



# The Berlin Language of Art & Music Conference 2014

*“Cinematic Cultural Diplomacy: Practicing Cultural Diplomacy through Film”*

(Berlin, February 12th – 14th, 2014)





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## Introduction



As technological developments are accompanied by enhanced access to films, cinematography is increasingly gaining importance as an invaluable medium of cultural diplomacy. With innovative regional cinematic industries making their mark on the global artistic landscape, talent from around the world is being showcased to large audiences who would normally not have access to the cultural particularities of the diverse regions of the world.

These films, by telling stories that reflect the social, cultural and political landscapes of their origin, are serving to promote diplomatic relations on the one hand and at the same time challenge stereotypes and foster intercultural understanding on a scale never before imagined. In addition to the story-telling components inherent in films, they simultaneously raise intercultural awareness through the incorporation of art and music specific to their region of origin.

These contributions to international relations will be celebrated during two high-level conferences taking place in Berlin and in Hollywood. The conferences will examine the immense transformative value that film holds as a vehicle of Cultural Diplomacy. The conferences will gather an interdisciplinary mixture of practitioners of Cultural Diplomacy from across the globe for a true celebration of art as cultural diplomacy that will run parallel in Berlin to the world renowned Berlinale International Film Festival and in Hollywood, parallel to the 86th Academy Awards.

In both events the use of music and art as integral components of Cinematic Cultural Diplomacy will be explored and analyzed as tools for enhancing cross cultural understanding and interaction.



# Professional Development Program in Cultural Diplomacy

Weeklong Seminars on Cultural Diplomacy - February Session

The Berlin Language of Art and Music (Berlin; February 12th - 14th, 2014)



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## Agenda

The Conference will feature a variety of lectures, seminars, panel discussions, and film presentations allowing participants to gain an in depth insight into the dimensions and implications of Cinematic Cultural Diplomacy across the world. Participants will be invited to contribute to the development of creative ideas and recommendations to promote film and cinema as vehicles of successful international relation and intercultural exchange. In addition, participants will have the unique opportunity to experience first-hand Cinematic Cultural Diplomacy in action by attending the world renowned Berlin International Film Festival.

The Conference will focus in particular on the following areas:

- An Introduction to Cinematic Cultural Diplomacy
- Cinematic Cultural Diplomacy in Practice - Case studies
- Cinematic Cultural Diplomacy in the Diplomatic Sector
- Cinematic Cultural Diplomacy as a Strategy of Nation-branding
- The Cultural Industry of Film as a Driver of Development
- Film as a Catalyst of the Creative Economy
- Cinematic Cultural Diplomacy & Peace building and in Conflict Zones
- Cinematic Cultural Diplomacy in raising Political Awareness



## Conference Timetable

Wednesday, February 12th, 2013 - The ICD House of Arts and Culture

**10.00 “Welcome and Introduction”**

**Mark C. Donfried**

(Director General & Founder, Institute for Cultural Diplomacy)

**10:45 “Cinematic Cultural Diplomacy: Practicing Cultural Diplomacy through Film”**

**Moderator:**

**Amb. Karl-Erik Norman**

(Member of Faculty, Center for Cultural Diplomacy Studies)

**Speakers:**

**Tobias Janson**

(Swedish Film Producer)

**Jannik Tai Nosholt**

(Danish Scriptwriter)

**11:30 Tea, Coffe & Refreshments**

**12.00 “Actor. The Romantic Cultural Diplomat”**

**Cosmina Stratan**

(Romanian Actress)

**12.30 “The Impact of an Unfortunate Event - The Film “Circles”as an Example of Cultural Diplomacy”**

**Nikola Rakocevic**

(Serbian Actor)

**13.00 Lunch Break**

**14.30 “The Aesthetics of Shadow: Lighting and Japanese Cinema”**

**Prof. Dr. Daisuke Miyao**

(Chair, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures Associate Professor of Japanese Film and Cinema Studies, Univeristy of Oregon)

**15.30 “Cinematic Cultural Diplomacy”**

**Mark C. Donfried**

(Director General & Founder, Institute for Cultural Diplomacy)

**16.00 Tea, Coffee & Refreshments**

**16.30 “The Role of Dance as Cultural Diplomacy”**

**Tatjana Sehic**

(Consultant, Intercultural Communication)



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Thursday; February 13th, 2014 - The ICD House of Arts and Culture

10.00 “Mission Possible: Film as Cultural Diplomacy”

**Nursel Köse**

(German Actress & Film Director)

10:45 “Film Industries in a single market: some aspects of European audiovisual policies”

**The Hon. Erna Hennicot-Schoegpes**

(Vice President of the ICD Advisory Board; Former President of the Parliament of Luxembourg; Former Minister of Cultural & Religious Affairs)

11.30 *Tea, Coffee & Refreshments*

12.00 “Cross Cultural Studies through Experimental Performance Art Practice and Cinematic Documentation”

**Prof. Helmi Vent**

(Professor emerita at the Mozarteum University Salzburg, Austria, Director of LIA - Lab Inter Arts)

13.00 *Lunch Break*

14.30 “Linguistic Integrity in Cross Cultural Filmmaking”

**Bentley Brown**

(American Writer and Filmmaker)

15.30 “Film as a Cultural Diplomacy Tool”

**Bridget Callow-Wright**

(Australian Film Producer)

16.00 *Tea, Coffee & Refreshments*

16.30 “Lecture & Discussion”

**Nancy Buirski**

(US Film Producer)

17.00 “Human Mechanisms - Immigration Through Film”

**Neta Riskin**

(Israeli Actress)

19.00 *Group Dinner - Pakistani Experience at the Gandhara*

22.00 **Berlinale - Berlinale Open House**  
**Berlinale NATIVE** hosts a **storytelling-slam** with invited storytellers and open mike

**Location: Audi Berlinale Lounge - Marlene Dietrich Platz**

## Conference Timetable

Friday; February 14th, 2014 - Embassy of Italy to the United States

10.00 “Cinematic Cultural Diplomacy in the Diplomatic Sector and as a Strategy of Nation Branding”

**The Hon. Erna Hennicot-Schoegpes**

(Vice President of the ICD Advisory Board; Former President of the Parliament of Luxembourg; Former Minister of Culture & Religious Affairs)

11.30 *Tea, Coffee & Refreshments*

12.00 “The Film ‘Blue Lips’ as an Example of International Collaboration Cultural Diplomacy”

**Candela Figueira**

(US Actress)

13.00 *Lunch Break*

14.30 “The Role of the Artist in the Contemporary World”

**Igor Simic**

(Serbian Writer and Director)

15.00 “Peacebuilders: Languages and Roles”

**Nesrin Cavadzade**

(Azerbaijani Actress)

15.30 “Our Shared Humanity: The Moral and Cultural Preconditions of Cordial Relations”

**Prof. Dr. Claes G. Ryn**

(Professor of Politics, the Catholic University of America)

15.30 “Film, a Letter to the Future”

**Adina Istrate**

(Romanian Writer & Director)

16.00 *Tea, Coffee & Refreshments*

16.30 “Dance & Body Language”

**Tatjana Sehic**

(Consultant, Intercultural Communication)

17.30 “20th Commemoration of the genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda”

**Eric Kabera**

(Film Director, Founder and CEO of the Kwetu Film Institute in Rwanda)

**Martin Brandes**

(Senior Advisor International Cooperation, Kwetu Film Institute)



Participants of the Conference visiting the Reichstag  
(Berlin; February 12th - February 14th, 2014)



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## Conference Summary

### Day 1 - The ICD House of Arts and Culture

(Berlin; February 12th, 2013)



Ambassador Karl-Erik Norman and Tobias Janson during the interactive discussion

The first day of the conference “Berlin Language of Art & Music Conference 2014” was introduced and opened by the Director General and Founder of the ICD, Mark Donfried welcoming participants and speakers alike into the ICD House of Arts and Cultures.

A panel discussion began the morning’s proceedings,

moderated by Amb. Karl-Erik Norman from the Centre of Cultural Diplomacy Studies alongside speakers Tobias Janson and Jannik Tai Nosholt. The interactive discussion focused on the themes of “Cinematic Cultural Diplomacy and Practicing Cultural Diplomacy through Film” engaging with both the speakers involved and participants present.

Romanian actress Cosmina Stratan gave a lecture entitled “Actor. The Romantic Cultural Diplomat” offering her opinions and research on the role of the actor in cultural diplomacy. Stratan talked of her own work in independent movies and how international recognition of such movies positively increased the amount of Romanians in her own country to buy tickets to these movies thus increasing cultural awareness. She spoke of herself as an undercover romantic diplomat and her role through acting to bring the public closer to the content of a movie and thereby closer to a country’s culture.

Professor Dr Daisuke Miyao concluded the first day of the conference with a lecture entitled “The Aesthetics of Shadow: Lighting and Japanese Cinema”, the same title as his recently published book. He spoke of how he would like to start conversations between those who make films and study them as well as how films can cross borders and therefore engage in cultural diplomacy. Miyao also mused on how Japanese cinema has changed during the 20th century, closing the day’s proceedings.



Romanian Actress Cosmina Stratan



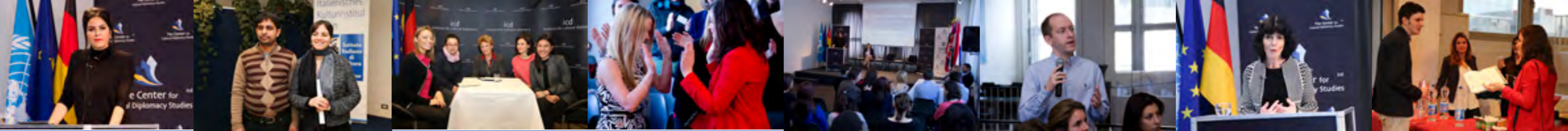
Serbian Actor Nikola Rakocevic



MA Student Eros Banaj and Prof. Dr. Daisuke Miyao



Participants of “The Berlin Language of Art and Music 2014”



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## Day 2 - The ICD House of Arts and Culture

(Berlin; February 13th, 2014)



Neta Riskin during her lecture “Human Mechanisms - Immigration Through Film”

The second day of the conference was held once again at the ICD House and had a real range of speakers from the various fields including film directors, actresses, academics and NGOs.

The lectures on cultural diplomacy spoke of Indian and Austrian links, developed through the use of original language signing. Professor Helmi Vent from the University of Salzburg, Austria showed conference delegates exactly how this project in Mumbai has aided cultural awareness and strengthened the links between two nations, which may from the outside seem to be polar opposites. Professor Vent discussed the need to be open, to both other cultures and generally and how there is no need to be afraid of the unknown, but to embrace it.

Concluding the day’s proceedings, Israeli actress Neta Riskin gave a lecture entitled “Human Mechanisms – Immigration Through Film” in which she spoke from her personal experience as a young immigrant in Berlin. She mentioned a new model of immigration with diaspora spreading further than ever before for a variety of reasons



Participants of the Conference



Visiting the Reichstag



Neta Riskin



Participants during the social aspect of the conference



Professor Hellmi Vent



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## Day 3 - The ICD House of Arts and Culture

Berlin; February 14th, 2014)

Luxembourgian politician The Hon. Erna Hennicot-Schoepges opened the third and final day of the conference giving a lecture entitled “Cinematic Cultural Diplomacy in the Diplomatic Sector and as a Strategy of Nation Branding”. She spoke on European policy in the film sector and the efforts of the EU in trying to promote the exchange of cultures through film. She advised that it is best to avoid dubbing, with the original language versions and subtitles in order to understand other countries better. She continued that it is key to promote the cinema industry in new EU countries and make these films more popular enabling other member states of the EU to share cinematic production and therefore cultures. After her lecture she chaired a panel discussion in which delegates and speakers were invited to discuss cinematic cultural diplomacy as a strategy of nation branding.

Serbian writer and director, Igmor Simic, gave the second lecture of the day using the title “The Role of the Artist in the Contemporary World” to focus his discussion. Himself elected for the Berlinale talent competition, he argued how the role of art is not primarily to make social or political changes, but also to engage with people on varying levels. Following on from Simic’s lecture, Romanian writer and director, Adina Istrate gave a lecture entitled “Film, a Letter to the Future” offering her opinion on how science can and will effect the human race, detailing how the visual representation of science is needed in the arts.

The penultimate session of the conference came in the form of a dance & body language workshop and performance from Tatjana Sehic, a Romanian con-

sultant of intercultural communication. Ms Sehic showed participants how to improve their posture and how dance can promote cultural diplomacy because it engages with a person’s attitude. She stated that dance promotes an open attitude and makes people more welcoming. Footage was shown of Hillary Clinton reinforcing the message that dance education is very important for the youth of today.

The conference concluded with the showing of a Rwandan film to mark the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide followed by a panel discussion with the Ambassador of Rwanda to Germany and Eric Kabera, the film’s producer. The Rwandan Embassy then gave a reception in which delegates, officials and ICD representatives networked and discussed the past proceedings over wine and food, kindly provided by the Embassy.



Participants of the conference in their own language



Panel discussion with the Ambassador of Rwanda to Germany and Eric Kabera, the film’s producer



Participants of the Conference



Participants of the Berlin Language of Arts & Culture Conference 2014  
(Berlin; 12th - 14th February, 2014)



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## Speaker List

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### **Adina Istrate**

Romanian Writer & Director

### **Bentley Brown**

US Writer & Filmmaker

### **Bridget Callow-Wright**

Australian Film Producer

### **Candela Figueira**

US Actress

### **Cosmina Stratan**

Romanian Actress

### **Prof. Dr. Daisuke Miyao**

Chair, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, Associate Professor of Japanese Film and Cinema Studies, University of Oregon

### **Eric Kabera**

Film Director, Founder and CEO of the Kwetu Film Institute in Rwanda

### **The Hon. Erna Hennicot-Schoegpes**

Member of Faculty, Center for Cultural Diplomacy Studies; Former Minister of Culture, Higher Education & Research of Luxembourg

### **Prof. Dr. Helmi Vent**

Professor emerita at the Mozarteum University Salzburg, Austria, Director of LIA - Lab Inter Arts

### **Igor Simic**

Serbian Writer and Director

### **Jannik Tai Nosholt**

Danish Scriptwriter

### **Amb. Karl-Erik Norman**

Member of Faculty, Center for Cultural Diplomacy Studies; Former Swedish Ambassador

### **Mark C. Donfried**

Director General & Founder, Institute for Cultural Diplomacy

### **Martin Brandes**

Senior Advisor International Cooperation, Kwetu Film Institute

### **Nancy Buirski**

US Film Producer

### **Nikola Rakocevic**

Serbian Actor

### **Nesrin Cavadzade**

Azerbaijani Actress

### **Neta Riskin**

Israeli Actress

### **Nursel Köse**

German Actress & Film Director

### **Tobias Janson**

Swedish Film Producer

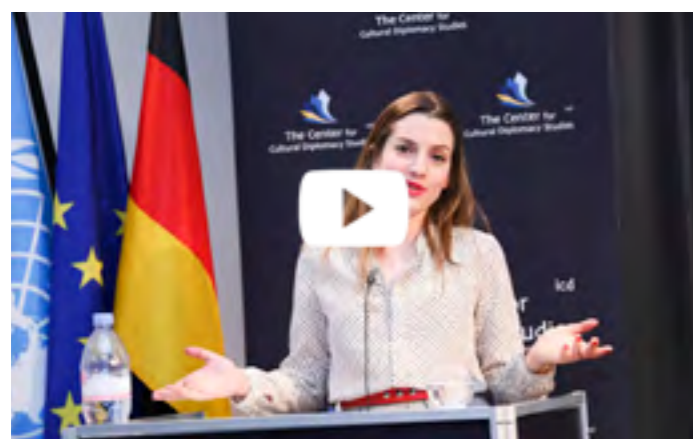


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## Video Highlights



A Lecture by Neta Riskin  
Israeli Actress



An Interview with Nurse Köse  
German Actress and Director



A lecture by Tobias Janson  
Swedish Film Producer



An Interview with Jannik Tai Nosholt  
Danish Scriptwriter



A Lecture by Cosmina Stratan  
Romanian Actress



An Interview with Prof. Dr. Daisuke Miayo  
Professor of Japanese Film and Cinema Studies,  
University of Oregon



Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide  
An Event host by the Embassy of Rwanda to Germany



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