

## Festival de la Francophonie in Chicago



Once again, Chicago celebrates the **Festival de la Francophonie**; a convergence of the French language and culture throughout the world.

The Festival de la Francophonie 2010 will open its doors on Friday, **March 5, 2010, at 6:00 pm** (see Calendar) with the **Soirée Commune** at Alliance Française Chicago. This international evening is organized by various French speaking countries represented in Chicago and Alliance Française Chicago. Switzerland will be hosting its renowned and acclaimed Swiss raclette. The evening will also feature a great deal of food from other francophone countries, a silent auction and live music. Admissions: \$15 for adults, \$5 for children.

For the **Swiss Evening** on Thursday, **March 11, 2010, at 6:30 pm** (free entrance), Switzerland will present a Swiss film, **"Pas de panique"** (2006) by Denis Rabaglia.

### New Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Detroit

After 25 years of service, Mr. Karl Pfister decided to hand over his mandate as a Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Detroit, and the Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs—although very reluctantly—accepted his decision to be effective from October 2009.

Mr. Pfister always represented our home country in the best way, assisting not only the Swiss community, but also Swiss tourists and travellers to Switzerland. The Consulate General's team remains very grateful to him for all he did promoting Swiss interests during so many years and with so much commitment and dedication. We wish him and his wife, Karen, all the best!

In the movie, it is time for Ludovic Chamerby to succeed his father at the head of the family business: A big department store in Geneva. But faced with his new duties, Ludovic panics and even has dizzy spells. This man with everything for a happy life is diagnosed with hypochondria or extreme fear of responsibility. Secretly, Ludovic starts group behavior therapy. While his lies spark off an incredible series of tragicomic events, Ludovic strikes up surprising friendships with other phobics in his group—such as Léon who can no longer stand untidiness or Clémence who cannot even bear one second of her own company. And if Ludovic is to find a cure at the end of the road, there will be a few surprises in store for him along the way... See [www.swissfilms.ch](http://www.swissfilms.ch)

The film will be screened in French, with English/German subtitles. Following the screening of "Pas de panique", an audience discussion will be conducted on today's fast-paced world and the pressures, obstacles and fears we eventually have to face. A small wine and cheese reception will be offered prior to the program.

The Soirée Commune and the Swiss Evening at Francophonie are in part sponsored by the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago, the Swiss Club of Chicago, the Service de la Francophonie of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago. For more information on the Festival de la Francophonie, please visit [www.af-chicago.org](http://www.af-chicago.org).

Luckily, the continuity of the Swiss Consular Representation in Detroit is fully ensured thanks to Mr. Walter Wegmüller who has been newly appointed by the Swiss Federal Council as a Honorary Consul. The Consulate General welcomes Mr. Wegmüller and wishes the best of success to him and his wife Doreen.



Mr. & Mrs. Karl Pfister and Mr. & Mrs. Walter Wegmüller

## Calendar

**Glorious Exit (2008)** by **Kevin Merz**, screening at **Cinémathèque at Facets Multimedia**, 1517 W. Fullerton Avenue, Chicago. Showtimes: Friday, Jan 15 at 7 pm & 9 pm, Saturday, Jan 16 & Sunday, Jan 17 at 3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm, 9 pm and Tuesday, Jan 19–Thursday, Jan 21 at 7 pm & 9 pm. General admission: 9 dollars. Free entrance for Facets Members. For more information, visit [www.facets.org](http://www.facets.org).

**Brothers (2008)** by **Igaal Niddam**, screening at the **Chicago Cultural Center**, Claudia Cassidy Theater, 77 E. Randolph Street, 2nd Floor, Chicago. Thursday, February 18, 2010, at 6:30 pm. Free admission. For more information on the movie, visit [www.brothers-film.com](http://www.brothers-film.com).

## Screening of Swiss Films in Chicago

### Glorious Exit by Kevin Merz

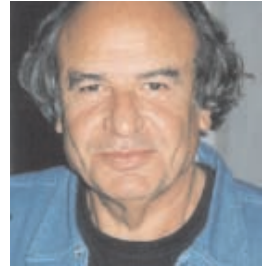


**Facets Multimedia** in Chicago is screening the Swiss film **Glorious Exit** (2008) by Kevin Merz at their **Cinémathèque** from Friday, January 15–21, 2010.

In *Glorious Exit*, Jarreth Merz, a Swiss-Nigerian actor living in Los Angeles is catapulted into a leadership role in a complicated situation. As the eldest son of a Nigerian father and a Swiss mother, he returns to Africa to assume the responsibilities of organizing traditional funeral rites and feasts. According to Nigerian tradition, the first-born is in charge of the father's burial. But who is this father? And why does Jarreth feel responsible and morally bound towards a father and a family he has hardly known? He is soon faced with many unexpected situations difficult to understand and solve. But Jarreth also begins a journey of self-discovery and into his origins. *Glorious Exit* was the winner at the Real Life Documentary Festival in Accra in 2008.

For more information, please visit [www.facets.org/cinemateque](http://www.facets.org/cinemateque) and see Calendar.

### Brothers by Igaal Niddam



Igaal Niddam

On **February 18, 2010, at 6:30 pm** the **Chicago Cultural Center** will screen Igaal Niddam's motion picture **Brothers** (2008). A long-time resident of Switzerland, Niddam has made films since 1974 and worked for Swiss Television TRS since 1985. He has an impressive list of films and TV productions to his credit and is the recipient of several awards. His first feature film garnered him "le grand prix du festival du film francophone" in 1974, and for "Passé sous silence" he received the Grand Prize for Best Film and Best Production at the Chinese TV Festival.

*Brothers* is a powerful movie about two brothers who early in life were separated and grew up very differently. Dan chooses to work on the land, living in a kibbutz in the south of Israel. Aaron becomes a doctor of law and philosophy and a distinguished scholar of the Torah. He comes to Jerusalem from the United States to defend the rights of Torah students and meets his brother Dan after many years of silence. The conflict which arises between the two brothers reflects that of a society torn between its religious and political principles. This film opens a subtle yet essential debate on the question of the separation of the state and religion in Israel, but also shows the personal quests the brothers make to understand each other and the world around them. For more information, please visit [www.brothers-film.com](http://www.brothers-film.com) and see Calendar.

This film is presented by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago in collaboration with the Lucerne Committee and Petach-Tikvah Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program (CSCIP) and the Consulate General of Israel in Chicago. After the screening, there will be an audience discussion. The admission is free.

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## Hallo. Servus. Grüezi: New German Literature at the Goethe Institut Chicago. Lorenz Langenegger at the Literaturlenz 2010



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## Calendar

**Lorenz Langenegger**, young Swiss author, reading at **Literaturlenz 2010** at the **Goethe Institut**, 150 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago. Wednesday, March 10, 2010, at 6:00 pm. For more information on the Literaturlenz, please visit [www.goethe.de/chicago](http://www.goethe.de/chicago).

**Soirée Commune**, at the **Festival de la Francophonie** at **Alliance Française**, 810 North Dearborn Street, Chicago. Friday, March 5, 2010, at 6:00 pm. Admission 15 dollars for adults, 5 dollars for children (up to age 12). **Swiss Evening**, screening **Pas de Panique**, at the Festival de la Francophonie at Alliance Française (see address above). Thursday, March 11, 2010, at 6:30 pm. Free admission. For more information on the Festival de la Francophonie, please visit [www.af-chicago.org](http://www.af-chicago.org).

**Lorenz Langenegger** will represent Switzerland at the traditional spring literary event **Literaturlenz**, at the **Goethe Institut in Chicago** on Wednesday, **March 10, 2010, at 6:00 pm**. Before coming to Chicago, Langenegger will participate in the *Festival Neue Literatur* in New York on March 7 and 8, 2010. Furthermore, Langenegger will also be reading from his work at the University of Wisconsin on March 11 and at the University of Illinois on March 12, 2010.

Lorenz Langenegger, born in 1980, lives and writes in Zurich. He finished his studies in dramatics and political science at the University of Bern and has written several plays for theaters, among them works for the *Schaubühne Berlin* and the *Nationaltheater Mannheim*. In 2006, he won the

play-writing competition by the Schaubühne. In 2009, his debut novel **Hier im Regen** has been published by Jung und Jung in Salzburg. For the latter, he was awarded the 2009 Franz Tumlner Prize and the Literature Prize by the city of Bern.

His tour to the United States is in part made possible by Pro Helvetia (Swiss Arts Council) in Zurich, Switzerland. The Literaturlenz is also supported by the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago and the Goethe Institut Chicago.

For more information on the Literaturlenz, please see the Calendar or visit [www.goethe.de/chicago](http://www.goethe.de/chicago).

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## New from Lucerne

### Lucerne Artist Studio in Chicago

Painter and architecture enthusiast Nils Nova (1968) will soon complete his residency at the Lucerne Artist Studio in Chicago. In February 2010, drawer, painter and illustrator **Christoph Fischer** (1976) will take over his position at the Lucerne Artist Studio. Fischer has specialized in sketching, photographing and filming urban society in various neighborhoods across several countries. He will certainly also be able to make good use of his extraordinary visual arts talents in the streets of Chicago. He has worked on several long-term projects, such as the Lucerne-based "Teufelskreisel Kreuzstutz" from 2000 to 2009. For more information on him, please visit [www.christophfischer.ch](http://www.christophfischer.ch).

### The John Marshall Law School—University of Lucerne Exchange Program

Both The John Marshall Law School and the University of Lucerne are happy to announce new spring semester exchange students. While **Carly Toepke** of The John Marshall Law School will be taking classes in the Transnational Legal Studies Program at the University of Lucerne, **Andreas Bertschi** and **Romeo Juri** of the University of Lucerne will be studying at The John Marshall Law School. Juri will be attending the LLM Program in International Business and Trade Law, Bertschi the LLM Program in Intellectual Property.



Teufelskreisel Kreuzstutz by Christoph Fischer

# mosaic

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