

PRESS RELEASE

The 10th goEast Festival of Central and Eastern European Film

Homage to guest of honour Otar Iosseliani at the 2010 festival in Wiesbaden

(Berlin/Wiesbaden – February 2010) Variety is the keynote of the jubilee tenth edition of goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film, running in Wiesbaden from 21 to 27 April 2010. A first glimpse of the cinematic highlights in store emerged during a reception staged by the German Institute of Film – DIF at the Berlin International Film Festival.

The goEast Homage honours the achievements of Georgian-French filmmaker Otar Iosseliani, who is travelling to Wiesbaden for the festival. The Symposium, dedicated to comic film from Central and Eastern Europe, investigates a genre full of sparkle and surprise.

An unrivalled forum of East-West communication and exchange awaits filmmakers, experts and the general public at goEast 2010 once again. The special guest of the tenth-anniversary edition is the Georgian-French director **Otar Iosseliani**. All of the films the director made in Georgia prior to emigrating in 1982 are showing in the goEast **Homage**, along with several of the subsequent French-made productions that cemented his international prestige. Iosseliani's highly distinctive films train a sharp and ironic focus on the absurdity lurking in purported "normality".

The **Symposium** examines the scope and breadth of "Socialist comedy". Running under the title "**Liberating Laughter – A Short History of Eastern European Film Humour**", one line of investigation is the subversive power exercised by film comedy during fifty years of Communist (and post-Communist) societies. The Hungarian production *A TANÚ / THE WITNESS* (1969) by Péter Bacsó, which waited several years for release, is a grotesque comedy about a show trial. The shrewd satire *TSISPERI MTEBI ANU DAJEREBELI AMBAVI / BLUE MOUNTAINS, OR UNBELIEVABLE STORY* (USSR/Georgia 1983) tells of a manuscript submitted to a publishing house then purportedly forgotten.

The Symposium is led by **Oksana Bulgakowa**, noted Eastern European cinema expert and director of the Institute of Film Studies at Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz. Speakers include **Yuri Mamin** (the feted "boy wonder" of new Soviet screen comedy), critic **Jan Levchenko**, and the Czech cultural theorist **Tomáš Glanc**.

The festival centres round the **Competition** showing current Central and Eastern European productions. Ten feature films and six documentaries compete for prizes in various categories, foremost the "Golden Lily" (€ 10,000) for Best Film, donated by Škoda Auto Deutschland. The foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" is awarding the third consecutive "Remembrance and Future" prize for a documentary (€ 10,000), which is followed up by an annual autumn tour showcasing the entries in Germany and abroad. Wiesbaden, State Capital of Hessen, awards the Prize for Best Director (€ 7,500).

Emblematic of the festival's efforts to promote cultural dialogue and to foster the work of young filmmakers, the goEast **Students' Competition** invites film schools to compete for prizes worth € 4,500 in total, sponsored by the BHF-BANK Foundation. In 2010, students from Moscow, Ljubljana, Cologne, the Rhine-Main region and Kassel are eligible to compete.

The **Co-Production Prize** of the Robert Bosch Stiftung encourages joint projects by young filmmakers from East and West, and awards prizes worth anything up to € 210,000 in the three categories Documentary, Animation, and Short Film. The foundation also supports the **goEast Project Market**, which is now established as a unique platform for developing international coproductions.

Further information available at www.filmfestival-goEast.de

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