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From the Heart; not from Hollywood

The 4th International Short Film Festival Detmold links perspective and culture.

By Christine Dick
Translated by Anita Chaumette

Detmold. Festival Director Levent Arslan snaps his fingers. The lights go out. The film begins. This weekend, 200 short films from 55 countries were presented in Germany, all of them about 'what's important in life'.

It's Saturday night. The giant screen is showing an underwater light spectacle: 'the Colours of Fish', that Anita and Guy Chaumette have filmed on the coral reef. If lit by a UV light, certain marine animals absorb the blue, then shine an entirely different, vibrant colour back! Fluorescence is a colourful phenomenon that the Filmmakers have brought from the Fiji Islands all the way to the Film Festival in Germany. But what's going on? "Colour is the Language of the Fish", says Anita. Meanwhile, Guy shares the obstacles of the underwater film set, where the Filmmakers cant hide, yet cant be seen either. "You have to find a way to relate; to be accepted by the fish", says Guy. Following years of observation, countless dives and numerous International Film Awards, the fishes shades of colour are here, shimmering for the people of Detmold.

"They're truly making films from the heart," says Levent Arslan of Anita and Guy Chaumette. "That's why we really wanted them here with us".



The Colourful Language of the Fish: brought from Fiji by Filmmakers Anita & Guy Chaumette PHOTO: DICK

While the cold, warm lights swim across the giant screen, Arslan tells of the thousands of films that he received. "When the Producers are sincere and the films are emotive, then they're for us", he says. Levent Arslan recounts of moments, which moved him to tears.

"Film is my life", he says. "Nowhere else can you feel such strong and varied emotions". Film workshops are running in parallel with the Film Festival, where numerous young Filmmakers learn the tricks and secrets of lighting, editing and directing.

An international exchange programme is also running. Everything is digital; Students come together from all over the world to use the latest technology and realize their projects. Stories are shared; cultures and dreams come alive on the screen. Then Arslans phone rings.

He gathers his people together and heads back to the Stadthalle. To the films, to the stories, to the hearts of the public.