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### **Opening and Closing U.S. Premieres from Germany Selected for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Stony Brook Film Festival Presented by Island Federal Credit Union**

May 4, 2017, Stony Brook, NY -- The 2017 Stony Brook Film Festival opens on July 20<sup>th</sup> with German films as bookends to the Festival. The U.S. premiere screening of **Welcome to Germany** (*Willkommen bei den Hartmanns*), a feature written and directed by Simon Verhoeven (*Men in the City*), opens the Festival on Thursday, July 20. **Welcome to Germany** is a timely comedy about a well-off Munich family who offer to take in a refugee. The film stars Senta Berger, Heiner Lauterbach, Palina Rojinski, Elyas M'Barek and Eric Kabongo. The film from Picture Tree, produced by Quirin Berg, Michael Verhoeven, Simon Verhoeven and Max Wiedemann, is being shown in its first screening in North America.

A romantic comedy, **Text for You**, from writer-director-actress Karoline Herfurth closes the Stony Brook Film Festival on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. Also a U.S. Premiere, the German feature is about love, loss and texts that arrive from a mysterious stranger. Karoline Herfurth starred in *Berlin '36*, which won the Stony Brook Film Festival's Audience Choice Award in 2010. The film also stars Friedrich Mücke, Nora Tschirner, Katja Riemann and Frederick Lau. In its international debut, **Text for You**, produced by Lothar Hellinger and Christopher Doll, screens from Beta Cinema.

The full schedule of features, documentaries and shorts will be announced on June 6<sup>th</sup> at [stonybrookfilmfestival.com](http://stonybrookfilmfestival.com).

#### **About the Festival**

The Stony Brook Film Festival presented by Island Federal Credit Union is a highly competitive and selective ten-day festival that features every film and short on a 40-foot screen in Staller Center for the Arts Main Stage at Stony Brook University. The theater seats over 1000 and filmmakers enjoy a packed theater at their screening.

Located at Stony Brook University on Long Island's north shore—halfway between NYC and the Hamptons—the Stony Brook Film Festival attracts 15,000 attendees as well as many from the film business who enjoy the screenings, casual atmosphere, and parties at sponsoring restaurants and clubs.

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