Press Release

Berlinale Camera 2019: Honouring Sandra Schulberg, Wieland Speck, Agnès Varda and Herrmann Zschoche

Since 1986, the Berlinale Camera has been awarded to individuals and institutions that have a connection with the festival and have made an extraordinary contribution to the world of filmmaking. It is a way of showing gratitude towards those who have become friends and supporters of the Berlinale.

The 69th Berlin International Film Festival sees four individuals honoured with the Berlinale Camera: US producer and IFP founder Sandra Schulberg, Wieland Speck, who headed the Berlinale's *Panorama* section for many years, French filmmaker Agnès Varda, and German director and screenwriter Herrmann Zschoche.

Sandra Schulberg, Founder of the IFP (Independent Filmmaker Project) (USA)

Sandra Schulberg, a long-time activist on behalf of filmmakers working outside the Hollywood studios, is being recognized by the Berlinale for her 40 years of service to the field. Schulberg founded the Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP) in 1979, and one year later co-founded the independent distribution company First Run Features. In 2008 she launched IndieCollect, a national campaign to save indie films from extinction. She also serves on the advisory committee of the Women's Film Preservation Fund, established by New York Women in Film & Television.

Alongside her advocacy and film restoration, Schulberg has been a working producer, with three of her movies premiering at the Berlinale: Beth B's *Exposed* (*Panorama* 2013), Philip Kaufman's Oscar-nominated *Quills* (*Competition* 2000) and John Hanson's *Wildrose* (*Panorama* 1984).

In 2004, the Berlinale also premiered her special series *Selling Democracy: Films of the Marshall Plan*, curated with Dr. Rainer Rother. In 2010, the Berlinale unveiled her restoration of *Nuremberg: Its Lesson For Today* (1948/2009), which documents the first Nuremberg Trial and was directed by her father, Stuart Schulberg. It was screened in the *Berlinale Special* programme.

Marking the 40th anniversary of the IFP, Sandra Schulberg is being awarded the Berlinale Camera at the *EFM*. The ceremony takes place on Friday, February 8, at 11.30 am at the Gropius Bau Cinema.

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Wieland Speck, Head of the *Panorama* Section of Many Years (Germany)

Wieland Speck's curatorial work in no small measure helped establish the *Panorama* section as a platform for independent and challenging cinema. Since the mid-1970s, Speck has been involved in film and video in a variety of capacities, and has worked as both author and publisher.
As a director, screenwriter and producer, he has numerous film and television productions to his name, and his credits as an actor include films by David Hemmings, Robert van Ackeren, Ulrike Ottinger and Ian Pringle. He has also worked at a large number of film institutions and festivals.
In 1982 he joined the *Panorama* section of the Berlinale – back then still known as *Info-Schau* - as assistant to section head Manfred Salzgeber. It was in this capacity that he established the world's first queer film prize, the TEDDY AWARD, in 1987. In 1992 Wieland Speck took over as section head, remaining in this position until 2017. During his years at the *Panorama*, he not only programmed but defined the section - formally, thematically and geographically. In 1999, Speck gave audiences a voice with the introduction of the *Panorama* Audience Award, awarded annually to one documentary and one feature film.
The *Panorama* 40 special programme, jointly curated with his long-standing colleague Andreas Struck to mark the section's 40th anniversary, is Wieland Speck's Berlinale swan song.
The Berlinale Camera will be presented to Wieland Speck on Sunday, February 10, at 5.15 pm at the *Panorama* reception, held at the Meistersaal. The laudatory speech will be given by Rajendra Roy, Chief Curator of Film at MoMA and member of this year's International Jury.

Agnès Varda, Filmmaker (Belgium / France)

Agnès Varda is one of the most important contemporary francophone filmmakers. She started out as a theatre photographer in Paris before shooting her first feature film, *La Pointe Courte*, in 1954, with no prior filmmaking experience. Through Alain Resnais, who edited the film, Varda first came into contact with the circle surrounding the Cahiers du Cinéma, who would later go on to form the core of the French Nouvelle Vague. Her fellow artists would soon include Chris Marker and Jacques Demy. In 1961 her film *Cléo de 5 à 7* (*Cléo from 5 to 7*) premiered at Cannes and put her firmly on the radar of fans of new French cinema. 1967 saw Varda working alongside Claude Lelouch, Jean-Luc Godard and Chris Marker on the documentary *Loin du Vietnam* (*Far from Vietnam*). To date, Varda has made numerous feature and documentary films, for which she has received multiple awards and honours, including at the

major festivals in Venice, Cannes and Berlin. Her latest film, the documentary *Visages, villages* (*Faces Places*), made in collaboration with French artist JR, was nominated for the 2018 Oscar for Best Documentary Feature.

Agnès Varda has been a guest of the Berlinale several times, including four times at *Competition*. In 1965 she was awarded the Grand Jury Prize for *Le Bonheur*. Her most recent visit was in 2004, when she showed her short film *Le lion volatil* at *Berlinale Special*.

The Berlinale Camera will be presented to Agnès Varda on Wednesday, February 13, at 3.30 pm at the Berlinale Palast. This will be followed by the world premiere of Varda's documentary *Varda par Agnès* (*Varda by Agnès*), screened out of competition in the section *Competition*.

The laudatory speech will be given by Christoph Terhechte, who headed the Berlinale's *Forum* section for many years.

Herrmann Zschoche, director and screenwriter (Germany)

Herrmann Zschoche had a fundamental impact on cinema in the GDR as a DEFA film director – both with his children's and youth films, and through his critical filmic portrayals of contemporary society.

He started his professional career as an assistant and camera operator with the GDR's state broadcaster. From 1954 to 1959 he studied film directing at the Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen "Konrad Wolf" (today known as Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF), before starting work as an assistant director at the DEFA film studios. He directed his first solo feature, *Das Märchenschloß* (*The Fairy-Tale Castle*), in 1961. The social critique in his 1965 drama *Karla*, for which Ulrich Plenzdorf wrote the screenplay, led to the film's being banned and not shown to the public until 1990.

In the 1970s, Herrmann Zschoche started focussing predominantly on youth films, such as the widely acclaimed *Sieben Sommersprossen* (*Seven Freckles*, 1978) and *Insel der Schwäne* (*Swan Island*, 1983). In 2002 he published his autobiography, „Sieben Sommersprossen und andere Erinnerungen". After German reunification, Zschoche worked on a number of television productions, including *Tatort*, *Kommissar Rex* (*Inspector Rex*) and *Drei Damen vom Grill*.

The Berlinale Camera will be awarded to Herrmann Zschoche on Sunday, February 10, at 11.00 am at Kino International, followed by a *Berlinale Special* screening of his 1991 film adaptation of the novel "The Girl In The Lift" (Das Mädchen aus dem Fahrstuhl). The laudatory speech will be given by Dieter Kosslick.

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Made by Düsseldorf-based goldsmith Georg Hornemann, the Berlinale Camera consists of 128 individual components and is modelled on a real film camera.

Press Office
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