

PRESS INFORMATION

goEast: Students' Competition Includes Several Premieres Young Filmmakers' Programme finalized

(Wiesbaden, 17 March 2010) The line-up is now complete for the 2010 Students' Competition at goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film, staged by Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF. This year's Students' section sees 28 films competing for prizes worth 4,500 euros in total, donated by the BHF-BANK Foundation. Competition screenings include one world premiere, four international premieres, and six films receiving their first German showing. Students from film schools in Moscow, Ljubljana, the Rhine-Main region, Kassel and Cologne have been invited to compete in 2010. Two more goEast events, staged in cooperation with Robert Bosch Stiftung, are geared specially to the needs of upcoming filmmakers: the Young Professionals Programme and Project Market are integral components of the festival, which runs in Wiesbaden from 21 to 27 April 2010. For the third time, Robert Bosch Stiftung is awarding a Co-Production Prize to project proposals jointly submitted by young German and Eastern European filmmakers.

"Providing encouragement to young filmmakers is a foremost goEast objective," says Nadja Rademacher, director of the festival. "The Students' Competition is now a major audience draw, a success we find especially gratifying because it confirms the goEast concept of a shared platform for emerging filmmakers in East and West alike". Andrea Wink, who curates the Students' Competition, has selected 28 films from the 136 submissions. In purely formal terms, the selected animation films display an impressive diversity of techniques, while the topics of war or father-son conflicts strikingly recur in a number of the feature entries. Important themes highlighted by the selected documentaries are the tension between traditional ways of life and modern society, as well as "disabilities" in the sense of people who are different.

"The films give artistic expression to complex life-worlds," states Wilhelm Burmester, General Manager of BHF-BANK Foundation. "Furthermore, these works offer interesting angles on the problems of modern societies, and point to new perspectives. The BHF-BANK Foundation, too, pursues the goal of furthering sustainable models for social coexistence." The foundation donates the three audience prizes, worth 1,000 euros respectively, awarded during the festival. In addition, the Promotion Prize of the BHF-Bank Foundation (1,500 euros) goes to the best entry from Eastern Europe, chosen by a three-strong jury: Catherine Colas, short-film editor at ZDF/ARTE, Maria Wismeth, General Manager of the Hessian Film Fund, and Gerhard Wissner, Director of the Kassel Documentary Film and Video Festival. The goEast Young Professionals Programme includes a master class and several discussion rounds, in the course of which young filmmakers can establish their own networks and forge links with producers and other industry professionals.

Fostering Ideas and Young Talent

Robert Bosch Stiftung now supports the Young Professionals Programme, thus widening the foundation's existing commitment to promoting young filmmakers. The Project Market for German and Eastern European filmmakers invites participants to pitch their joint proposals to producers present at the festival. Moreover, goEast hosts the presentation of the Co-Production Award of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, which offers up to 210,000 euros of prize money, distributed over the Documentary, Animation, and Short Film categories. The winners are chosen by an international jury. Films resulting from project proposals distinguished in previous years are scheduled to screen in Caligari FilmBühne at 18.00 on

Sunday, 25 April 2010. "We want to strengthen cooperation between young German and Eastern European filmmakers, to help make such models the rule rather than the exception," says Frank Albers, Project Manager for Arts and Culture at Robert Bosch Stiftung. "We aspire to the same objective as goEast: to encourage genuine exchange and co-existence."

International Panel Discussion

The annual MEET THE FILMSCHOOLS event, beginning at 14.00 on Friday, 23 April 2010, offers the interested public a renewed chance to learn more about the individual film schools participating in goEast. The venue is Café Maldaner, Marktstrasse 34, Wiesbaden, where a panel discussion will revolve around the subjects of production conditions, education standards, and the cooperation models established between European academies. The panel guests are Prof. Vladimir Malyshev (Rector of the Moscow State Institute of Cinematography, VGIK), Prof. Martin Srebotnjak (UL AGRFT Ljubljana) and Prof. Dietrich Leder (KHM Cologne).

Current Films from Central and Eastern Europe

A further festival mainstay is the goEast Competition with ten current feature films and six documentaries. Škoda Auto Deutschland donates the "Golden Lily" – the Škoda Award for Best Film (10,000 euros). The foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future presents the "Remembrance and Future" documentary award (10,000 euros), which is followed up by an autumn tour showcasing the nominated films. The City of Wiesbaden sponsors the Best Director Award (7,500 euros), while the FIPRESCI Jury awards the International Film Critics' Prize. The Reinhard Kämpf Prize (1,000 euros) rounds off the list of festival awards. The goEast festival receives substantial funding from the Hessen State Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts. Notable assistance is also received from Sparkassen-Kulturstiftung Hessen-Thüringen and from Nassauische Sparkasse (Naspa).

The 2010 goEast Homage is dedicated to Georgian-French filmmaker Otar Iosseliani, while the academic symposium "Liberating Laughter – A Short History of Eastern European Film Humour" investigates screen comedy during the past fifty years. Thanks to the rich variety of festival sections in combination with a lively accompanying programme of readings, parties and concerts, goEast offers a unique platform for East-West cultural exchange and dialogue.

SAVE THE DATE

The goEast press conference takes place **at 13.00** on Thursday, 15 April 2010; venue: Caligari FilmBühne, Marktplatz 9, D-65183 Wiesbaden.

A detailed brochure with details of the jubilee festival programme is due to appear at the end of March. Further information available at www.filmfestival-goEast.de

Press contact:

Tamina Kutscher
Tel. +49 611/23 68 43-14
Fax +49 611/23 68 43-49
kutscher@filmfestival-goEast.de

Organizer:

Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF e.V.
Schaumainkai 41
D-60596 Frankfurt am Main
info@filmfestival-goEast.de