

# CRITICAL CINEMA TARGET GROUPS

YOUNG, BUSY AND SO MANY CHOICES – HOW CAN WE MAKE CINEMAS MORE ATTRACTIVE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES?



## Commissioner of the study





Verband der Filmverleiher e.V.





AG Kino - Gilde deutscher Filmkunsttheater e.V.

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FFA Filmförderungsanstalt

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Please note that in particular situations, for example at a high degree of specification, a comparatively low number of counts can occur, which may limit the accuracy of the interpretation to some extent. In such cases, the data may be less conclusive. If required, smoothing procedures will be applied in order to facilitate time series analysis. To correct for coverage gaps, internal/external benchmarks have been used.



## Half-year cinema results: best box office of all time after six months.



Cinema; all periods: January-June; spendings in m €

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3D since August 2009

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In the long term, however, there is a declining trend among 16-39 year olds; the significance of this group has fallen from 54% to 43% within five years.



2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		ROC 14 vs 09 (%)
44	45	44	47	47	46	Men	-14
56	55	56	53	53	54	Women	-20
12	13	12	11	12	12	10 to 15 years old	<mark>-13</mark>
27	27	24	20	20	19	16 to 24 years old	-43
			28	26	24	25 to 39 years old	-26
27	27	27	20	20		40 to 49 years old	-6
16	16	17	19	19	19	50 to 59 years old	31
<mark>8</mark>	8	9	<u>11</u> 12	<u>11</u> 12	12 14	60+ years old	 

Cinema, all periods: January - December; sales in %

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## **Objective and analytical design of the study**

#### Objective

- Analysis of the target group development within the cinema market and identification of the critical cinema target groups
- Understanding barriers within critical cinema target groups
- Determination of the motivators and drivers to increase the frequency of cinema attendance
- Identification of promising starting points so that appropriate measures can be taken
  - Creation of an objective rationale basis and review of previous theories for
  - development within the target groups

#### Three-stage research approach

#### Qualitative exploration (Stage 2):

deep dive into the world of cinema using the qualitative research approach. Why does it happen?



#### Panel analysis (Stage 1)

Analysis of target group development within the cinema market based on the GfK Media\*Scope Panels

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#### GFK

#### Quantitative examination of barriers and

Quantitative study (Stage 3):

identification of approaches and future potential.

## **Objective and research design of the study**

Study design: GfK Consumer Panel Media*Scope		Study	design: Focus groups	Study design: Quantitative study		
Methodology	Written diary survey online & paper and	Methodology	Qualitative focus groups	Methodology	CAWI/ Online survey	
	pencil	Sample 6 groups with 6-8 participants Target group		Persons aged 14+ going to the cinema at		
Sample	25 000 participants (gross)	Place of study	Frankfurt, Berlin	-	least once in the last 2 years	
Population	67.8 million private Germans aged 10+	Target group	<ul> <li>Aged 14-17; pupils; separated by gender</li> <li>Aged 18-25; apprentices &amp; students; mixed-gender</li> <li>Aged 26-39; Young Professionals &amp; young</li> </ul>	Sample	<ul> <li>Representative of the German online population</li> <li>Boost with 14-27 years olds and 28- 39 years olds</li> </ul>	
			families, mixed-gender		• Total sample: n=1 514	

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### Analysed target groups

#### Observed target groups at a glance







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### Initial situation - split development of the cinema market

The cinema market is losing its younger target group while the older target group is increasing (ticket development)



## The consequence: successive shifting of the cinema market towards the older target groups (based on tickets in%)



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## Critical target group 16-39 years old. The relevant key figure range & intensity are developing negatively

	COVERAGE IN% (population 2009/2014)				FREQUENCY OF ATTENDANCE (tickets per person 2009/2014)		
10-15 years old	80	+5%	<b>&gt;</b>	84	4.9	-17%	▶ 4.1
16-24 years old	71	-13%	*	61	7.4	-29%	▶ 5.3
25-39 years old	58	-15%	*	49	5.3	-6%	▶ 4.9
40-49 years old	49	-12%	*	44	3.9	+13%	
50-59 years old	30	+12%	-	33	3.6	+6%	<b>ð</b> 3.9
60+ years old	20	-1%		20	3.5	+14%	<b>→</b> 4.0

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## About prices - dominant but not the silver bullet

#### Already known and unsurprisingly:

Cinema is a leisure activity, ...

- which is not considered to be attractive in terms of cost
- and is (therefore) enjoyed mainly at the weekend, days off and/or on certain special occasions

Nevertheless: The "silver bullet" is not to reduce prices for tickets and concessions!



## Cinema prices are considered to be critical and have a relatively strong influence on attendance





## **Topic: time budget**

#### Two central "pain points":

- Consumers have less and less free time
- Increasing competition for this limited time with home theatre, gaming, social media ...



- "There are some weeks when I am so exhausted and can't do anything else and just want to sleep. Then I turn down every invitation." (25-39)
- "It's hard to satisfy everyone. People are somewhat self-absorbed at that age, but I just want to see my friends, get good grades. And at the same time I also have obligations towards my parents and want a good relationship with them. " (14-17, f)



## **Positioning opportunities**

#### there is a willingness to invest in leisure activities:

- Consumers are willing to spend money on their leisure activities when they see it offers value for money and it meets corresponding requirements
- The cinema is not currently perceived to offer sufficient value for money, as important leisure requirements such as **relaxation**,

socialising and fun are not sufficiently fulfilled by the cinema - fun is clearly associated with shared time with family and fiends and active leisure pursuits (vs. entertainment as a passive activity) in this context



#### Socialising/fun and relaxation are ranked right at the top, while value for money ranks in the middle



### **Relaxation**

Compared to the cinema, relaxation is more effectively achieved with:



 "At home I get the same thing - only one month later - for less money and I can avoid the stress of going out. I have to queue up, book in advance. It takes more time and is stressful. At home, I can be comfortable and lay on the couch with a pizza. " (25-39)

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TV (series)
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- "You experience things with them, you know the characters - it is exciting to see how they develop, what they are made of." (25-39)
- "House of Cards: good actors, good making of, good story - everything a good film needs." (25-39)



## **Relaxation - increase convenience**

#### Recommendation for cinemas: achieve more relaxation by increasing the convenience

- with going to the cinema
- Improve the quality of time spent on the cinema premises
- Increase the appreciation of cinema-goers with (even) better service & staff

#### Preference for premium cinema with a convenience character

= large seats and plenty of legroom with staff providing snacks and drinks



## Reduce the effort associated

Top convenience trigger ideas Online ticket orders with print@home smartphone (e.g. passbook) 0



Park & watch: cinema ticket including parking/public transport ticket

Cinema as a cosy area with a lounge-like character, including service for food / drinks + free Wi-Fi access



Cinema time planning tool (especially interesting to teens + twentysomethings)



After-work theatre including optional drink and buffet

#### Do not neglect basic services



## Socialising/fun as a central leisure need

#### Recommendation for cinema: reactivation and intensification of "socialising"

• The cinema has "lost" as soon as consumers get home and after their daily activities and they find it difficult to find the energy to go back out and continue their social life away from home



Problem "Sofa trap"



- Strong leisure triggers are therefore needed to attract consumers back from the "sofa trap"
  - "If you've had a long day, you would rather do something at home and not go out any more." (18-25)
  - "You feel like being at home it is cosy, comfortable and peaceful." (18-25)
- The strong leisure need "Socialising/fun" is an effective instrument that cinemas should deliberately use to attract more consumers to the cinema before, during and after the drop in the daily activation curve



#### Social bonding/socialising as a central leisure need, which takes place several times a week

CRITICAL CINEMA TARGET GROUPS Significance in % TOTAL 19 YEARS 18<sup>°</sup> 32<sup>°</sup> 33<sup>°</sup> 20<sup>°</sup> Spending time with friends/family/partne r at home Spending time with **17**% **24**% **26**% **21**% friends/family/partne r while out

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## Socialising/fun as a central leisure need



## Information process and source of awareness

The majority of cinema-goers feel like they know noting or very little about the current cinema programme...



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The typical purchase journey when visiting the cinema

- Cinema visits are **almost always planned**. The planning horizon depends on the target audience (friends vs. family) and number of participants.
- The film is most crucial for the idea of going to the cinema (vs. the idea of cinema-going→choice of film).
- **Completely spontaneously**, i.e. to go to the cinema with no prior information about a specific film and choosing from the programme is (now) unusual.

## Top of mind - increasing cinema awareness

#### In addition to relaxation and socialising/fun: the cinema is less and less at the top of people's minds when planning leisure activities

"The cinema is not necessarily the first thing that comes to mind. What usually happens is that someone tells their friend and they then go especially. People don't just go and see what's on." (18-25)



"The cinema does not actively grab my attention, there are hardly any promotions. I keep getting handed flyers for other activities. The cinema seems to have really distant advertising." (18-25)

#### Two key channels to increase cinema awareness in the relevant set of leisure activities



- Placement of trailers and moving images on social media and specific use of targeting options (e.g. appeal to consumers who "like" certain films)
- Location-based targeting near cinemas (GPS)



Appealing to consumers in the local area

Cooperation with neighbouring restaurants and bars

 $\rightarrow$  inform visitors about the current cinema programme in a targeted way

 $\rightarrow$  pricing incentives and collaborations when visiting the cinema



### **Entertainment & Reward**

#### **Special cinema USP:**

- Unique atmosphere
- Losing yourself in another world
- Concentrated focus on the film: let go and get involved



("Do something good for yourself")

## Cinema surpasses the competition, mainly due to its rewarding character



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 "Atmosphere - that's the difference." (14-17m)

#### Recommendation for the cinema:

The special atmosphere and the rewarding character of the cinema should be supported by

- engaging worlds of adventure in the foyer of the cinema and
- appreciation by staff & premises design

But be careful: the cinema must not be exclusive! Difficult balance between being special and exclusive

TO SUM UP,

appreciation of the cinema, so the perceived price seems justified and the consumer is happy to pay it in the end, because "I am worth it"

- "Big screen, big emotions, diving into other worlds and forgetting everything going on around me." (25-39)
- "The images have a different impact on me than when I watch it on the big screen, as opposed to my tablet." (25-39)
- "At the cinema, you close down all of your senses, you are focused, which is
   otherwise not possible any more it's a way to avoid distractions." (18-25)