

Press Information

Frankfurt/Wiesbaden, April 2009

goEast: Young Filmmakers Meet Grand Masters

More than 110 short and feature-length films screening at this year's goEast film festival from 22 to 28 April / Competing films hold up mirror to social realities in Eastern Europe twenty years after the fall of the Iron Curtain / Highlights and rarities in every section / Exciting project presentations in Young Professionals and Student sections

The 2009 goEast film festival is about to open in Wiesbaden. For the ninth time, the Festival of Central and Eastern European film staged by the German Institute of Film – DIF is mounting a wide-ranging survey of filmmaking in the region, and awaiting the arrival of some 300 special festival guests from Germany and abroad. The ceremonial opening at **19.00 on 22 April** 2009 takes place in the Caligari cinema, Wiesbaden, with opening addresses from Gerd Krämer, Secretary of State in the Hessen Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts, and Rita Thies, Head of the Wiesbaden Department of Education and Cultural Affairs.

More than 110 short and feature-length films will screen in the course of the seven-day festival, among them a number of international and German premieres. The **2009 Competition** offers a strong line-up of ten feature films and six documentaries. Twenty years after the Iron Curtain fell, all of these films offer reflections on the disparate social, political and cultural developments taken by the countries in the region. That the effects of war can still be felt in the countries of ex-Yugoslavia and in Georgia is evident in films like *BUICK RIVIERA* (Croatia/Bosnia and Herzegovina/ Germany, 2008) by Goran Rušinović, in the documentary *GOOD BYE, HOW ARE YOU? / DO VIDJENJA, KAKO STE?* (Serbia, 2008) by Boris Mitić, or in *THE OTHER BANK / GAGMA NAPIRI* (Georgia, 2009) by George Ovashvili. The fascinating range of stylistic means deployed in confronting the totalitarian past is demonstrated by films like *ZIFT* (Bulgaria, 2008; dir. Javor Gardev) or *THE GIFT TO STALIN / PODAROK STALINU* (Kazakhstan, 2008; dir. Rustem Abdrashov), while the sweeping artistic bandwidth of contemporary Russian cinema is exemplified by Boris Khlebnikov's *HELP GONE MAD / SUMASSĔDŠAJA POMOŠĀ* (Russia, 2009) or Alexei Balabanov's *MORPHIA / MORFIJ* (Russia, 2008).

The competition **prizes** – including the Škoda Award for Best Film, the Award for Best Director Award from the City of Wiesbaden, and the "Remembrance and Future" documentary prize of the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future – will be announced at 19.00 on 28 April in the Caligari FilmBühne, Wiesbaden. In 2009, Jerzy Stuhr is presiding over the distinguished Festival Jury responsible for choosing the prizewinners. For the third year, the Robert Bosch Stiftung is presenting in the framework of the festival its valuable Co-Production Prize for Young Filmmakers from Germany and Eastern Europe.

"One can safely credit goEast with helping to increase the attention granted to Central and Eastern European film," remarks Claudia Dillmann, Director of the Deutsches Film Institut – DIF, the institution which launched goEast in 2001. As in 2008, goEast in Wiesbaden is mounting a showcase in the neighbouring city of Frankfurt, where the DIF is based: films from the Competition, Homage and Portrait sections are screening at the film theatre of the German Film Museum in that city.

The **Highlights** section includes the international premiere of the Hungarian film *THE FLUKE / MÁZLI* (2008) in the presence of its director Tamás Keményffy. The Albanian filmmaker Fatmir Koçi, whose work was the subject of the goEast Portrait in 2007, is likewise coming to Wiesbaden to present his current film *TIME OF THE COMET / KOHA E KOMETES* (Albania/Germany/France, 2008).

Providing encouragement to young filmmakers is a foremost goal of the festival. For the second year, the festival is staging together with the Robert Bosch Stiftung the **goEast Project Market** for young filmmakers. The market ideally supplements the existing joint Young Professionals Programme, and gives participants the chance to pitch their ideas to potential producers and co-producers. After receiving applications from 53 directors and 17 producers from 22 different countries, the organizers selected 10 project proposals from young filmmakers from countries including Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Belarus, who will meet up with 10 potential producers likewise invited to participate. A further goal of the Project Market is to find partners for a team that can compete for the 2010 **Co-Production Prize** of the Robert Bosch Stiftung. Last year's Project Market produced promising results: two of the competing teams are now nominated for this year's Co-Production Prize, which will be awarded by an international jury in the course of goEast. The results so far produced by the film projects that won the prize in previous years are due to be presented at on 26 April in the Caligari cinema (18.00).

The goEast **Students' Competition** is an established highlight for Wiesbaden audiences, who cast their votes to choose the winners of three separate student awards donated by the BHF-BANK-Foundation. In 2009, the film schools invited to compete are I. K. Karpenko-Kary KNU of Theatre, Cinema and Television, Kiev, the National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts (NATFA), Sofia, the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg (FABW) from Ludwigsburg, as well as five institutions based in the Rhine-Main region

Schlachthof arts centre in Wiesbaden, the traditional venue of goEast parties, also plays host to the **goEast Reading** featuring literary phenomenon Dorota Masłowska from Warsaw. The **goEast Party** later that evening is graced by the presence of the three ladies fronting the Polish electropunk band Mass Kotki.

Festival partners: 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. The BHF-BANK-Foundation donates the Students' Competition prizes, the Federal Foreign Office awards a prize for intercultural understanding. The festival also receives important funding from the Media Programme of the European Union.

Details of the festival films and the programme of accompanying events are available on the goEast home page.

From 23 April onward, news and special announcements will be posted daily on the festival website.

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

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