

## Press Release No. 5

Wiesbaden, 28 April 2009

### Georgian Production Wins Main Prize at goEast Film Festival

**Awards go to feature films from four Eastern European countries / “Remembrance and Future” documentary award for Polish entry / Winners announced of Promotional Prizes of the Robert Bosch Stiftung / Students’ Competition enthruses Audiences / Kira Muratova: a fascinating filmmaker, a memorable Homage**

With the announcement of the winners of the main festival awards, the 9th goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film closed on 28 April in Wiesbaden. The international festival jury presided over by Jerzy Stuhr chose the winning films among the strong contenders in the Competition section. The Škoda Award for **Best Film** – the “Golden Lily” endowed with 10,000 euro by Škoda Auto Deutschland – goes to THE OTHER BANK / GAGMA NAPIRI (Georgia/Kazakhstan, 2009), directed by George Ovashvili. The jury praised the prizewinning film for the brave depiction of one of the most severe armed conflicts of our times perceived through a child’s hopeful eyes.

The **Best Director** award of the City of Wiesbaden (7,500 euro) goes to Russian director Boris Khlebnikov for HELP GONE MAD / SUMASŠEDŠAJA POMOŠČ (Russia, 2009). The jury applauded the director for a daring approach, and extraordinary and touching metaphor of post-communist society.

The 2009 **“Remembrance and Future” documentary prize** (10,000 euro) of the foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” is bestowed on I LOVE POLAND / KOCHAM POLSKE (Poland, 2008), a film jointly directed by Joanna Sławińska and Maria Zmarz-Koczanowicz. The jury praised the two filmmakers who analyzed painful social issues of their country in an extraordinarily way.

The prize (2,000 euro) of the **German Federal Foreign Office** distinguishing a competition film of particular “artistic originality that creates cultural diversity” goes to MORPHIA / MORPHIJA (Russia, 2009) by Aleksei Balabanov, acknowledging his film’s achievement as a highly unusual depiction of Russia in the early days of the Revolution and of the tragic end to the life of a human individual.

The Festival Jury singled out for **honourable mentions** the remarkably authentic performance of Andreea Boşneag, the young actress who plays the lead in THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD / CEA MAI FERICTĂ FATĂ DIN LUME (Romania/Netherlands, 2009), and the strikingly bold and original directorial debut made by Javor Gardev with his film ZIFT (Bulgaria, 2008).

THE OTHER BANK / GAGMA NAPIRI was further the winner of the 2009 **FIPRESCI International Critics’ Award** (FIPRESCI Prize).

For the third year in a row, goEast provided a platform for the presentation of the Robert Bosch Stiftung’s **Co-Production Prize for Young German and Eastern European Filmmakers**. An independent jury of international experts awards the prize to film projects deemed to be especially convincing and promising. The prize in the Animation category goes to the German-Macedonian project ALERIK, which the jury called an artistically ambitious and highly individual visual account of a young boy’s experience of war. The Documentary promotion prize goes to the Polish-German project THE EXCITING JOURNEY OF THE ARMCHAIR about the persisting stereotypes in the way people in neighbouring European countries view each other. The project chosen for promotion in the Short Film category was on FAR FROM HOME, a joint Serbian-German venture that impressively tells the tale of

two members of the Ashkali Roma community who journey to the area known as Donauschwaben (Danube Swabia).

The jury of the **Promotional Award of the BHF-BANK Foundation** for the best contribution from an Eastern European film school chose to distinguish the young Bulgarian director Dragomir Sholev, applauding his short fiction THE GO-BETWEEN / POSREDNIKAT for narrative coherence and believable and well-acted characters.

The Awards Ceremony on the evening of Tuesday, 28 April, brought to a close goEast 2009, the festival founded in 2001 by the German Institute of Film – DIF. For the ninth year in succession, Wiesbaden was a focal point for Eastern European filmmaking and a platform for encounters and enduring intercultural dialogue. “The thematic spectrum ranged from the acutely critical social snapshots provided by the competition films to the unforgettable cinematic highlights of the Homage to Kira Muratova as well as the Symposium with its startling but little-known films shot in the pre-1989 era,” says festival director Nadja Rademacher. “With excellent films, attractive prizes and a stimulating audience of guests from 26 different countries, goEast once again celebrated and promoted the artistic diversity of Central and Eastern Europe.” The large audience attracted by SWEET RUSH / TATARAK (Poland, 2009), the new cinema release from Andrzej Wajda, was matched by the strong interest shown in the Russian productions screening in various sections of the festival. The Sunday Matinee with Jan and Zdeněk Svěrák proved to be a further special attraction for audiences, as did likewise the Special Tribute to Polish avant-garde jazz musician and composer Krzysztof Komeda-Trzcziński.

goEast traditionally prides itself on the support given to young filmmakers, and this year the fruits of previous years’ efforts were on display. To quote Nadja Rademacher: “For the first time, we all had the chance to see on the big screen the outcome of projects presented at earlier festivals – and the final products make you even more determined to continue encouraging talented newcomers.” The 2009 Students’ Competition also exercised a magnetic attraction on festival visitors, producing new **audience records** over three different evenings with its acclaimed presentation of witty, thoughtful and innovative works by young filmmakers from Germany, Bulgaria and Ukraine.

Jerzy Stuhr and Kira Muratova were no strangers to goEast, and altogether a large number of filmmakers competing in 2009 were returning to the festival with new productions – further evidence that goEast is now established as an important international festival.

The goEast Film Festival is funded primarily by the Hessen State Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts, the City of Wiesbaden, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future”, and Škoda Auto Deutschland. Further sponsors are the BHF-BANK Foundation and the German Federal Foreign Office. The festival also receives important funding from the Media Programme of the European Union.

**Photographs of the award-winners as well as information on the programme of goEast 2009 are available for download from the festival website.**

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**Prize-Winners of goEast 2009**

**Organizer:**

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## JURY

Jerzy Stuhr (Poland, president of the Jury)  
Julia Jentsch (Germany)  
Kadri Kõusaar (Estonia)  
Irakli Kvirikadze (Georgia)  
Alik Shpijluk (Ukraine)

## FIPRESCI-JURY

Cristina Corciovescu (Romania)  
Larisa Malyukova (Russia)  
Florian Vollmers (Germany)

## AWARDS

### **The Škoda Award for Best Film – the “Golden Lily”**

THE OTHER BANK / GAGMA NAPIRI  
Georgia/Kazachstan 2008  
Director: George Ovashvili

### **Award for the Best Director**

HELP GONE MAD / SUMASŠEDŠAJA POMOŠČ  
Russia 2009  
Director: Boris Chlebnikov

### **Documentary Award – “Remembrance and Future”**

I LOVE POLAND / KOCHAM POLSKE  
Polen 2008  
Directors: Joanna Sławińska and Maria Zmarz-Koczanowicz

### **Award of the Federal Foreign Office**

MORPHIA / MORFIJ  
Russia 2009  
Director: Aleksej Balabanov

## Honorary Mentions

Andreea Boşneag in  
THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD / CEA MAI FERICTĂ FATĂ DIN LUME  
Romania / The Netherlands 2009  
Director: Radu Jude

ZIFT / ZIFT

Bulgaria 2009

Director: Javor Gardev

### **International Film Critic’s Award (FIPRESCI-Prize)**

THE OTHER BANK / GAGMA NAPIRI  
Georgia 2009  
Director: George Ovashvili

**Co-Production Prize for Young German and Eastern European Filmmakers of the Robert Bosch Stiftung**

Category Animated Film

ALERIK (Germany/Makedonia)  
Production: Labina Mitevska und Katrin Hohendahl  
Director: Vuk Mitevski

Category Documentary Film:

THE EXCITING JOURNEY OF THE ARMCHAIR (Deutschland und Polen)  
Production: Alicja Schatton  
Director: Katja Schupp

Category Short Feature Film:

FAR FROM HOME (Deutschland und Serbien)  
Production: Felix Wernitz  
Director: Nenad Mikalčki

Jury:

Heiko Holefleisch (Comissioning Editor arte/ZDF, Germany)  
Stefan Kitanov (Director Sofia International Filmfestival, Bulgaria)  
Matthijs Wouter Knol (Programme Manager Berlinale Talent Campus, Germany)  
Christine Kopf (Film Expert, Germany)  
Nikolaj Nikitin (Central and Eastern Europe foreign represantive for the Berlinale, Germany)  
Roland Pellegrino (Producer, Germany)  
Mirsad Purivatra (Sarajewo Filmfestival, Bosnia und Herzegovina)

**The BHF-BANK Foundation Award (1,500 euros)**

THE GO BETWEEN / POSREDNIKAT  
Director: Dragomir Sholev  
Academy: National Academy of Theatre & Film Arts „Krustyo Sarafov“ – NAFTA, Sofia

Jury:

Anja Henningsmeyer (Germany)  
Achim Forst (Germany)  
Marion Klomfass (Germany)

**The audience awards :**

Category Documentaries

COMMEMORATION DAY / RADUNYTSJA

Ukraine 2007

Director: Roman Bondarchuk

Academy: "I. K. Karpenko-Kary" Kiev National University of Theatre, Cinema and Television

Category Animated and Experimental Films

THE AIR ACE / VAZDUSHNIYAT AS

Director: Svilen Dimitrov

Bulgaria 2007

Academy: National Academy of Theatre & Film Arts „Krustyo Sarafov“ – NAFTA, Sofia

Category Fiction Shorts

FAMILY THERAPY / SEMEYNA TERAPIA

Bulgaria 2008

Director: Petar Valtchanov

Academy: National Academy of Theatre & Film Arts „Krustyo Sarafov“ – NAFTA, Sofia

**goEast Reinhard Kämpf Memorial Prize**

THE TALE OF NICOLAI AND / HA'AGADA AL NICOLAI VE'CHOL HA'SHVUT

Israel 2008

Director: David Ofek