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'Tracey' opens Berlin's Panorama

'Bushi' to kick off Special program

By [ED MEZA](#)

BERLIN — Bruce McDonald's Canadian film "The Tracey Fragments," which explores a 15-year-old girl's fragmented emotional world, will open the main section of the Panorama arthouse section at this year's Berlin Film Festival.

Panorama organizers on Tuesday announced further screeners in the Panorama's various programs, including the Panorama Special, which opens with "Bushi No Ichibun" (Love and Honor) by Japanese director Yoji Yamada. Pic is the third and final installment in his samurai trilogy — the first two parts were screened in the Berlinale competition sections of 2003 and 2005 — and focuses on a young samurai (Takuya Kimura) who serves as food taster for a lord.

The documentary sidebar, Panorama Dokumente, will showcase 17 films, including 12 world premieres.

"Big names and themes relating to politics, music, art and fashion will characterize this year's Panorama Dokumente," said section head Wieland Speck.

Opening Panorama Dokumente will be "Strange Culture" by American film essayist Lynn Hershman Leeson, who documents the paranoid reaction of U.S. security authorities in the case of Steve Kurtz, a biogenetics professor suspected of terrorism. Thomas Jay Ryan and Tilda Swinton play Kurtz and his wife, while Kurtz himself recounts his harrowing experiences with the FBI.

New York filmmaker Stephen Kijak (Cinemania) will present "Scott Walker — 30 Century Man," a look at the influential and enigmatic musician featuring interviews with the likes of Brian Eno, Mark Almond and David Bowie, who produced the film.

Other portraits of American artists include the four-hour long "Andy Warhol: A Documentary Film," by American helmer Ric Burns and featuring commentary by the likes of Dennis Hopper, Bob Dylan, Salvador Dali, Edie Sedgwick and others; and "This Filthy World," Jeff Garlin's look at the work of John Waters.

Vladimir Ivanov's "Moskva. Pride '06" chronicles the brutal attack on a handful of activists attending Moscow's first gay pride demonstration.

Other works showcasing gay, lesbian and transgender themes include "Fucking Different New York," a follow up to last year's Panorama screener "Fucking Different," which focuses on Berlin's gay, lesbian and transgender communities.

The history of queer film is the central theme of Andre Schaefer's "Schau mir in die Augen Kleiner," featuring Stephen Frears, Gus Van Sant, Tilda Swinton and Francois Ozon. Pic was produced by German-Gallic pubcaster Arte, which will broadcast the Berlinale's Teddy Award queer film prize.

Two docs showcase fashion industry giants: "Celebration" by Olivier Meyrou, who won the Teddy in 2006 with his doc "Beyond Hatred," profiles Yves Saint Laurent, while Rodolphe Marconi takes an intimate look at the force behind Chanel as a landmark fashion house in "Lagerfeld Confidentiel."

A number of works look at music in Germany. In Uli M. Schueppel's "BerlinSong," young musicians from around the world come together in Berlin, drawn by the city's creative atmosphere and an alternative lifestyle without consumerism and status symbols.

With "Tamara," Peter Kahane showcases late East German singer Tamara Danz and chronicles a remarkable period in the history of East German rock.

"Der Rote Elvis" by Leopold Gruen is the extraordinary story of the late American singer and entertainer Dean Reed, who achieved huge stardom in East Germany after settling there in 1973.

More serious political fare is chronicled in Daniel Gordon's "Crossing the Line," which recounts the stories of four American soldiers who defected to North Korea in 1962 while stationed at the border between North and South Korea; and "Miss Gulag," Maria Yatskova's documentary about three women who suffered incarceration in a Siberian Gulag.

The association Schwarze Filmschaffende Deutschland) (Blacks in Film/Germany), established at last year's Panorama, will present a block of six short films entitled "Neue Bilder," as well as a photo exhibition at the Independent Lounge K44.

Lucy Walker's "Blindsight" documents a climb up Mount Everest by pupils of Tibet's only school for the blind. Dolby Screen Talk will make it possible for blind and visually impaired moviegoers to enjoy the screening.

A joint project by international filmmakers, "Invisibles" focuses on the sufferings of the Third World, including displacement in areas of conflict in South America, recruitment of child soldiers in Africa and the ravages of treatable but "unprofitable" diseases. Pic was produced by Javier Bardem and directed by Isabel Coixet, Fernando Leon de Aranoa, Mariano Barroso, Javier Corcuera and Wim Wenders.

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