

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Berlinale Talk with Michael Ballhaus: Live in Twinity

During the 2009 Berlinale, film enthusiasts from all around the world will be able to enjoy selected events as if they were there in person. International discussion panels, including one featuring German DoP legend Michael Ballhaus, will be broadcast live from the HomeBase Lounge in 3D online world Twinity.

Berlin, 3 February 2009 – During the Berlinale, the national and international film and media industry will meet in the HomeBase to debate a range of film-related topics. This year, for the very first time, the lounge will be open to film aficionados from all around the world: From 8 to 12 February, Twinity will be broadcasting the 'Akademie Breaks' and 'DigiDays' live in virtual Berlin. Members of the 3D online world Twinity can take an active part in the star-studded panel discussions and join in the live debate.

A particular highlight of these exclusive Berlinale livecasts is the 'Akademie Breaks' panel "Because they know what they are talking about – How first hand film teaching inspires!" with Michael Ballhaus, Thomas Binotto, and Peter R. Adam. This panel discussion will be held on 11 February in the real and the virtual HomeBase Lounge in Twinity simultaneously. The Twinity 3D community can catch the entire 'Akademie Breaks' program, organized by the German Film Academy from 09 - 12 February, and the event series 'DigiDays' live in the virtual HomeBase Lounge.

"The virtual expansion of HomeBase into Twinity opens up whole new opportunities for us," enthused Simon Chappuzeau, Managing Partner of the HomeBase Lounge. "International filmmakers will be able to profit from the knowledge and experience of panel participants in a previously unrealized way, and even participate in the live debate," continued Chappuzeau. The virtual HomeBase Lounge was designed and realized by Force Sunrise, a full-service agency for virtual worlds and 3D web projects, with support from Media.net.

The virtual world Twinity is currently in public Beta. Register for free membership at www.twinity.com and begin exploring the world today.



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DigiDays:
8 – 10 February, 11am – 12 noon

Akademie Breaks:
9 – 12 February, 12 noon – 3 pm

More information:
www.twinity.com
www.homebase-berlin.net

Digital press kit:
http://press.twinity.com/press_kit/

Press contact

Barbara Ecker
Manager Communication and Brand
Metaversum GmbH | Twinity.com
Rungestr. 20 | 10179 Berlin
Germany
Tel: +49 30 847 12 25 23
Fax: +49 30 847 12 25 29
Press@twinity.com
www.metaversum.com

The HomeBase program – live in Twinity:

Sunday, 8 February

- 'DigiDays' with New Producers Alliance London (NPA)

Monday, 9 February

- 'DigiDays' with Directed
- 'Akademie Breaks': Creating worlds for the world – How does production design enter minds? Brigitte Broch in discussion with Silke Buhr, moderation by Dirk Dotzert

Tuesday, 10 February

- 'DigiDays' with Peacefulfish
- 'Akademie Breaks': Writing & Directing – Love Affair or Crime Scene? Ivy Ho in discussion with Florian Gallenberger

Wednesday, 11 February

- 'Akademie Breaks': Because they know what they are talking about – How first hand film teaching inspires! Thomas Binotto in discussion with Michael Ballhaus and Peter R. Adam

Thursday, 12 February

- 'Akademie Breaks': From Kinshasa to Patagonia – What makes a documentary universal? Jeffrey Levy-Hinte in discussion with Pepe Danquart, moderation by Heike-Melba Fendel

The 'DigiDays' panels take place from 11am to 12 noon, the 'Akademie Breaks' panels take place from 12 noon to 3pm. Find detailed information on the HomeBase Lounge program at: www.berlinaletermine.homebase-berlin.net and www.digidays.homebase-berlin.net.

Information about Metaversum and Twinity:

Metaversum develops and operates the 3D online world Twinity. The vision behind Twinity is to forge a close connection between the real and the virtual world. Twinity is building realistic replicas of the world's most vibrant cities in 3D, starting with Berlin, with other cities set to follow soon. Twinity members can create a personal avatar, explore real cities virtually, move into a 3D home, chat with friends, work, get creative, or just have fun together.

Twinity also offers businesses new ways of engaging with real people in real virtual cities. Through virtual shops and branded presences, in-world ad campaigns, product placements, and sponsored events, Twinity lets you enter into a direct and emotional, digital dialog with your target group. Twinity is currently in public Beta. Founded in July 2006 and financed by leading venture capital firms, Metaversum has offices in Berlin, Kiev, and Singapore. More information can be found at www.metaversum.com and www.twinity.com.

Information about the HomeBase Lounge:

HomeBase Lounge is Berlin's only private club solely dedicated to Berlins dynamic media industry. With regular events during the year, we aim to improve the social fabric of Berlins digital economy and have fun.

Initially founded as a temporary meeting place during the 2004 Berlinale, HomeBase Lounge slowly grew into a private club. Today we embrace everything digital. Bringing together film, web 2.0, games, and the mobile industry we reflect Berlin's diverse media scene.

Our central location reflects this aim: Located in the former building of the Deutsche Creditverein (German Credit Association) at Potsdamer Platz HomeBase Lounge is centrally located, making it easy for everyone to join us.



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