

PRESS INFORMATION

goEast Pays Respect to Grieving Polish Nation

Special screening of *KATYN* by Andrzej Wajda scheduled for Thursday during Festival of Central and Eastern European Film

(Wiesbaden, 19 April 2010) A special presentation will mark goEast's respect and sympathy for the grief of the Polish people. In cooperation with the Polish Institute in Düsseldorf, the Festival of Central and Eastern European Film will screen the Polish production *KATYN / KATYŃ* (2007). The Oscar-nominated feature film by Andrzej Wajda addresses a national tragedy in modern Polish history: the mass shooting perpetrated in Katyn during World War II. The plane crash that led to the death of President Lech Kaczynski and his high-profile delegation on 10 April 2010 occurred during the landing for a ceremony commemorating the second-world war massacre.

KATYN / KATYŃ (Poland, 2007) screens on Thursday, 22 April (22:00) in Alpha cinema, Wiesbaden.

"We were deeply shocked and dismayed to learn of the plane crash, and feel great sympathy for our mourning Polish friends and neighbours. For a second time, the name Katyn has become synonymous with a Polish national tragedy; Andrzej Wajda's film can help us understand the historical dimensions," says festival director Nadja Rademacher.

"For present-day generations around the world, the film by Andrzej Wajda is an opportunity to learn more about this painful chapter of Polish history. Knowledge of the historical context is important for understanding the anguish people are feeling today. We are therefore grateful to our friends at goEast, who over the past ten years have provided filmmakers with a platform committed to the cause of European dialogue, and have arranged this commemorative presentation at such short notice," remarks Lidia Kämmerlings, who is responsible for film-related matters at the Polish Institute, Düsseldorf.

Many members of the Polish elite, including the father of Andrzej Wajda, were shot during a massacre in the forests by Katyn. The crash of the presidential plane near Smolensk on 10 April resulted in the death of all ninety-six passengers, among them leading representatives of politics, the military, the church and society.

Contemporary Productions, Encouragement for Newcomers, and Film-Historical Analysis

The seven-day goEast festival, running from 21 to 27 April in Wiesbaden, centres round a competition with ten contemporary feature films and six documentaries from Central and Eastern Europe. Further film sections and a varied programme of accompanying events with readings, parties and concerts make goEast an important platform for cultural exchange and dialogue between East and West.

The festival centres round the Competition showing ten current feature films and six documentaries. The ten features compete for the Škoda Prize – the "Golden Lily" (10,000 euros) – for Best Film. The non-fiction films compete for the "Remembrance and Future" documentary prize (10,000 euros) awarded by the foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future". Wiesbaden, State Capital of Hessen, awards the Prize for Best Director (7,500 euros). The Federal Foreign Office of Germany donates a prize for "artistic originality that creates cultural diversity" (2,000 euros). The FIPRESCI Jury awards the International Film Critics' Prize. The Reinhard Kämpf Prize (1,000 euros) completes the festival prize list.

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.

goEast ➔

**10th FESTIVAL OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN FILM
WIESBADEN, GERMANY 21.04. TO 27.04.2010**

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. Notable support is also received from Sparkassen-Kulturstiftung Hessen-Thüringen and from Nassauische Sparkasse (Naspa).

The complete programme is available for download at www.goEast-filmfestival.de.

The jubilee festival also sees the launch of an official media partnership with 3sat, the broadcaster which has cooperated with goEast from the first edition onward, as well as a new festival blog at <http://blog.zdf.de/goeast/>

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