

AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF HAMBURG

CURRENTS

SEPTEMBER 2014

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The articles contained herein are written by members about their individual experiences and opinions. Material printed in *Currents* does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor, the *Currents* staff, or the AWC Hamburg. The editors and the Board have the right to edit and/or reject articles for publication that do not reflect the positive spirit and overall goals of our organization.

Please read with kindness and tolerance! Each columnist carefully proof-reads the articles submitted for her column. Errors are nevertheless sometimes overlooked. Please be aware that we are an international club, with American and British spelling differences, and many non-native English speakers. In addition, we are all volunteers and merely human!

Currents Magazine

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Dear Members,

summer is slowly fading, leaving us behind beautiful memories and a cinnamon kissed tan or a pale white bottom, like mine. Either way, it is time to get back to real life which is the every day life of beautiful Hamburg. Though I would love to groove and sing "back to life, back to reality" by Soul II Soul, I will just say: Welcome back, ladies.

To make transition to Hamburg life easier, the AWCH has a bunch of upcoming activities and events for you. Check out Carmen with the Opera Club, go have coffee with the German Kaffeeklatsch, which Sylvia organizes, or be active and join us for a walk around the Alster.

Have a great September, Ta-Ta, your currents editor, Karen



FAWCO Foundation Photo Contest

by Tracy M.



The “Backing Women” logo, which is being used for the 2014-2016 Target Project, was inspired from artwork donated by the renowned French artist Christian de Laubadère, whose collection of works “The Necks” depict the nape of the neck as a powerful symbol of strength and femininity.

How does “Backing Women” inspire you?

Contest entrants are asked to submit photo(s) conveying the message and spirit of the theme Backing Women.

The cost for photo submission is \$5 per photo with a maximum of three submissions allowed per person. Winning photographs will be featured during the Target Campaign through various promotional events and with products featuring the winning photographs.

ENTRANTS: Must be members of FAWCO, FAUSA and immediate family members.

TOPIC: Let your camera’s lens “paint” your own picture. Photos should reflect what “Backing Women” means to the photographer

SUBMISSION:

Deadline for Contest: October 30, 2014.

<http://www.fawcofoundation.org/fundraising-tools/backing-women/photo-competition.html>

FAWCO Target Project 2015 Update

\$50,000 in the first 4+ months have been collected for the Target Project Free The Girls!! Thank you to all the donors. Definitely something for all members of FAWCO to be proud of.



Educational Awards Program

Created by and for FAWCO clubs, the Education Awards Program has been recognizing excellence in academic achievement since 1972. The program elevates the profile of the recipients who have attained the highest standards through their hard work. FAWCO hopes to promote international understanding and goodwill by giving annual awards for study, in the US or abroad, at high school, undergraduate or graduate levels.

THE FAWCO FOUNDATION WILL OFFER A NEW MEMBERS’ AWARD “WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY” AS PART OF ITS EDUCATION AWARDS PROGRAM FOR 2015.

The award has been added to the 2015 Education Awards, which includes an Information Technology Award for Young Women, offered to the daughters of FAWCO Club Members.

This award is for the study of information technology, including

the study of computer and telecommunications systems, software and application development, information management, and mobile computing. Applications are offered to FAWCO club members. The program of study can include undergraduate or graduate university programs as well as non-academic and continuing education programs. The recipient will be announced in March 2015. The initial award will be \$3500 and will be fully funded by The FAWCO



Foundation in the first year. Digital technologies now pervading every business sector, girls and women who learn coding, apps development and computer science will have a significant advantage over their non-tech-trained peers, regardless of their chosen field.

FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation are committed to furthering the cause of gender equality and support the UN and

the IT industry's commitment to promoting women and "breaking the glass ceiling" of IT corporate management.

THE FAWCO FOUNDATION INCREASES THE AMOUNT OF THE DUAL CULTURAL AWARD

The FAWCO Foundation is pleased to announce that the 2015 Dual Cultural Award has been increased to \$3,000.

The Foundation recognizes that it is important for children living outside the US with an American parent and a parent of another nationality, to have the opportunity to experience education and life in America. The award may be used to

attend a semester of American high school or an academic or structured educational summer program in the United States. Children and grandchildren of FAWCO Club members who are from dual cultural families are eligible for this award. The recipient will be announced in March 2015

Since 1988, there have been 23 Dual Cultural Award recipients and a total of over \$36,000 has been granted to these exemplary young students. The award has been funded through donations to the FAWCO Foundation and for the past 8 years has been underwritten, in part by AWC Bern and by Donna Erismann in memory of Suzanne Erismann.



**Institut für Interkulturelle
Psychologische Beratung**

- You are in an international partnership.
- Your family speaks several languages.
- You are raising bilingual children.

Individuals, couples, and families living in a multinational environment are strong, creative, and courageous. At the same time, the many challenges they face necessitate a special approach in counselling. For that reason I founded IIPB – the Institute for Intercultural Psychological Counselling.

You have questions? Please feel free to contact

Anna Sizorina at

www.home-in-the-world.com

Institut für Interkulturelle

Psychologische Beratung

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ISRAEL: WHERE THE PAST MEETS THE PRESENT

by Brooke V.

Although Israel has been in the news a lot this summer, I have spent the summer talking about Israel for a much different reason – we had the chance to travel there in June! Israel is very fascinating in many ways, but what captured my interest the most was the Old City of Jerusalem. This 0.9 sq. km (0.35 sq mi.) area is home to some of the most devout people in the world, and contains several important historical sites. The Old City was originally built by King David in 1004 B.C. and is divided into four distinct quarters, the largest of which is the Muslim Quarter, followed by the Jewish Quarter, the Christian Quarter and the Armenian Quarter. A Moroccan Quarter was destroyed following the Six-Day War in 1967. The



Western Wall is likely the best-known part of the Jewish Quarter. Here Jewish men and women come to pray and some write these prayers on tiny pieces of paper, which are stuck in cracks in the walls. Interestingly, these prayers are not discarded, but are buried in the Mount of Olives (normally burials cost over \$20,000, so this is a cheap alternative!). If you go to the Western Wall on Mondays, you will likely see many Bar Mitzvahs being celebrated. Since men and women are segregated at the Western Wall, women must stand on chairs at the dividing wall to watch a Bar Mitzvah on the other side. One of my favorite parts of my Old City experience is that we were able to take an underground tour of the tunnels below the Western Wall; the original entrance to Jerusalem that pilgrims would take on their journey to the holy city. Another fascinating

part of the Old City is the market in the Muslim Quarter. The market is crammed full of pastries, meats, teas, coffees, clothing, souvenirs (One T-shirt read “Don’t worry America, we’ve got your back”) and almost anything else you can imagine. If you are serious about buying a more expensive item, you should try to barter with a few of the shop owners – they are very dedicated to their stores and can be fun to talk with. I loved the Suzani tapestries and learned a lot from the store owners about this textile, which comes primarily from the Central Asian countries of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyakhstan. A historical highlight of the Muslim Quarter is the Via Dolorosa, which is the path that Jesus took while carrying his cross on the way to his crucifixion. It is somewhat oddly situated between shops and cafes, where you can sit and drink a cardamom coffee while contemplating the significance of the sites within these few meters. Israel is a complex country and a few paragraphs obviously does not do it justice. I would highly recommend a visit to this fascinating land.





FAWCO YOUTH PROJECT SHANGHAI



My name is Allison Moele and I spent a week in China through the FAWCO

Project". My favorite charity was the "Shining Star" because the children had fun interacting with us and enjoyed the attention they got. We read books, played games and after they washed

their hands, we helped them make their first cup of chocolate milk. The kids enjoyed their cup of chocolate milk and it was nice to see that we made them happy.

Youth Cultural Volunteer Program. With me were 13 other teenagers from other American Women's Clubs. I knew I wanted to do something useful and productive for people while working with kids my age. We went to Shanghai to help different charities like the "Shining Star Orphanage for Blind Children", the "Renewal Center for Homeless Migrants in Shanghai", the "YouDao Center for Migrant Children" and the "Heart to Heart



A Summer To Remember...

I was very impressed with how big Shanghai really is - over 12 million people live there - and the hundreds of tall buildings with all their lights shining. Some things that surprised me when I arrived in Shanghai were the driving skills of the Chinese drivers. They didn't watch out for people walking over pedestrian cross walks at all. Our host family had their own driver, because to be able to drive in China you need a special license. Also I was surprised how much the Chinese bargain in every shop. In the street markets it was interesting to see just how many there are (a lot!) and how many people really earn their money with their own little, really small, shops.

The culture in China is very interesting too. There are large temples everywhere and before you go into one, you have to step over a special wooden thresh-

In that week all of the cultural volunteers got to know each other well and some great friendships were made. We text message with each other often and I



even Skype with a few on a regular basis. Ben, a volunteer from Ireland, came to visit me at the end of August and we had a lot of fun sightseeing in Hamburg together.

By being a part of the FAWCO Youth Program I was able to work with other teens to support people who don't have the

same advantages in life as we do. I participated not only to help others, but to help myself too. I know volunteering can teach me to become a better person in my own community and I will learn to become more responsible and self confident.

old that keeps the demons out of the temples. We also visited the Shanghai World Financial Tower, took a night-time boat cruise of the Huangpu River and even took part in a ceremony at a Confucian temple.



Art in the Country

by Ulrike C. H.

David Doubilet - Visual Dreams and Intense Curiosity

At Stadtmuseum Schleswig
Through Oct 26

I hope you can prolong summer and drive out to Schleswig.

There in the charming Stadtmuseum you will be in for a visual treat:

A Baby Green Sea Turtle at the Nengonengo Atoll (French Polynesia) paddles towards you; Lemon sharks patrol the edge of the Bahama Banks; a majestic stingray floats through the ocean at Cayman Islands.

National Geographic photographer David Doubilet invites us to "imagine this planet as a water planet, not as a land planet. The sea is the heart and soul of life. In this very, very empty, very, very dark universe only one celestial body is glowing blue". For the past fifty years David Doubilet has made it his life's mission to create a visual voice for this breathtaking underwater universe in the ongoing race between discovery and destruction.

Born in 1946 in New York City, the photographer began his career discovering snorkeling during a summer camp, he later on became captivated by diving. His first camera was a Brownie

Hawkeye. Since then David Doubilet has been experimenting and developing cameras in order to reach an unsurpassed mastery of dealing with the difficult light conditions and situations that are found underwater. He often includes the world above the surface into his pictures. A diver photographed against the blue sky surrounded by a swarm of barracuda; stingrays gently floating in the magic light of shallow water against a dramatic cloudy sky; or seals playing in a field of seaweed not afraid of the camera documenting their choreography, have become established icons of this genre.

In the last 17 years not only the possibilities of digital photography, but also his collaboration with Jennifer Hayes, a marine biologist, his partner above and below the water, has enriched his life and art dramatically. "We're now making pictures that we had imagined and hoped for, but were never able to achieve," said Doubilet in a *New York Times* interview.

David Doubilet - *Visual Dreams and Intense Curiosity* is the first large David Doubilet exhibition worldwide organized by Stadtmuseum Schleswig and Städtische Galerie Iserlohn.

For more information and opening times, please check:

www.stadtmuseum-schleswig.de



© David Doubilet, Baby Green Sea Turtle, Nengonengo Atoll, French Polynesia

Art in the Country

by Ulrike C. Henn

SCHLOSS GOTTDORF



©www.ulrikecameronhenn.com, Schloss Gottdorf

While in Schleswig, make sure to visit Schloss Gottorf. The former palace is owned by a foundation of the State of Schleswig-Holstein and houses the State Art and Cultural History Museum and the State Archeological Museum.

The restored castle is situated in a spacious sculpture park and holds several wonderful exhibit sites. Here you can find one of the most prestigious private collection of German Expressionist Art, the Rolf Horn collection. Alongside outstanding pieces by the "Brücke" group, especially by Emil Nolde and Otto Mueller, numerous works by other artists such as Alexej von Jawlensky, Christian Rohlf, Ernst Barlach and Käthe Kollwitz are on view. Sculptures from Africa and the South Seas supplement this exquisite collection.

In a building next to Schloss Gottorf you will find a real jewel of an exhibition: The **Gottorfer Codex**, Through Oct. 26th

The *Gottorfer Codex* is a four-volume book in which every page features a painting of flowers and edible or medicinal plants. The exhibit is on loan from the *Statens Museum for Kunst* in Copenhagen. The name *Gottorfer Codex* refers to the origin of the paintings it contains. From 1649 to 1659, Duke Frederic III of Schleswig-Holstein-Gottorf employed the floral painter Hans Simon Holtzbecker from Hamburg to paint the many beautiful flowers in Gottorf Castle's gardens and flowerbeds. The four volumes consist of a total of 365 pages depicting 1,180 illustrations of flowers, shrubs and fruits. There are between one and ten motifs on every page. All the paintings are painted with gouache on calf parchment, and their boldness of color is exceptionally well preserved. The *Gottorfer Codex* was entered as "war spoils, 1749" in the records of the National Gallery of Denmark. Thanks to the museum's conservation department it has been skillfully restored over a 4-year period.

While at Schloss Gottorf do not miss the Gottorf Globe and the baroque garden.

For more information and opening times, please check <http://www.schloss-gottorf.de>



both ©Schloss Gottorf

FILMFEST HAMBURG

by Becky T.

The 22nd annual Filmfest Hamburg runs September 25 to October 4. Festival director Albert Wiederspiel expects, as in the past, over 40,000 fans to enjoy 140 international films (many, many in English) over ten days.

The opening film on September 25 will be *Pride*, a comedy about a group of gays/lesbians who travel in a colorful bus to Wales to support miners on strike. These two highly dissimilar groups are instinctively wary of each other, but soon begin to book successes against the Thatcher government as they pull together. Director Matthew

Warchus will be present. A hot tip is *Mommy* by 25-year-old, Canadian director, Xavier Dolan. *Mommy* just won the jury prize in the 2014 Cannes film festival; all of Dolan's four previous films in his young career have shown in Hamburg.

A new category called "Freihafen" features 12 films in which German producers are involved. They will compete for 50,000 euros in prize money. The Deluxe section will feature 10 films from former Eastern Germany, in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Wall. This year the coveted Douglas Sirk prize will go to Fatih Akin; we will see his film *The Cut*, which is presently up for competition at the Venice Film Festival (August 27-September 6). Sky television has come in as a sponsor and will bring several sections from the U.S. TV series "Boardwalk Empire" in Eng-

lish. Also watch for special panel discussions and interviews with film makers.

The children's Michel festival will play September 26 to October 4 in Abaton.

The complete program plus ticket prices will be up by September 9. See www.filmfesthamburg.de (click "English"), or pick up the film schedule at any of the participating cinemas: Abaton, Cinemaxx Dammator, Metropolis, Passage, Studio, and 3001.

Last year 10 members of the AWC Hamburg were accredited for the film festival. They saw 80 different films in 158 showings and reported on them. Members of the AWCHH have been accredited for this festival since 1997 and look forward to this festival. For more information talk to anyone in the club's film reviewers' group.

Playwright's Award-winning Civil War Play To Open The English Theatre's New Season

by Marinell Haegelin

The Whipping Man, from the award-winner Matthew Lopez will kickoff the 2014 | 2015 Season at The English Theatre of Hamburg. Clifford Dean directs. April 1865: the Civil War is ended. A southern plantation owner returns home to abandoned ruins. Seriously

wounded, Caleb DeLeon finds that only two family slaves have remained. Embittered, the three men wrestle with the inequitable past, and its ramifications on a free future. Debuting in New York in 2011, this is one of the most widely produced new American plays in the

USA, and received 40 productions worldwide. "Haunting, striking and powerful" – New York Times.

The London cast in the Hamburg production includes: Rich Dolphin as Caleb, Jonathan Nyati as John, and Declan Wilson as Simon.



Jonathan Nyati.



Rich Dolphin.



Declan Wilson.

The Whipping Man premieres on September 4th and runs until November 8th, 2014. Evening and matinee performances; tickets available at the theatre or online: www.englishtheatre.de. The English Theatre of Hamburg, Lerchenfeld 14, 22081 Hamburg, Tel: 040-227 70 89; U-Bahn Mundsburg.

SPECIAL FALL OFFER

Advertising Rates Currents

Dear AWC members!

Summer vacations are over and we are getting back to our daily routine. It is time to let the world know who you are and what you are doing. Whether you have your own business or just want to provide services sporadically, don't miss a special advertising offer for AWC members!

Not yet sure? Why don't you start with a free Readers' Ad!

For further information please contact

Anna Sizorina

Advertising Manager, AWCH

ads@awchamburg.org

REGISTER NOW!

**FAWCO Region 5 Meeting in Hamburg,
November 14-16, 2014**

**The AWC Hamburg is hosting
the Region 5 FAWCO Meeting!**

The date has been set, the Arcotel Rubin in the trendy district of St. Georg has been booked and the program is being developed as we speak.

As always the Region 5 meeting is a blend of educational seminars, issues affecting the German and Austrian clubs and, of course, FUN!

Saturday's agenda topics include panel discussions on the difficult choices, options and consequences of dual citizenship and education. Sunday will have a discussion group on issues of membership and its changing demographics and club concerns.

Saturday evening entertainment is a visit to the Hansa Variete Theater, a "jewelry box of vaudeville" with international artists.

28th annual Fantasy Film festival

September 8-19, at Savoy Cinema, Steindamm 54

by Becky T.

The 28th Fantasy Film festival will show in Hamburg September 8 to 19 with over 60 films: contemporary, retrospective, and short films. "Fantasy" here refers to thriller, horror and science fiction, as well as black comedy and animation. The good news is that more than 40 films will be in the original English, representing the U.S., Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and Ireland. Films from Asia, e.g., South Korea, Japan, and Indonesia, as well as popular countries such as India, South Africa, Iceland, and Venezuela, not to mention European countries, will

feature German or English subtitles. Although all are the newest films, there is an interesting retrospective of The Fall of Usher from 1928. This is an opportunity to get a head start on films which might just come along mainstream later in the year or even become world famous, such as the classic Silence of the Lambs or Pulp Fiction, both originally "fantasy films." Or try a really scary Midnight Movie.



In 1987 Rainer Stefan founded the first festival as an underground tip for residents of Hamburg. Now it travels annually to seven German cities. This year there will be a change of venue: Savoy Cinema, Steindamm 54 will host all 12 days of the festival (two days longer than last year). There will be an opportunity to vote for best new director from 10 candidates: the so-called winner of the Fresh Blood

prize. Former recent winners were Blancanieves and Beasts of the Southern Wild; both films went on to successful mainstream showings in Germany.

You can see the complete program at www.fantasyfilmfest.com. Click English for better understanding. You'll love the fun and scary trailer with the motto "Fear Good Movies." Or pick up a print program at Savoy right now! Tickets go on sale on September 1. More details on Savoy's website: www.savoy-filmtheater.de.

ACTIVITY CALENDAR September 2014

This isn't all! Sometimes special events come up after the *Currents* deadline. In this case we will use **Evites** and our e-newsletter to notify members. Check your email and our online calendar for the most up-to-date event information.

WALK AROUND THE ALSTER!

On Monday evenings, a group will be walking around the Alster to contribute kilometers to FAWCO's "Walk Around the World" effort (see <https://www.fawco.org/global-issues/health/clubs-in-motion>). The route is approximately 7.38 kilometers and we will meet (rain or shine, but not in thunderstorms) at 19:00 at the Red Dog Bar & Cafe at the Krugkoppel entrance to the Alsterpark across from the Eichenpark and can meet there afterward as well if desired.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

HH Helpers

This group helps new AWCH Club Members to live the good life in Hamburg! If you have recently joined our club and need some assistance, you are encouraged to contact Regina D.

She will not only give you details about the next New Members' Event but also refer you to the HH Helper in your area and to the groups and committees that might interest you. If you have already been a club member for some time and are interested in assisting new members in your area, please let us know. We are looking for more HH Helpers – especially in the western and southern parts of Hamburg. Contact Regina at hhhelpers@awchamburg.org

Opera Club

At the monthly meetings of the Opera Club, we are discovering opera, one masterwork at a time. We meet several times to get to know a selected opera and then attend a performance together. Beginners are particularly welcome! Meetings are held Friday mornings in Hamburg-Poppenbüttel. Contact Elizabeth R. at opera@awchamburg.org

Film Reviewers' Group

The film group attends free press showings of films slated to open in Hamburg and writes reviews for *Currents* and other media. Communication is via email or fax. For more information, contact Becky T. at filmgroup@awchamburg.org

English Movie Night at the Savoy

New AWCH Event!

Starting in 2014 there will be a new monthly event at the Savoy Movie theater in St. Georg: English Movie Night at the Savoy.

Here is how it works:

Respond to the evite and tickets will be reserved for you at the theater. You arrive no later than 30 minutes before the movie begins to pick up and pay for your tickets at the ticket desk. Easy!

If you can't make the showing, your tickets will be deleted from the system at no charge to you.

If you are not there 30 minutes prior to the showing, your reservation is cancelled and seat reassigned, so don't be late!

Stitch'n'Bitch

Tuesday, September 2 and 16 and 30 any time after 19:00.

Otherwise known as Portable Hobby Night. Come join us for lots of laughs and snacks, a glass of wine, and some crafting.

Where: watch the newsletter for location information

German Practice Circle "Kaffeeklatsch"

Our Member Sylvia T. organizes a regular meeting to chat and meet in German for all those working and practicing their new language. Feel welcome to join the next meeting September 5.

ACTIVITY CALENDAR September 2014

Please check with activity leaders to confirm meeting times and places. More details on all meetings can be found in the membership section and on our AWC website: <http://www.awchamburg.org>

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Stitch 'n' Bitch	3	4 Kaffeeklatch	5 Opera Club #1	6 Tax Seminar
7	8 Walk around the Alster	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Walk around the Alster	16 Stitch 'n' Bitch	17	18	19	20
21 Deadline	22 Walk around the Alster	23 New Members' Event	24 Proofreading 10:00 at Rösterei	25	26 Opera Club #2	27
28	29 Walk around the Alster	30 Stitch 'n' Bitch	1	2 Opera Club #2	3	4

O C T O B E R

Congratulations September Birthday Girls!

Hannah M.	3
Carol S.	7
Stella K.-R.	8
Birgit S.	9
Irmgard Z.	20
Kimberley K.	21
Doreen H.	21
Heike S.	21
Sara B.	23
Freda P.	28

AWC Cancellation Policy:

All events for which participants must reserve in advance and pay at the door must be paid for whether or not the person attends the event. However, if the cancellation is called in before the sign-up deadline, there will be no charge. If a person cancels after the sign-up deadline, she need not pay if a confirmed substitute can be found.

WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED

LAYOUT EDITOR

YOU ARE CREATIVE? OR WOULD LIKE TO BE?

GOT EXPERIENCE IN DESIGN, PHOTOSHOP OR ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION PROGRAM?

OR NOT AT ALL BUT WOULD ABSOLUTELY LOVE TO LEARN?

BE PART OF OUR CURRENTS STAFF!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR MOTIVATED AND PASSIONATE FUN MEMBERS TO SUPPORT OUR TEAM FOR OUR ONLINE AND PRINT MAGAZINE CURRENTS.

YOU NEED:

BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS AND.....

BE FUN AND ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT WHAT YOU DO!

Interested?! Contact Karen, either via email: currents-exec@awchamburg.org, or just talk to me at the next event. Not sure yet, but kinda feel interested? Come to a *Currents* meeting, it's very casual and we discuss magazine issues as a whole in a mixed group of active staff and other members casually interested in the subject!

No strings attached!

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!



American Women's Club of Hamburg
New and Prospective Members' Event
Tuesday, September 23, 2014, 17:00-18:30

Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten
Condi Heuboden, Neuer Jungfernstieg 9-14, 20354 Hamburg



Photo courtesy of Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten

Cost: 15 Euros for a cup of coffee or tea and two pieces of cake

We ask you to reply to
hhelpers@awchamburg.org
by Tuesday, September 16, 2014

The AWCH No Show Policy applies

Nearest public transport:

Underground and Bus Station Jungfernstieg



MOVIE RATING SYSTEM

- ***** Excellent flick! Don't miss it!
- **** Good movie, worth going to
- *** Not a bad way to spend a few hours
- ** OK, but read the review to understand my reservations
- * Bad, but we've got to give them credit for making a movie!

compiled by Becky T.



Ohne Dich *****

Germany 2013 / 2014
 Starts September 4, 2014
 Directed by: Alexandre Powelz
 Writing credits: Alexandre Powelz & Alexandra Umminger
 Cast: Katja Riemann, Charly Hübner, Helen Woigk, Meral Perin, Arne Gottschling
 Length: 90 minutes

Three loosely related stories have been skillfully linked in this heartrending film about “Love” (Screenplay by Powelz & Umminger; editing by Annemarie Bremer, Karin Jacobs). Each concludes in its own bittersweet way but with the certainty that life goes on—no matter how comforting this truth might sound at the time or not.

Throughout exceptional performances by an altogether fantastic cast, especially by such accomplished actors Katja Riemann and Charly Hübner as a middle-aged professional couple confronted with terminal illness, and Helen Woigk as a young single waitress whose life gets turned upside down. Alexandre Powelz (director) had the courage to have the camera (Eeva Fleig) stay with their faces for long close-up takes and the audience has the privilege to see emotions develop in real time. The film is deeply moving, while avoiding any sentimentality. Compliments also go to Benedikt Herré and Angelika Dufft for very original and authentic sets. (Carola A.)

Hercules **1/2

USA 2014
 Starts September 4
 Director: Brett Ratner
 Writing credits: Ryan Condal and Evan Spiliotopoulos (screenplay)
 Cast: Dwayne Johnson, John Hurt, Ian McShane and others.
 Length: 98 minutes

Do you think you know the truth about Hercules? Well you know nothing. And so begins the story of Hercules from a different point of view. In this film, Hercules had to perform twelve labors in order to appease the Goddess Hera who was furious with the infidelity of Zeus. She did her best to make Hercules' life miserable. The labors which included fighting a multi-headed snake, a wild boar and a lion were only done successfully with the help of a group of misfit fighters that Hercules met along the way. The movie sheds light on the fact that Hercules may be a mortal and that his father, in fact, may not be Zeus and all his labors could only have been done with the help of his five faithful friends.

The scenery has a refreshing comic-graphic look to it instead of most films in this genre which are either strictly comic or realistic. The dialogue is full of fast-paced, slap-stick comic jokes which keep the movie going. I personally found the story lacking and wished there would be more character development. I also thought this film would appeal to the teenager audiences but my sixteen-year-old son, Adrian, also shared my opinion. He says, “The movie *Hercules* is

an action-packed movie with lots of action in it which I personally really enjoyed watching. It wasn't my absolute favorite movie because I wish they would tell you more about the characters and in the end I didn't care about any of the characters including Hercules. I do think it is interesting to have merchants help Hercules with his tasks which make this myth seem a little bit more realistic. I was relieved to find out that Hercules did not kill his wife and child despite these haunting visions that robbed him of his sleep. The film seemed short since it is not a film for kids and many aspects of the storyline were missing."(Shelly Schoeneshoefer)

Still Life (Mr. May und das Flüstern der Ewigkeit) ****

UK | Italy 2013

Starts September 04, 2014

Directed by: Uberto Pasolini

Writing credits: Uberto Pasolini

Cast: Eddie Marsan, Joanne Froggatt, Karen Drury

Length: 87 minutes

The thought of dying alone is not only horrible, but also a sad reality for so many people in our society. As a "funeral officer", Mr. May (Eddie Marsan) takes care of those people who have no one left. He clears out their spaces after death, organizes the funeral and never gives up hope finding someone who might have cared to look after them. But due to some financial restructuring at Council level, he gets fired, since he is too slow and too emotional about the dead. Mr. May wants to close his last case about Billy Stokes (Michael Elkin), a neighbor of his. While he embarks on a road trip to find Stoke's relatives, Mr. May starts to review his own life in respect to what it means to be alive.

Mr. May is such a great character in many ways. Although being lonely himself, he makes sure the dead are not forgotten. Gentle but quiet people are so often overlooked by our society, which is why I really cheered when Mr. May started to reconnect with life. Eddie Marsan and Joanne Froggatt as Stoke's daughter were the perfect cast for this quiet and moving film. (Katia Trost)

As Above, So Below (Katakomben)**

USA 2014

Starts September 11, 2014

Directed by: John Erick Dowdle

Writing credits: John Erick Dowdle, Drew Dowdle

Cast: Persita Weeks, Ben Feldman, Edwin Hodge, François Civil, Marion Lambert

Length: 88 min.

Whoever has gone on a tour through Paris' catacombs (only a small portion of its 300 km length is officially accessible) knows how creepy they are. Piles of skulls and bones seaming the dark and narrow paths under the city of love are a perfect setting for a horror shocker...

Scarlet, the beautiful British heroin of this horror tale, is determined to find the long-lost tomb of a famous medieval alchemist and, so she believes, its valuable world-shaking treasures. Little does she know that she endangers her whole team and friends by unleashing the demons....within.

This found-footage shocker annoyed me throughout the first half of the movie. Seriously, haven't we all suffered enough with the shaky, *Blair-Witch-Project* ego filming and its many successors? After 10 minutes I looked around to see where the waste bags were. They have them on planes, why not in this theater where I get sick just by trying to follow the movie!? I would love to tell you what happened then, but just when I got used to the filming technique and I could suppress my urge to throw up on this roller coaster ride, the story just got so unbelievably scary that I had to close my eyes. If there's a scary pale child sitting in the dark corner coming out of nowhere and creeping the hell out of me, there is no way I will continue to watch the movie. I did, however, peek through my fingers every now and then to be able to follow the main plot somehow.



The *DaVinci Code* meets *Blair Witch Project* meets horror and throw in a little romance on the side (for all the lovers out there) was not all that impressive due to its failure to really excite me, apart from the last 30 minutes. The pale scary kid did, however, save the horror

for me. Still, not a fully convincing horror story. If you like good horror movies, this is not yours, if you like creepy moments, go for it. (Karen Malinowski)

Map to the Stars **

Canada | Germany 2013
 Starts September 11, 2014
 Directed by: David Cronenberg
 Writing credits: Bruce Wagner
 Cast: Julianne Moore, Mia Wasikowska, Evan Bird, John Cusack, Olivia Williams, Robert Pattinson, Carrie Fisher, Justin Kelly, Sarah Gadon
 Length: 111 minutes

Tinsel town, home to illusion, delusion, and disenchantment is the backdrop, and an extra, in David Cronenberg’s newest film. The Weiss’ seem like a perfectly normal, screwed-up, modern American-Hollywood family. Already jaded by thirteen, child star Benjie’s (Evan Bird) faults are burying him. Christina (Olivia Williams) is more his agent than mom, and dad’s (John Cusack) approach to psychoanalysis and his popular self-help books assures a solid client base,



albeit he ignores what he advocates. The sister (Mia Wasikowska) – “You know, for a disfigured schizophrenic you’ve got the town wired” – well, no one wants to talk about her—repercussions would be too great. Stir-in a limo-driver with an eye to stardom (Robert Pattinson), and an actress (Julianne Moore) determined to play the role of

her iconic, dear departed mother (Sarah Gadon): all are surrounded by artificial people, ensconced in settings meant to impress, enamor.

Cronenberg maps out his slanted obtuse version of a hackneyed story with support from Bruce Wagner’s thin screenplay; implied jokes and overused clichés abound here. A number of scenes should have been left on Ronald Sanders’ editing floor. Well worth mentioning are Moore and Wasikowska’s portrayals, with strong support from Williams, Cusack, and Bird considering their two-dimensional characters. Also, Howard Shore’s music. Considering the dreariness of the whole, any subtleties – contrived or not – fall flat, counting the banal ending. This is the type of film you can see, or not, without it making much difference. (Marinell Haegelin)

Lügen und andere Wahrheiten (Translated: Lies and other Truth) ***

Germany 2014
 Starts September 11, 2014
 Directed by: Vanessa Jopp
 Writing credits: Stefan Schneider, Vanessa Jopp
 Cast: Meret Becker, Thomas Heinze, Florian David Fitz, Jeanette Hain, Lilith Stangenberg
 Length: 106 minutes

It all starts with a little white lie - and it ends in confusion, chaos and tears. Five young people are involved with each other in different ways and don’t see how easy it is to get entangled in harmless lies or half-truths. To back-paddle from such a position is not as easy. Most of the time they don’t mean any harm and don’t want to hurt the other person. Sometimes it is out of fear, jealousy or sheer despair.

Coco (Meret Becker), soon to be married to Carlos (Thomas Heinze), is “lovingly“ deceived by a number of persons surrounding her. Her fiancé, the charming Carlos, promises to stay away from alcohol until the upcoming wedding ceremony. Oh yes, he will only meet with a few friends for a boys’ get-together. As you can guess, he is getting hopelessly drunk, so drunk that the whole bunch of happy guys land in a luxury brothel with Carlos handing out his credit cards. On his way home the police not only relieve him of his car but also his driver’s license. The following days are a real challenge for Carlos in finding new excuses for hiding his dilemma.



Lügen
 UND ANDERE WAHRHEITEN
 EIN FILM VON VANESSA JOPP

Patti (Jeanette Hain) hides her affair with yoga teacher Andi (Florian David Fitz). Andi hides a serious problem from Patti. Coco's dental nurse Vera (Alina Levshin) is quite obviously lying to hide her mistakes. Vera, in turn, is being deceived by her own family in Russia wanting money for a fake operation.

The wedding date comes nearer, the rings have to be collected and paid for. Carlos' hour of truth approaches - but also Coco needs to take a good look at herself. Has she been lying to herself?

In this comical drama Vanesse Jopp started off with a loosely written script. This allowed the team of experienced actors some light-hearted spontaneity. Meret Becker especially shows the wide spectrum of her acting talent opposite Thomas Heinze. (Birgit Schrupf)

A Most Wanted Man * * * * *

USA, UK, Germany 2014
 Starts September 11
 Directed by: Anton Corbijn
 Writing credits: Andrew Bovell (screenplay), John le Carré (novel)
 Cast: Grigoriy Dobrygin, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Homayoun Ershadi
 Length: 122 minutes

Two production companies, Roadside Attractions and The Ink Factory, give kudos to the creative David Cornwell family, David, and his sons, Stephen and Simon, in honoring their latest film project, *A Most Wanted Man*.

Writing under the pen name of John Le Carré, David Cornwell creates a most unusual political thriller. Stephen and Simon Cornwell, producers with The Ink Factory since 2010, are proud that their father's novel *A Most Wanted Man* comes to fruition on the silver screen. The brothers never cease to be amazed at the detail Le Carré eloquently uses in his descriptive storytelling depicting historical fiction and actual places. A style developed to captivate his audience worldwide, one of Le Carré's calling cards.

Film director, Anton Corbijn and screenwriter, Andrew Bovell both take a fair number of liberties in delivering Le Carré's novel as a big screen narrative. But, they never part from embracing the exact location where his novel is set: Hamburg, Germany, a beautiful romantic seaport, historic and vibrant. Radiant and seasoned with cultured wealth, prosperity and life-giving hope.



Corbijn's director of cinematography, Denoit Delhommme, alone creates a visual love letter to Hamburg because *A Most Wanted Man* is a story for Hamburg itself. For centuries, Hamburg's port has been a refuge ...a safe haven... a transitional city keen to embrace the foreigner, the immigrant, the refugee, no doubt a port with voices longing to be heard. Endless stories from unimaginable life experiences. A welcoming harbor is Hamburg's age-old calling.

September 11, 2001, Hamburg's open-arms of hospitality to foreigners begin to close. Terrorist cells slipped under the radar from Hamburg's big-brother watchful eye to create a moral panic. In reaction, a growing distrust of strangers sets the tone for Le Carré's novel.

Several voices of Hamburg's Islamic community did speak out to the world on 9/11. An extreme Jihadist cell group sends the world a message. Everyone is forced to listen to their voice and among other objectives, to observe their disregard for human life. Three locations on American soil are the Terrorist's target spots, executed with precision. An incomprehensible visual destruction of magnitude casualties. A message unforgettable! Given to America and to all those who partner with her.

AT THE MOVIES

Screenwriter Andrew Novell takes Le Carré's complicated explanation of the inner workings within the world's most noted terrorist agencies and eloquently transforms *A Most Wanted Man* for the average film viewing audience. A riveting story about fear. Questions that grapple with who can be trusted and who should one be afraid of. There is never a dull moment with creative team, Novell and Le Carré. Nor should it ever be!

Synopsis:

The French Interpol working in Hamburg, Germany is on high-alert since the 9/11 terrorists attacks in New York City. The world will never forget the violent acts of terrorism on innocent victims. Collaborating with several government anti-terrorist agencies scanning the globe for suspicious activity is common place. Protecting the innocent is an important role but catching any culprit is the goal.

The terrorists' cells in Hamburg prior to 9/11 were highly successful in concealing their covert planning. The fact that the cells were under the radar of the German government anti-terrorist agencies is not only shocking but embarrassing. The German pride for tolerance to foreigners was hit hard. And, never again will Germany allow to be taken for a fool. Over a decade later, Hamburg is on high alert. Interpol puts many of the Middle Eastern males traveling in and out of Germany under suspicion. An alert comes through the government agencies of a possible money-laundering scheme for arms, drugs or bomb equipment.

A 26-year-old known militant jihadist escapee from Russia, Issa Karpov (Grigoriy Dobrygin) enters Germany. Traveling only with a backpack he is under surveillance while maneuvering within the Hamburg Islamic community. Issa seeks to find banker, Thomas

Brue (William Dafoe) to lay stake to an inheritance from his father worth tens of millions of euros.

Issa befriends a Turkish woman Leyla (Derya Alabora) and her son Melik (Tamer Yigit) who introduce him to Annabel Richter (Rachel McAdams) a lawyer working for the human rights organization Sanctuary North. His story of torture by Russian security authorities moves her. She agrees to help him find the banker.

Working under the radar for the German intelligence service is a secretive US team led by Gunter Bachmann (Philip Seymour Hoffman), the first team to get Issa on surveillance when he surfaces in Hamburg, Bachmann stays ahead of his counterparts due to his typical "game of clue-like" tactics--asking lots of questions and trailing the facts.

Matching Bachmann's disheveled appearance, his work ethic is laid-back, slow but deliberate, to catch his criminal. Pressured to get to the bottom of the identity of a most-wanted man and his intentions, Bachmann is given 72-hours to figure out what has the Interpol, German FBI and the US government up in arms over a lone, severely tortured, young immigrant.

Bachmann's arch rival in Hamburg, Dieter Mohr (Rainer Bock) wants a premature arrest of Issa for immediate interrogation. Bachmann and long-time colleague, Martha Sullivan (Robin Wright) both suspect deeper connections are at stake. Sullivan's influence over Mohr can allow for a stall in the arrest but the cost of an alliance with her puts Bachmann ill-at-ease.

The underlying mistrust from the other government agencies of Bachmann's motives adds intrigue to his tactical maneuvers to get Issa's story right--an innocent person severely mishandled or an extremist bent on

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destruction. It's complicated! The mysterious tale of the identity of *A Most Wanted Man* is a heart-stopping thriller. A mind-teaser addressing politics, rivalry, and love where reality-bites in our human world. (Karen Pecota)

Song of the Forest ****

Germany, USA, Central African Republic 2013

Starts September 11

Directed by: Michael Obert

Writing credits: Michael Obert

Cast: documentary

Length: 98 minutes

In 2009 Michael Obert had heard of a white man living in a community of pygmies and just by chance ran into him while holding two babies in his arms. He later would meet with him and his family in New York and this film was born. Louis Sarno, an American, first heard a recording of Bayaka music on a train and knew that instant his life's course. For the last 25 years he has been living with the Bayaka Pygmies in the rain forest of the Congo recording their music. In fact, he has recorded over 1000 hours of magical music from this culture, more than anyone else in the world. Luckily it is kept in the archives of the Platt Rivers Museum at Oxford University. It is an important collection since



many of the Bayaka tribe have disappeared. At one point in the film Louis Sarno reflects on the last flute player he heard and the melody that he played as the tribe slowly drifted off to sleep. This documentary not only reveals the loss of the rainforests, its animals, its ecosystem and its people but gives a bleak view of what is to become the future of the rainforest.

Sarno takes his son to New York to see city life and, despite his interest in all that he sees, he is a fish out of water. The film is filled with contrasting scenery and music that makes us fill with a bitter-sweet feeling and understanding of Louis Sarno's desire to stay in that environment. If a song is to be heard in the rainforest today, it is a distant sound which is slowly dying out. Sarno sees the writing on the wall as he records the Bayaka song that the animals are gone from the forest so the forest must be sick.

It was an important film for me to share with my son. I went to Uganda this year and, although they have a national park for the Mountain Gorillas, the Bayaka people have been moved to a desolate mountain far away from the forest. They still live in their little huts but now have to attend school and, hearing English songs, dance to a different tune. They are no longer the pygmy tribe since they now have married into other tribes. The mountain gorillas are also on the decline since a large number of them were in the Congo and have been destroyed. Only Uganda and Rwanda are making attempts to save them. Fifty percent of the money from the music and the film goes to the Bayaka Support project, so I would love to see you all check out this film. It is worth seeing. (Shelly Schoeneshoefer).

Walking on Sunshine 1/2*

UK 2014

Starts September 25, 2014

Directed by: Max Giwa, Dania Pasquini

Writing credits: Joshua St. Johnston

Cast: Hannah Arterton, Annabel Scholey, Giulio Berruti, Greg Wise, Leona Lewis

Length: 97 minutes

This film about two sisters in love with the same man is set to 80's song & dance. While on holiday in Italy, Taylor (Arterton) got romantically involved with Raf (Berruti) but returned to England and didn't keep in touch. Three years later her older sister Maddie (Scholey) rents a vacation home at the same beautiful beach in Puglia, and gets engaged to a young Italian. She has no idea that this is Taylor's old flame and invites her unsuspecting sister to join her for a surprise whirlwind wedding. Predictably, neither Taylor nor Maddie's ex-boyfriend Doug (Wise) will be happy about this,

This ain't no *Mama Mia!* (2008)! The soundtrack with well-performed hit songs like *Walking on Sunshine* and *Girls just want to have fun* and the attractive location is what little the movie has going for it. The dance scenes are uninspiring and crowded, the actors under- challenged and misdirected. Giulio Berruti especially has been reduced to showing off his – admittedly gorgeous - physique as if performing in a commercial. Generally the film suffers from indecisiveness about the target audience. (Carola A.).

Million Dollar Arm * * * * *

USA 2014

Starts September 11

Directed by Craig Gillespie

Writing credits: Thomas McCarthy

Cast: Jon Hamm, Aasif Mandvi, Alan Arkin

Length: 124 minutes

Walt Disney's legacy lives on. The wonderful world of Walt Disney and his personal words of encouragement were often presented as a dare-to-dream. Here are a few of his famous quotes: "If you can dream it, you can do it." Or, "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." Or, "It's kind of fun to do the impossible."

Storytelling, the Disney way, presumes that dreams can be realized. Based on an unimaginable reality, Disney Studio Productions presents their latest feature film *Million Dollar Arm*. In collaboration with producers Mark Ciardi and Gordon Gray (Mayhem Pictures), Joe Roth (Roth Film Productions) and director Craig Gillespie (Craig Gillespie films); the famed production companies "knock-it-out-of-the-park" with their memorable and true-life baseball story about a dream come true.

Million Dollar Arm is an account of what dreams are made of from the lives of two East Indian teens (Rinku and Dinesh) and their journey to baseball notoriety. It's a courageous tale perfectly made for the Walt Disney "classics" film-reel vault.



The real-life sports agent, JB Bernstein recalls, "Statistically speaking, in a country of 1.2 billion people, the odds are good that you will find an undiscovered raw talent." He adds, "The hope was to capture all those cricket fans and turn them towards baseball." Bernstein not only found one but two young hopefuls.

The actors who played Rinku (Suraj Sharma, *Life of Pi*) and Dinesh (Madhur Mittal, *Slumdog Millionaire*) knew nothing about baseball, nor did the real-life

characters, Rinku and Dinesh. And they did not play the sport; but they had the natural raw talent to throw a baseball faster than any of their countrymen. This won them the contest known as the "arms worth millions".

Similar to the real-life characters the actors, Surai and Madhur also knew nothing about baseball. For the film role, they underwent heavy training in India and continued to train throughout the duration of filming the movie. Raw talent to be reckoned with doing double duty--acting and learning to seriously play baseball.

Synopsis:

Famed sports agent, JB Bernstein (Jon Hamm) is struggling to keep his business and reputation alive. His partner and friend, Aash (Aasif Mandvi) and the last of their office staff, Theresa (Allyn Rachel), want to quit. Though they believe in JB's scouting abilities, the agency needs at least one client to keep them up and running.

Inspired by a conversation with Aash while watching a match of East Indian cricket players, JB has an idea. It's a long shot but he figures if he can find a young cricket pitcher from India to sign with a Major League Baseball Team, his career will be saved. A monetary scheme desperately needed to materialize for him.

JB travels to India and produces a highly publicized, nation-wide competition to find baseball's next pitching ace. He calls for a talent search for *The Million Dollar Arm*. The cantankerous retired baseball scout Ray Poitevint (Alan Arkin) and India's most diligent want-to-be baseball player, Amit (Pitobash), find JB not only one winner but two. A celebration mixed with joy and sorrow as the village-raised teens are entrusted into the hands of an entrepreneurial egotistical playboy.

JB brings the boys to the states to train under the direction of the University of Southern California coach Tom House (Bill Paxton)--the best in the west. Amit tags along for the experience but mostly as a chaperone for the boys. Amit understands that JB has taken on a responsibility he has no clue how to appropriately manage.

The cultural differences take a toll on JB, the boys and Amit. The dynamics are observed by JB's tenant Miss Brenda (Lake Bell). In an attempt to speak into the situation Miss Brenda is the glue that holds the "boys" together in relationship--accountable for their actions, commitment and love for one another. (Karen Pecota).

Supermensch The legend of Shep Gordon (Supermensch: Wer ist Shep Gordon?) ***

USA 2013

Starts: September 18, 2014

Directed by: Mike Myers

Writing Credits: Mike Myers, Beth Aala

Cast: Shep Gordon, Michael Douglass, Sylvester Stallone, Alice Cooper, Tom Arnold, Anne Murray, Willie Nelson, Mike Myers, Emeril Lagasse, Derek Shook

Length: 85 minutes



Who is Shep Gordon, you ask? For almost half a century this man has made stars from musicians, actors and T.V. chefs, amassing fame and fortune for them and a wonderful lifestyle for himself. He made a star of Mike Myers in the movie *Wayne's World* and Mr. Myers has returned the compliment by making a documentary about Mr. Gordon.

If ever a man was in the right place at the right time it was Shep Gordon, but, just as important, he was blessed with an eye for talent, a gift for publicity and a generous nature. He looks like a university professor today and seems to be a quiet, kindly person with a good sense of humour. He talks directly to the camera throughout the documentary, as do the other members of the cast, with added clips from earlier times to enhance his stories.

After attending university in Buffalo in the Sixties and a very short stint as an overly idealistic probation officer in California, Shep pulled in to a hotel in Los Angeles to rest and assess his future. Hotel guests just happened to include Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix and Alice Cooper and Shep just happened to have a suitcase full of grass and some acid. Soon he was drug dealer to the stars who became their trusted friend. Today he and Alice Cooper, two old darlings, play golf together but Shep was shrewd enough in the early Seventies to understand the rebellious mood of the times. He became Alice's manager and promoted all the bad boy publicity needed to have people flock to his concerts and buy his records. Success was immediate and today he represents fifty-seven musicians, actors and celebrity chefs.

As if managing musicians weren't enough, Shep turned his hand to film-making, once again being extremely successful. His first production, *The Duellists*, directed by Ridley Scott won the prize for the best debut film at the Cannes Film Festival. He later won an Oscar for *The Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

In Cannes Shep met Sharon Stone and Roger Verve,

who is the father of Nouveau Cuisine. An interest in both was kindled, resulting in a love affair with Ms. Stone and a life-long interest in food. Shep is now a master chef who loves to cook for guests at his home on Maui. This love of cooking led to promoting T.V. chefs and their products, resulting to success and wealth for them too.

The man with the golden touch is also a Mr. Nice Guy. The east coast Jewish boy morphed into a Buddhist (he calls himself a Jewbu) and a follower of the Dalai Lama. His many charitable interests reflect his work interests. He heads up a relief fund for Tibet, coordinates the Roger Verve Culinary Scholarship fund, is developing the Hawaii regional cuisine movement and works for the American Liver Foundation. So, is his life fulfilled? Well, actually, he says it isn't and he has a tremendous feeling of regret. Can you guess what that regret might be?

(Jenny Mather)

I Origins ***1/2

USA 2014

Starts September 25, 2014

Directed by: Mike Cahill

Writing credits: Mike Cahill

Cast: Michael Pitt, Brit Marling, Astrid Bergès-Frisbey

Length: 113 minutes

Eyes are windows to the soul, they say. For Dr. Ian Gray (Pitt), however, they are windows to break-through research. By finding the original ancestral species of the human eye, he wants to debunk the "intelligent design" theory once and for all. While he is collecting pictures of human eyes for his studies, he meets his soul mate. Sofi (Bergès-Frisbey) is the exact opposite of Ian: mystical and child-like. But tragedy hits them and Sofi passes away. Years later, Ian is an accomplished researcher and now married to Karen (Marling), his former lab partner. At this time, Iris scans are being introduced as means of identification. When Ian's and Karen's son is born, they are shocked to learn that their son's Iris is not unique, but matches the one of someone who has recently died. Now, Ian has to confront his own belief system: Will he stick to his strictly scientific view of the world, or will he dare to believe in something that can't be proven by evolution?

I Origins is not just a movie about "science vs. spirituality". It rather shows how limiting exclusive points of view can be. The plot is not too plausible, but if you see it as a paragon and go with the dreamy atmosphere, this movie can be a touching experience. (Katia Trost).

OCTOBER ISSUE:

Topic will be: Don't live to work, but work to live.

Tell us about your career. Do you love your job? Ever had a job you hated? Glad you DON'T work? Want to tell us how much work three children, a dog, four cats and an annoying neighbour can be?

Deadline: Sunday, September 21

Proofreading: Wednesday, September 24,

**10 am at Kaffee Rösterei,
Mönckebergstraße 7**

**(in Levantehaus, U-Bahn
Mönckebergstraße)**

For any questions, send me an email or call Karen,

currents-exec@awchamburg.org

NOVEMBER ISSUE:

Topic will be:

**Getting ready for the holidays-
Santa and Insanity are coming to
town.**

Deadline: Saturday, October 24

Proofreading: Wednesday, October 29

WHO SPOTTED THE MISTAKE ???

Unfortunately the layout team made a mistake (shame on you!) and headed Eileen's Article in last month's issue about her first Triathlon as her first Marathon. Please excuse the mistake, that's what you get when a couch potato takes care of sporty headlines :-). Please excuse the error.

DANKE! DANKE! DANKE!

To Jess for hosting SnB right after her return from Down Under.

To the lovely ladies who supported *Currents* at Proofreading, Jenny M., Anna S. and Becky T.

AWCH Contacts

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