially, these inquiries result from the presence at the international film markets in Clermont-Ferrand, Berlin, Cannes and Annecy. Every year, the AG Kurzfilm publishes viewing compilations (since 2021 only online, before that viewing DVDs), which reach the professional audience at the international film markets.

## 2.3. Short film programs abroad

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



For the first time in 2012, AG Kurzfilm - at the suggestion of its association members - put together a program in cooperation with German Films dedicated exclusively to young experimental film and video art in Germany. With this program, 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 program is launched every 2 years. In 2021, the fifth edition had its online premiere as part of the Stuttgart Filmwinter.

In the current year 2021, the program was shown in Germany and abroad: for example, as part of festivals, in Goethe Institutes or with their partners, and also in individual cinemas. The program was shown in about 10 locations.

In some cases, the participating artists also traveled to present the program and the films in person.

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 extraordinary project was initiated by a Franco-German cooperation group consisting of AG Kurzfilm - Bundesverband Deutscher Kurzfilm, the Goethe-Institut Lyon, Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg, German Films and the festival

management in Clermont-Ferrand. The films of the short film program are selected by the partners from over 450 German festival submissions for the festival in Clermont-Ferrand.

As part of the online version of the Marché du film court, the six selected films were made available for viewing in the Video Library for twelve months. In addition, a public online premiere of the program with live Q&A took place in early March in collaboration with the cooperation partners. The event was very well attended with 70 viewers.

Afterwards, the program went on the road with German, French, Spanish and English subtitles under the name "SHORT EXPORT - Made in Germany". As an alternative for events not taking place on site due to the corona pandemic, the online version was still available. In some cases, there were also online question rounds with the filmmakers and in the fall, additional trips of the filmmakers to screenings within Europe were organized.

In total, 36 screenings of the SHORT EXPORT 2021 short film program took place in 2021 in cooperation with Goethe-Instituts worldwide on 5 continents, with 14 events held online. For the edition, 27 Goethe-Instituts could be won as partners. For the first time, Portuguese subtitles were also created in cooperation with the Centro Cultural Brasil - Alemanha in Recife.

The management of the project, including the coordination of subtitling and DCP production, as well as the conclusion of license agreements with the producers and the acquisition of the organizers, was the responsibility of the AG Kurzfilm.

Film selection 2021: *INNDEPENDENCE* (Michael Schwarz); *WOCHENBETT* (Henriette Rietz); *DER ÜBERS MEER KAM* (Jonas Riemer); *SEEPFERDCHEN* (Nele Dehnenkamp); *DER SCHORNSTEINSEGLER* (Frédéric Schuld); *MASEL TOV COCKTAIL* (Arkadij Khaet, Mickey Paatzsch)

#### 2.4. Grants for travel expenses, additional copies and subtitles

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 participation in a competition at a foreign festival. Processing and approval of applications is done by the office in consultation with German Films, and billing is handled by German Films. Of course, much fewer festival trips could take place in 2021, as fewer festivals were held locally worldwide. A total of 20 applications for travel support or DCP or subtitle support were granted in 2021.

If trips could take place, the filmmakers take info material from AG Kurzfilm 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 ([www.ag-kurzfilm.de](http://www.ag-kurzfilm.de)). 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 policy 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 on the film industry's highest body since 2013, representing 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 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 our film policy lobbying is to improve funding conditions for short films with regard to production, exploitation and distribution. On the occasion of the amendment of the cultural guidelines, the AGK has written a statement. (Link: <https://cdn.ag-kurzfilm.de/stellungnahme-ag-kurzfilm-bkm-richtlinienie-2021.pdf>)

The AG Kurzfilm researched and informed extensively on the relocation or online orientation of festivals, not least in order to avert a worse position of filmmakers vis-à-vis film policy, e.g. with regard to reference funding.

Since 2020, AG Kurzfilm has been one of the nine associations and organizations that, under the name INITIATIVE ZUKUNFT KINO + FILM (IZK+F), have been working on film policy at various levels for an equal perception of culture and business in film and cinema. For the Bundestag elections, together with IZK+F, the association developed election checkpoints as a film culture check and sent them to seven parties: <https://cdn.ag-kurzfilm.de/izkf-wahlpruefsteine-bundestagswahl21-zusammenfassung.pdf>

As part of the Netzwerk Kultur Dresden, AG Kurzfilm was also involved in a joint statement on the culture lockdown: <https://cdn.ag-kurzfilm.de/stellungnahme-lockdown-ii.pdf>.

##### a) Short film on television

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

The federal association is in regular contact with the editors of the MDR short film magazine Unicato, and suggests films for thematic focuses, for example.

##### 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 working for years to make greater use of this potential.

The film policy theme during the anniversary year in 2022 will therefore also be "Short Film and School".

As part of its new cooperation with the German Film Institute and Film Museum (DFF), KURZFILTAG has added various short film programs for the very young to its lineup. These short film programs were developed as part of the European film education project Cinemini Europe 2 under the name CINEMINI ON TOUR and have already been extensively tested with groups of kindergarten children from all over Europe.

### 3.2. Cultural policy lobbying

Since the end of February 2017, 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 specialist committees.

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 civic engagement and the culture of democratic discourse.

### 3.3. Overview committee work / jury work

Jana Cernik represented the AG Kurzfilm

- on the Board of Directors of the FFA
- in the Presidium 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
- Initiative Future Cinema + Film
- Panel Digital Change in the Film and Cinema Landscape Poetry Film Festival Zebra

Jutta Wille represented the AG Kurzfilm in the

- German Media Council - Film, Broadcasting and Audiovisual Media of the German Cultural Council as well as in the Expert Committees Copyright, Media and Education of the German Cultural Council
- until the end of her appointment in spring 2021 on the advisory board film of the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony

Alexandra Gramatke (Member of the Board of Directors) 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

- member of the selection committee at Kurzsuechtig - Central German Short Film Festival
- expert on the panel for short film promotion at the Festival of Animation Berlin