



# kinofest SEATTLE

OCTOBER 22 - NOVEMBER 5, 2019

Presented by Zeitgeist Northwest  
Northwest Film Forum • Seattle  
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# KINOFEST SEATTLE

Northwest Film Forum  
OCTOBER 22 - NOVEMBER 5, 2019

## WELCOME

Welcome to the 4th annual KINOFEST Seattle, presented by the Portland German Film Festival (PGFF) in collaboration with the Northwest Film Forum (NWFF).

Join us at the Northwest Film Forum from October 22 – November 5, 2019 for a fantastic line-up of contemporary and classic German language films from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, presented in German with English subtitles.

KINOFEST Seattle opens with BALLOON (Ballon), based on the true story of one of the most spectacular escapes from communist East Germany.

Other features include the epic biopic BRECHT (Brecht) about the life of writer Berthold Brecht, as well as Sönke Wortmann's last hit HOW ABOUT ADOLF? (Der Vorname).

In addition, there are family-friendly features including; ALFONS JITTERBIT – COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS (Alfons Zit-

terbacke: Das Chaos ist zurück), and ROCCA CHANGES THE WORLD (Rocca verändert die Welt), which received the German Film Award 2019 for Outstanding Children or Youth Film. Switzerland is represented by The Reformer. ZWINGLI: A Life's Portrait (Zwingli) and the documentary FAIR TRADERS. The highlight of the festival is Bruno Ganz's last movie The Tobacconist (Der Trafikant), based on the international bestseller by Robert Seethaler.

KINOFEST Seattle is sponsored by CONDOR and supported by the Consulate General of Germany and Switzerland in San Francisco, as well as the Austrian-Consulate General in Los Angeles.

A special Dankeschön to the members of Zeitgeist Northwest and all of our generous sponsors, without their contribution this festival would not be possible! Wir sehen uns im Kino!

Yvonne P. Behrens,  
Director Portland German Film Festival  
The Board of Zeitgeist Northwest

## SPONSORS

KINOFEST Seattle is made possible through the support of the following sponsors:



## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

ALL SCREENINGS AT NORTHWEST FILM FORUM, 151 12TH AVENUE

October 22	7:30	Balloon
October 28	6:00	Fair Traders
	8:00	The Reformer: Zwingli – A Life's Portrait
October 29	6:00	Alfons Jitterbag – Countdown to Chaos
	8:00	How About Adolf?
November 4	3:00	Brecht
November 5	6:00	Rocca Changes the World
	8:00	The Tobacconist

## TICKETS

General Admission - \$13  
Senior/Child/Students - \$10  
NWFF Members - \$7

NW Film Forum • 151 12th Ave, Seattle  
Northwest Film Forum is Seattle's premier

Advance Ticket Sales - [www.nwfilmforum.org](http://www.nwfilmforum.org)

film arts organization, screening over 200 independently made and classic films annually, offering a year-round schedule of filmmaking classes for all ages, and supporting filmmakers at all stages of their careers.

## PARKING

Northwest Film Forum is located at 1515 12th Ave in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Seattle, on 12th Avenue between Pike & Pine Street. An affordable pay parking lot is available 3 blocks from the Film Forum, at the Greek Orthodox Church at 13th and Howell (please note: this lot

may be closed for special events). We also highly recommend Seattle Central College's Harvard Garage at 1609 Harvard Avenue (at E. Pine Street), which is open and available 24/7. Street parking is available Monday-Saturday after 8pm and all day on Sundays.

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## OPENING NIGHT

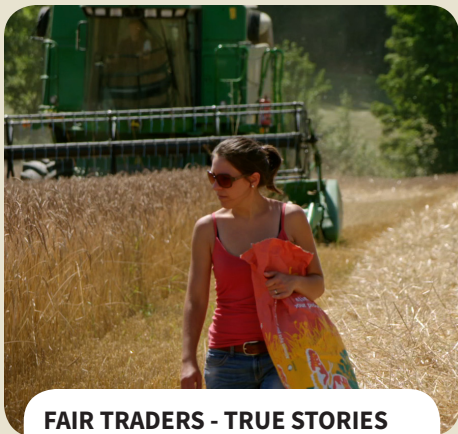
### Balloon (Ballon)

October 22 at 7:30 p.m. • Germany  
Directed by Michael Herbig • 125 min.

Known for Germany's all-time biggest grossing movies *Manitou's Shoe* (2001) and *Dreamship Surprise* (2004), comedy personality Michael "Bully" Herbig now makes his directing foray into thrillers, recreating a gripping historical event. 1979, East Germany at the height of the Cold War. Günter Wetzel (David Kross, *The Reader*), a bricklayer, and his friend Peter Strelzyk (Friedrich Mücke), an electrician, can no longer bear the oppressive regime. The two men and their wives undertake a mission to secretly build a hot air balloon from scratch that will carry them and their families over the border fence to freedom. Over the course of the next 18 months they sew 1,000 square metres of cloth and gather countless weather reports from West German radio with the Stasi (State Police) hot on their heels. A nerve-racking battle against the clock begins...

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**FAIR TRADERS - TRUE STORIES OF ETHICAL BUSINESS**

October 28 • 6:00 p.m • Switzerland  
Directed by Nino Jacusso • 89 min.

Three players in the free-market economy assume responsibility for society and subsequent generations: they practice sustainability. The film examines various stages in the careers of successful entrepreneurs who operate on a local, national and international level and deliver on their promise of a sustainable future.

This movie is proudly sponsored by the Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco



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**THE REFORMER: ZWINGLI – A LIFE’S PORTRAIT**

October 28 • 8:00 p.m • Switzerland  
Directed by Stefan Haupt • 123 min.

Zurich, 1519. Arriving with nothing but his impassioned eloquence and radical ideas (e.g. clerics should be free to marry who they choose—radical even today), a young priest sparks a revolution that would challenge the Catholic stronghold over the people, reforming a faith, a nation, and the world. Based on the extraordinary life of Ulrich Zwingli, this lush historical epic reveals how one man’s powerful words and deeds took aim against the tyranny of the time and its suffocating religious strictures. Amid charges of blasphemy and heresy, Zwingli’s denunciation of Biblical hypocrisy slowly begins to sway others to his side, including Anna, a devout widow with a passion for learning. As Zwingli’s controversial positions advance the city toward civil war, his deep bond with Anna is at stake. Multiple award-winning director Stefan Haupt (The Circle) and lead actor Maximilian Simonischek (The Divine Order) craft an intensely vibrant reconstruction of a pivotal moment in Swiss history and an incendiary romance set amid a period of intense transition.

This movie is proudly sponsored by the Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco



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**ALFONS JITTERBAG – COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS**

October 29 • 6:00 p.m • Germany  
Directed by Mark Schlichter • 54 min.

What would Alfons Zitterbacke give to be a great athlete, a super student and an astronaut, just like Alexander Gerst. But that isn’t what his world looks like. The 11-year-old stumbles from one mishap to the next. Everyone seems to gang up on him. Unfair teachers, vicious classmates and a very strict father generally make life miserable for him – when out of the blue an aircraft competition offers the opportunity to participate in an astronaut camp and Alfons sees his chance: At last he can show the world what a brilliant inventor he is – particularly Emilia, the new girl in class. The only trouble is that Alfons’ rival, Nico, also decides to take part in the competition and challenges him to a duel. In his dilemma, Alfons drags his best friend Benni, into the affair, and now there’s no way out: They have to win the competition. But how?

*Alfons Jitterbag* is an action-packed comedy about friendship, outer space, fathers and sons and the best plans for building rockets.



**HOW ABOUT ADOLF? (Der Vorname)**

October 29 • 8:00 p.m • Germany  
Directed by Sönke Wortmann • 91 min.

"What's in a name?" Shakespeare's lofty question takes on new life in this savage comedy which raucously lampoons contemporary German attitudes, guilt and denials of the Nazi past. When Thomas (Florian David Fitz), the black sheep of a progressive middle-class academic family, surprises his siblings with the news that he intends to name his son Adolf, petty carnage ensues as personal, ideological and sexual histories are unmasked in this scintillating dark comedy. A breakout German box-office hit (a noteworthy factoid deserving of its own cultural analysis), this send-up of social respectability and appearances shows as much of an awareness of Germany's current shifting political landscape and reactionary views as it does an understanding of the tense interpersonal dynamics between siblings and in-laws. With a marvelous screenplay that is biting, quick, frequently genuinely shocking and deserving of comparison to Yasmina Reza's best satiric plays, *How About Adolf?* is an enjoyable excursion into bourgeois infighting and mayhem. At this dinner table, sociability starts out as just a smile, and a smile is just teeth.



### **BRECHT**

November 4 at 3:00  
Directed by Heinrich Breloer  
Germany/Austria • 187 minutes

Heinrich Breloer's biographical film of writer Bertolt Brecht, is a hybrid of fiction and documentary. Brecht's art reflects his inner conflict and is closely linked to the political upheavals of the time. Following Brecht's life from the beginning of World War I to his death, Breloer concentrates on Brecht's relationships with women and colleagues at the Berliner Ensemble. Excerpts from interviews with Brecht's first love Paula Banholzer, directors Egon Monk and Manfred Wekwerth, actor Regine Lutz and many others contribute to this portrait of the icon of political theatre as a combative, loving and conflicted contemporary.

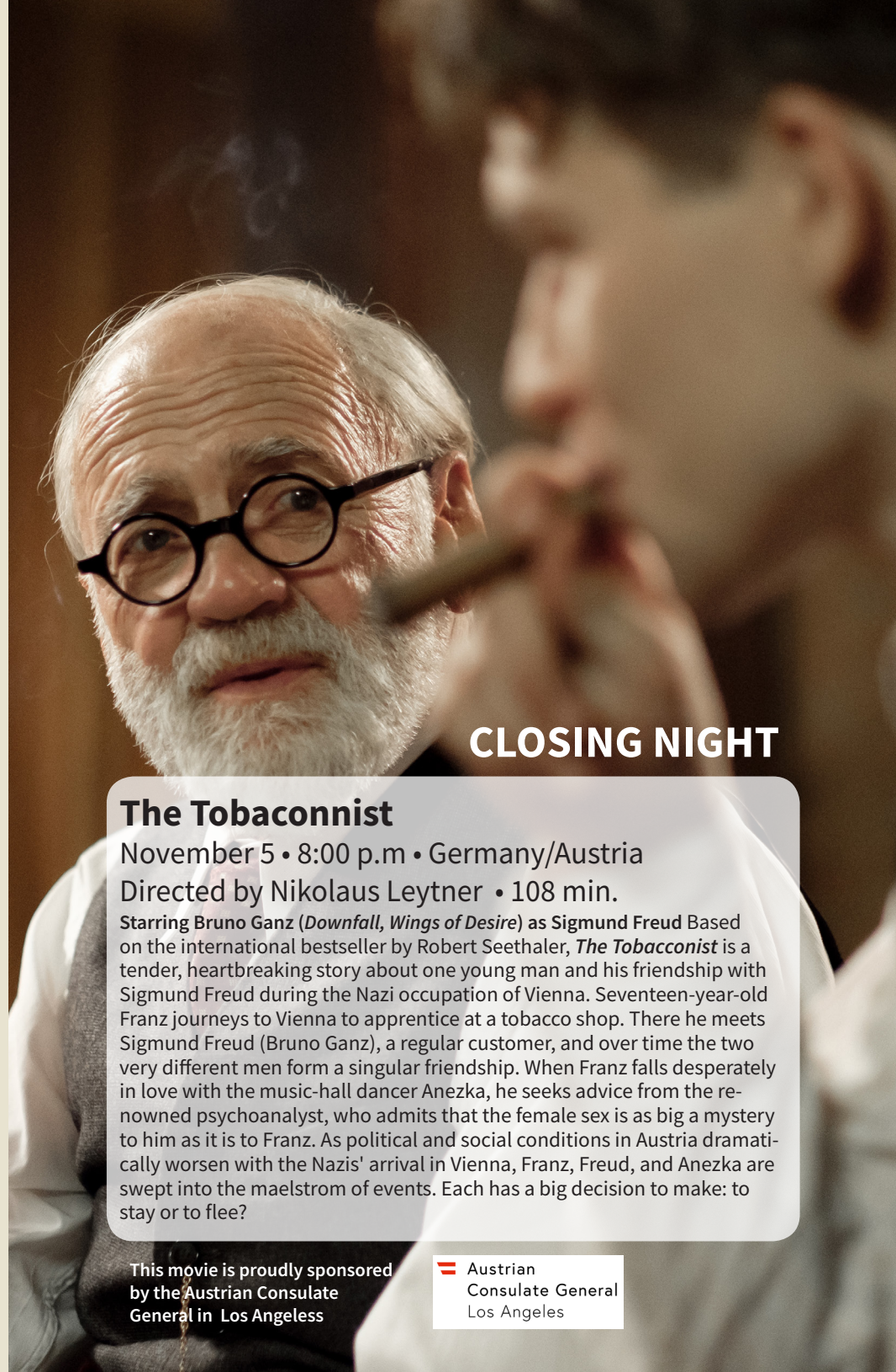


### **ROCCA CHANGES THE WORLD (ROCCA – VERÄNDERT DIE WELT)**

November 5 • 6:00 p.m • Germany  
Directed by Katja Benrath • 100 min.

With never-ending optimism Rocca proves together with her friends, that even a child has the power to change the world.

Brave, funny, and one of a kind: that's Rocca. Rocca is eleven years old and lives a rather unique life. While her dad is watching over her as an astronaut from outer space, Rocca lives alone with her squirrel and is attending a normal school for the first time in her life. At school her carefree and non-conformist way of life instantly stands out. She fearlessly confronts the class bullies, because first and foremost Rocca stands up for justice. That's why she makes friends with the homeless Caspar and tries to help him. All the while she is also attempting to win over her grandmother's heart.




## **CLOSING NIGHT**

### **The Tobacconist**

November 5 • 8:00 p.m • Germany/Austria  
Directed by Nikolaus Leytner • 108 min.

Starring Bruno Ganz (*Downfall, Wings of Desire*) as Sigmund Freud Based on the international bestseller by Robert Seethaler, *The Tobacconist* is a tender, heartbreaking story about one young man and his friendship with Sigmund Freud during the Nazi occupation of Vienna. Seventeen-year-old Franz journeys to Vienna to apprentice at a tobacco shop. There he meets Sigmund Freud (Bruno Ganz), a regular customer, and over time the two very different men form a singular friendship. When Franz falls desperately in love with the music-hall dancer Anezka, he seeks advice from the renowned psychoanalyst, who admits that the female sex is as big a mystery to him as it is to Franz. As political and social conditions in Austria dramatically worsen with the Nazis' arrival in Vienna, Franz, Freud, and Anezka are swept into the maelstrom of events. Each has a big decision to make: to stay or to flee?

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