

## **"Diego Maradona" by Oscar-winning film director Asif Kapadia wins the jury prize at the 17. international football film festival 11mm in Berlin**

PRESS RELEASE

Berlin, 20. Oktober 2020

### **The audience award "Goldene 11" goes to "Das Wunder von Taipeh" The German - Palestinian coproduction "Maradona's Legs" wins the short film award "Shortkicks 2020"**

The award-winning documentary "Diego Maradona" by the British film director Asif Kapadia adds another award to his collection: the jury, consisting of Katrin Müller-Hohenstein, Almuth Schult, Jonas Hummels, Aljoscha Pause and Svend Rybner chose the film for this year's 11mm jury prize. The latest film by Kapadias completes his trilogy, together with his masterpieces Senna and Amy.

In "Diego Maradona", Kapadia focuses on the spectacular years Maradona spent with the SSC Neapel, where he was celebrating sensationally two championships and the UEFA-Cup victory, before he had to leave the city head over heels as a fallen superstar, deeply lost in the swamp of drugs and Camorra. "Having Asif Kapadia with us via livestream, talking in detail about the making of the film obviously was one of the highlights of this year's festival," says festival director Christoph Gabler.

Aljoscha Pause, member of the jury resumes: "Diego Maradona does not only show DIEGO and MARADONA. For me, this approach alone is an ingenious trick. There is Diego as the private individual - the accessible, sensitive, almost incredibly friendly, natural and authentic human being. And we see Maradona, the artificial character, the star, the fabrication, the projection screen, the last dehumanised icon - the mutant."

It fits in the picture that 11 mm was organised as hybrid festival for the first time, due to COVID 19: over 20 films were available via 11mm online-stream during the 5 days of the festival. These films have been streamed online over 300 times a day. The festival opening with the documentary "Men of Hope" by the Cologne-based filmmakers Till Derenbach and Andreas Fröhlich, and the short film gala 11mm Shortkicks were also available as live-stream.

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The German - Palestinian coproduction "Maradona's Legs" (Ijrain Maradona) by Firas Khoury won the short film award "Shortkicks 2020". The story of the missing lower body of Maradona in a Panini football picture album during the World Cup in 1990, mostly based on true incidents, brought back special memories for jury member Pierre Littbarski: "I actually played against them", the World Champion muses about his former fellow players and counterparts, who appear only as collected stickers in the short film. The producer Zorana Musikic received the prize on stage at the Babylon Cinema.

In addition to Pierre Littbarski, members of this year's shortkicks jury were Thomas Preiss (Founder of Common Goal-Initiative), Christine Watty (radio station Deutschlandfunk Kultur), Taner Sahintürk (actor) und Paul Keuter (Hertha BSC).

The audience award "Golden 11" went to "Das Wunder von Taipeh", by the Cologne-based filmmaker John David Seidler. The documentary tells the amazing story of women's team SSG 09 Bergisch-Gladbach; completely unexpected, they won the women's World Cup in 1981 in Taipei / Taiwan as unofficial German national team.

"This film is a must for every German football fan. Because it tells the story about how long - indeed! football is loved by women in this country, how it has been their lived experience, how it did or did not work out. And this story is told with wonderful archive material and on the basis of the pioneer's memories," says Birger Schmidt, the festival director.

"It was definitely the most difficult festival in our 16 year history" festival director Christoph Gabler remarks, since the festival had to be cancelled at short notice in March, due to the COVID 19 lockdown. "And of course, our festival has suffered from numerous cancellations of our guests and from the decline in visitor numbers in general. And yet, there were so many moving events and appreciative feedbacks by filmmakers, visitors, and sponsors which made us feel really good about having accomplished this event against all odds."

Especially our main sponsors, DFB-KulturStiftung, Volkswagen, DAZN, and Hertha BSC Berlin gave quite early the green light for supporting the event in Cinema Babylon Berlin.



# 11mm



17<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL FILM FESTIVAL BERLIN

EIN PROJEKT VON BROT & SPIELE E.V.  
VEREIN FÜR SPORT UND KULTUR

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## About 11mm

11mm was founded in 2004 by Brot & Spiele e.V. in Berlin as the first football film festival worldwide. It now takes place for five days, usually in March, in the Berlin cinema Babylon. After three World Cup and European Championship tours and various guest performances at home and abroad, 11mm has also been a partner of the FIFA Museum in Zurich and the German Football Museum in Dortmund since 2016.

## More information:

[11-mm.de](http://11-mm.de) [facebook.com/11millimeter](https://facebook.com/11millimeter) [twitter.com/11mm](https://twitter.com/11mm) [instagram.com/11mmfestival](https://instagram.com/11mmfestival)

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