

## 11mm - 15. International Football Film Festival

**Festival-Focus “Football & Power”  
“British Day of Football and Film”  
Retrospective “Football in World Cup host country Russia”  
Inaugural Jury Prize “Football Film of the Year”**

### Press Release

**Berlin, February 5th 2018**

The 15th 11mm International Football Film Festival will take place between the 22nd and the 26th of March. The festival presents more than 60 films which shine a light on the cultural and historical background of football.

*“We are especially pleased to have received a record number of submissions, with over 200 football films sent in,” says Birger Schmidt. “It’s a clear sign that the genre of football film is booming, and that the social importance of sport is garnering ever more attention in cinema.”*

### Opening Gala

The festival will open with a screening of the film “The Workers’ Cup”. US filmmaker Adam Sobel reports on the impoverished lives of the foreign workers grafting on building sites in Qatar to construct the stadiums for the 2022 World Cup. Football provides a singular escape from the labourers’ dreary existence, when they are permitted to take part in one of the workers’ tournaments organised by FIFA.

### Festival Focus: “Football & Power”

The first film is also an introduction to the special focus of this year’s festival. The films in the “Football & Power” collection examine encounters between autocratic or dictatorial societies, and football. “The films seek to explore forms of state influence and instrumentalisation of sport,” explains festival director Birgit Schmidt. “They also address democratic states’ approach to past, current, and future footballing events.”

The films in this collection are set in, or originate from, Argentina, Brazil, the GDR, Iran, Qatar, North Korea, Romania, and Russia.

The project is presented by Kooperative Berlin, 11mm, and Lernort Stadion, and financed by the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung) and the Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Eastern Germany (Bundesstiftung zur Aufarbeitung der SED-Diktatur).

### „British Day of Football and Film“

In co-operation with the British Council, Great Britain’s international organisation for cultural relations, 11mm presents the “British Day of Football and Film.” On the 24th March, the programme will include current British documentaries and feature films, and numerous international guests are expected at Kino Babylon.

### “Football in World Cup host country Russia”

The upcoming World Cup is also a central focus of this year’s international football film festival. Together with the Russian House of Science and Culture, 11mm presents a retrospective comprised of 9 films from the tournament’s host country.

### New Main Prize

In its 15th edition, the first and biggest festival of its kind in the world is pleased to announce the inaugural Jury Prize for the “Football Film of the Year”. Six international productions will compete for 11mm’s new main prize, which will be awarded by a jury of celebrity football personalities.

### 11mm shortkicks Gala

As always, the festival will close with the 11mm shortkicks Gala on Monday 26th March. The event will consist of screenings of the best short football films of the year, followed by the award ceremony for the prizes from this year’s festival.

The full festival programme will be published online at [11-mm.de](http://11-mm.de) on the 1st of March. The festival is once again presented by the DFB-KulturStiftung, and co-sponsored by Volkswagen and Ampelmann.

### About 11mm

11mm was founded by Brot & Spiele e.V. in Berlin in 2004 as the first football film festival in the world. It now takes place every year in March, and maintains long-standing partnerships with other festivals around the world, including CINEfoot (Rio de Janeiro), Offside Fest (Barcelona), and Flutlicht (Basel). Away trips have also become a feature of the festival since its inception. As well as three World Cup and European Championship tours, 11mm staged its first ‘away’ festival in Mannheim in 2017, which will also be take place again in 2018. 11mm has been a partner of the German Football Museum in Dortmund since 2016.

This year, the festival is again presented by the DFB-KulturStiftung.

Information: [www.11-mm.de](http://www.11-mm.de)

Tickets: [www.babylonberlin.de](http://www.babylonberlin.de)

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