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# **Berlin Film Festival 2017: Screen's top 11 movies**

21 February, 2017 | By Screen staff

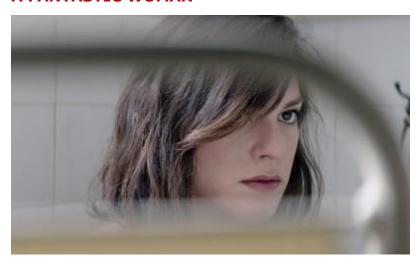


Screen critics recommend the top films at this year's Berlinale.

Read more:

**Berlin Film Festival 2017: winners revealed** 

# **A FANTASTIC WOMAN**



Dir: Sebastián Lelio

**Our critic said:** "Driven by a powerhouse performance by mesmerising transgender actress Vega, the fifth feature from Sebastián Lelio combines urgent naturalism with occasional flickers of fantasy to impressive, and wrenchingly emotional effect."

International sales: Funny Balloons <a href="mailto:contact@funny-balloons.com">contact@funny-balloons.com</a>

# **Read the full review HERE**

#### **HAVE A NICE DAY**



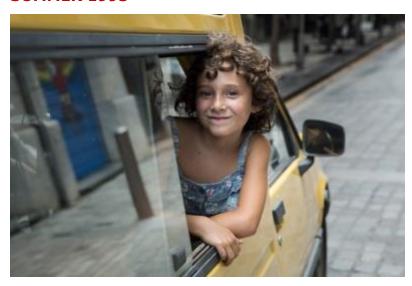
Dir. Liu Jian

**Our critic said:** "Liu Jian's stunning animation is both a visceral thriller and astute political statement about China's place in the modern world."

**International sales:** International sales: Memento Films International <u>sales@memento-films.com</u>

## **Read the full review HERE**

#### **SUMMER 1993**



Dir. Carla Simón

**Our critic said:** "Entered in the Berlinale's Generation Kplus sidebar but winner of the festival's overall best first feature award, Catalan director Carla Simon's debut is both tender and determined as it relates a tale of a young orphan trying to fit in with a new family."

International sales: New Europe Film Sales, jan@neweuropefilmsales.com

## **Read the full review HERE**

# THE OTHER SIDE OF HOPE



Dir. Aki Kaurismaki

**Our critic said:** "All the familiar Kaurismaki trademarks are here in this story of a Syrian refugee in Helsinki, be it the dry, laconic humor, the spare unadorned images, the old-fashioned tuners sprinkled all through the picture and even a brief guest performance by his favorite star, Kati Outinen."

**International sales:** The Match Factory (info@matchfactory.de)

# **Read the full review HERE**

#### **THE PARTY**



The Party

Dir. Sally Potter

**Our critic said:** "While ostensibly decidedly mainstream – or at least, affecting a mainstream guise – The Party is a crisp, energetic, highly compact (at 71 minutes) comedy, and the most enjoyable film yet from a director whose conceptual seriousness has often seemed daunting."

International sales: Great Point Media, info@greatpointmedia.com

# **Read the full review HERE**

# **INSYRIATED**



Dir: Philippe Van Leeuw

**Our critic said:** "Set entirely in a Damascus apartment under siege from a world in conflict, this tautly-constructed, intensely claustrophobic drama offers a sometimes nerve-shredding depiction of what happens when conflict impinges on domestic space."

International sales: Films Boutique, contact@filmsboutique.com

# **Read the full review HERE**

#### **HOSTAGES**



Hostages

Dir: Rezo Gigineishvili

**Our critic said:** "It's a breathlessly tense piece of work, which suggests that Gigineishvili is developing into a talent to watch in the arthouse circuit."

**International sales:** WestEnd films <a href="mailto:info@westendfilms.com">info@westendfilms.com</a>

## **Read the full review HERE**

## **TIGER GIRL**



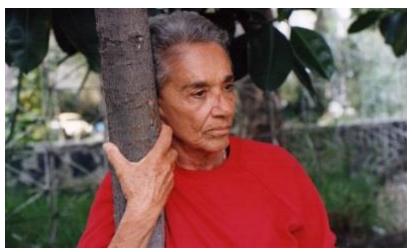
Dir: Jakob Lass

**Our critic said:** "With its nervy, caffeinated camerawork; saturated palette of dayglo and neon, stylised violence and the good-girl-gone-bad trajectory, this feels like an adrenalised blend of Celine Sciamma's Girlhood, Thelma And Louise and just a touch of Tank Girl."

**International sales:** Picture Tree International <a href="mailto:pti@picturetree-international.com">pti@picturetree-international.com</a>

## **Read the full review HERE**

# **CHAVELA (DOCUMENTARY)**



Chavela

Dirs: Catherine Gund, Daresha Kyi

**Our critic said:** "This depiction of the Mexican singer Chavela Vargas' chequered life turns out intensely celebratory, and will send fans and newcomers alike rushing to the back catalogue of a great vocalist."

International sales: Latido Films, <a href="mailto:latido@latidofilms.com">latido@latidofilms.com</a>

# **Read the full review HERE**

# **DEVIL'S FREEDOM (DOCUMENTARY)**



Dir: Everardo Gonzalez

**Our critic said:** "The full horrors of life in modern Mexico are revealed in *Devil's Freedom (La Libertad del diablo)*, a gripping documentary filled with vivid eye-witness testimony from a country where violence is commonplace, corruption is endemic and life is so cheap that it can be terminated for as little as ten dollars."

International sales: Films Boutique contact@filmsboutique.com

# **Read the full review HERE**

# **LOVING PIA**



Dir: Daniel Borgman

**Our critic said:** "Daniel Borgman's slow no-budget hybrid plays like a documentary as it explores the subtle rhythms of attachment and the fear of loss."

**International sales:** Adomeit Film <a href="mailto:katja@adomeitfilm.com">katja@adomeitfilm.com</a>

# **Read the full review HERE**

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