

## Press Information

Frankfurt / Wiesbaden, March 2009

### goeast film festival presents multi-faceted programme

**Competing films cover broad geographical spectrum / Prominent jury with Jerzy Stuhr and Julia Jentsch / Personal appearance by Kira Muratova / Sunday Matinee with Jan and Zdeněk Svěrák / Special: Tribute to Krzysztof Komeda-Trzcіński**

The programme of the **9th goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film** is now finalized. Four weeks before the opening ceremony, the Wiesbaden festival organized by the Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF is gearing up to open the floor to cinematic dialogue between East and West, and will welcome filmmakers and film enthusiasts from over twenty different countries in the period 22 to 28 April 2009.

The illustrious **Jury** of the 2009 goEast festival is chaired by **Jerzy Stuhr**, one of the most versatile Polish actors and directors. His film *DUZE ZWIERZE / THE BIG ANIMAL* (Poland, 2000) won the Award for Best Film at goEast in 2001, and will be screening again this year in tribute to the Jury President. The jury line-up further includes the popular German actress **Julia Jentsch**, who was internationally acclaimed and awarded for her portrayal of Sophie Scholl in the film of that name, and is currently gracing German cinema screens in the role of Effi Briest. Julia Jentsch established a special link with Eastern Europe in the course of roles in films like Jiří Menzel's *OBSLUHOVAL JSEM ANGLICKÉHO KRÁLE / I SERVED THE KING OF ENGLAND* (Czech Republic/Slovakia, 2006) and Małgorzata Szumowska's *33 SCENY Z ZYCIA / 33 SCENES FROM LIFE*, the German-Polish co-production that received the Special Award of the Jury at Locarno in 2008. The other goEast jurors are the Estonian director **Kadri Kõusaar**, whose film *MAGNUS* won the Škoda Award for Best Film and the FIPRESCI Award at goEast in 2008, as well as the Georgian scriptwriter **Iraklij Kvirikadze** and the Ukrainian film critic **Alik Shpiluk**, who is also artistic director of the "Krok" film festival.

The wide geographical spectrum of the **goEast programme** is startling testimony to the vigour and diversity of the contemporary filmmaking landscape of Eastern Europe. Thirteen countries were involved in the making of the ten feature films competing for the Škoda Award for Best Film – the "Golden Lily" – and the Best Director Award of the City of Wiesbaden. For the first time, an Israeli production is among the nominees for the "Remembrance and Future" documentary award, which was launched last year by the festival in cooperation with the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future". The **festival opening film** is Andrzej Wajda's *TATARAK / SWEET RUSH* (Poland, 2009). Screening out of competition in Wiesbaden, the film received its world premiere during the Berlinale, where it won the Alfred-Bauer-Preis.

An ideal opportunity to discuss the festival programme is offered by the daily **Film Talks** with directors and actors in the Bellevue-Saal venue, which is acting as goEast Festival Centre for the second year running. One particular highlight is the scheduled interview with Kira Muratova, to whom the 2009 goEast Homage is dedicated. In conversation with the Ukrainian film critic Sergiy Trymbach, the cult Russian filmmaker will offer some insight into her extensive body of work.

The **goEast Sunday Matinee** explores additional aspects in the biography of Czech director Jan Svěrák, the subject of the 2009 goEast Portrait. Twenty years after the Velvet Revolution, and during the Czech Republic's six-month term of EU presidency, Erika Gregor will encourage the director and

his father, the actor-scriptwriter Zdeněk Svěrák, to discuss not only artistic issues but also the political context of their work.

The **sidebar programme** of goEast 2009 trains a focus on Poland: the special **Tribute to Krzysztof Komeda-Trzciński** is dedicated to the renowned Polish jazz composer. Komeda began composing film scores in the 1960s, and came to note particularly for his work with Roman Polanski, whom he met in at Łódź Academy in 1957. In order to mark the 40th anniversary of Komeda's death, the remarkable Andrzej Jagodzinski Trio and the singer Lora Szafran are coming to Wiesbaden to perform compositions by the famous musician. A detailed look at the life and work of Komeda is offered by Robert Kaczmarek's film CZAS KOMEDY / KOMEDA AND HIS TIMES (Poland, 1994). The exhibition **Film Posters Komeda - Polanski** organized by Łódź Film Museum in cooperation with the Polish Institute, Dusseldorf, presents a very special cross-section of international poster art. The show can be viewed in the Bellevue-Saal festival centre.

**Festival Partners:** goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film in Wiesbaden is staged by the Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF, Frankfurt, and funded primarily by the City of Wiesbaden, state capital of Hessen, and the Hessen Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts. The competition prizes worth 29,500 euro are donated by Škoda Auto Deutschland, the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future", the City of Wiesbaden, and the Federal Foreign Office. The BHF-BANK-Foundation awards the prizes in the Students' Competition, The FIPRESCI Jury awards the International Film Critics' Prize. A further important festival partner is the Robert Bosch Stiftung, which in the course of goEast awards the foundation's Co-Production Prize for Joint Productions by Young Filmmakers from Germany and Eastern Europe, and stages the Young Professionals Programme together with the festival.

**Festival venues:** The Caligari FilmBühne and Alpha cinema theatres are the central goEast venues. The renowned exhibition space Bellevue-Saal again serves as Festival Centre, and is the site of the information counter and the daily film discussions (starting at 10 pm). Wiesbaden is offering new venues to the festival in 2009 once again: the newly opened Murnau-Filmtheater hosts the goEast Symposium, while repeat screenings of all competing documentary films are scheduled in the Kulturpalast. Journalists will find the press desk in the Caligari FilmBühne. As in 2008, goEast is making its presence felt in the neighbouring city of Frankfurt, where the cinema of the German Film Museum is showing all competing feature films, as well as a selection of films from other festival sections.

**Tickets and prices:** Advance sales begin on **30 March 2009** from Wiesbaden Tourist Information (+49 (0)611 / 172 978-0). Admission to any one goEast screening costs 6 euro (concessions: 5 euro). A festival pass valid for all screenings and special events is available for 40 (35) euros. Day passes cost 16 (12) euros. As of 30 March, the 2009 goEast programme brochure with full details of times and venues is available for download at [www.filmfestival-goEast.de](http://www.filmfestival-goEast.de).

More details of the individual festival sections and visual materials are available from:

**Press contact:**

Natalie Kronast  
Phone: +49 (0)69 / 961 220 655  
e-mail: [kronast@filmfestival-goEast.de](mailto:kronast@filmfestival-goEast.de)

Anika Kozicki (assistant)  
Phone: +49 (0)69 / 961 220 656  
e-mail: [presse@filmfestival-goEast.de](mailto:presse@filmfestival-goEast.de)

**Organizer:**

Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF  
Schaumainkai 41  
60596 Frankfurt am Main

E-mail: [info@filmfestival-goEast.de](mailto:info@filmfestival-goEast.de)  
Internet: [www.filmfestival-goEast.de](http://www.filmfestival-goEast.de)