

## Press Release No. 4

Wiesbaden, 12 April 2008

### goEast Students' Competition: Distinctions for German and Polish Film Schools

**Auspicious start to 2008 goEast film festival in Wiesbaden / Audience polls favour film schools from Mainz, Potsdam and Warsaw / Young filmmakers present projects / Symposium and film debates stimulate dialogue**

A first group of prizewinners has already emerged from this year's goEast film festival in Wiesbaden. The votes cast by festival-goers have distinguished three **outstanding entries to the Students' Competition**: the winner in the documentary film category is *BY THE RIVER* (dir: Magdalena Kowalczyk, of Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing), an impressive documentary exploration of the work of foresters on the fringes of Warsaw. The prize in the animation and experimental category goes to the graduation film *CHORD* by Simon Rauh (Fachhochschule Mainz). *I DON'T FEEL LIKE DANCING* (dir: Evi Goldbrunner and Joachim Dollhopf of HFF Konrad Wolf, Potsdam) won the audience vote for best short film. This short about a ghastly wartime encounter of young people received its world premiere in Wiesbaden, as did *CHORD* likewise. All three audience prizes, **each worth 1,000 euros**, are donated by the BHF-BANK-Foundation. An expert jury awards a further prize of the BHF-BANK-Foundation to the best contribution from a Central or Eastern European film school. All Students' Competition prizes will be presented at the festival Awards Ceremony on 15 April.

The Students' Competition traditionally dominates the first few days of the festival, and in 2008 met with even greater audience interest than in previous years. The eight participating film schools included the Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing, Warsaw; the "Konrad Wolf" (HFF) Film & Television Academy, Potsdam; FAMU, Prague, as well as five institutions based in the Rhine-Main region. A comparably successful start was enjoyed by the other programmes aimed at promoting upcoming filmmakers. The Young Professionals Programme staged jointly by goEast and the Robert Bosch Stiftung has brought to Wiesbaden more than 60 aspiring filmmakers from Eastern Europe and Germany.

With more than **400 guests present at the Opening Ceremony** in the Caligari FilmBühne in Wiesbaden, goEast got off to a splendid start on Wednesday, 9 April. Words of greeting were spoken by Claudia Dillmann, Director of the German Institute of Film – DIF, by Prof. Dr. Ralph-Alexander Lorz, secretary of state in the Hessen Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts, and by Rita Thies, head of the Department of Cultural Affairs in the State Capital Wiesbaden. Particular interest was attracted by the post-opening screening of *12*, the Oscar-nominated film by **Russian master Nikita Michalkov**, which received its German premiere in Wiesbaden.

**"As in previous years, the festival aims to focus not just on the moving image but also on dialogue and intercultural encounter,"** was the intention expressed by festival director Christine Kopf as she launched the 2008 edition of goEast. Abundant evidence of the festival's role as a forum for East-West dialogue and interchange is provided by all the venues and events. Visitors flock to the evening **Film Debates** to meet and discuss with directors and producers the content and intention of films previously screened. The **Symposium** running under the title "Nation (Re-)Building – Documentaries from the ex-Yugoslav Region" powerfully illustrated the power exercised by images in situations of conflict, and the difficulty of depicting an objective truth. Led by the film theorist Dr. Hans Schlegel and the film critic Bernd Buder, the discussions and screening of rare documentaries offered by the forum amounted to a unique opportunity to learn more about the present-day reality of this still troubled region.

The ten fiction films and six documentaries showing in the main goEast **Competition** span a **highly impressive thematic and artistic bandwidth** indicative of the diverse developments taken by the individual filmmaking landscapes in Central and Eastern Europe. The international festival jury presided over by Eberhard Junkersdorf will announce the 2008 prizewinners on 15 April in the Caligari cinema.

The goEast Film Festival is funded primarily by the Hessen State Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts, the Hessen state capital 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 vital funding from the Media Programme of the European Union.

The complete 2008 goEast programme as well as up-to-the-minute visual material is available at [www.filmfestival-goEast.de](http://www.filmfestival-goEast.de).

### **The prize-winners of the student's competition 2008:**

#### **The prize of Documentaries (with 1.000 Euro) is presented to:**

BY THE RIVER / PRZY RZECE

Director: Magdalena Kowalczyk, Poland 2006

Academy: Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing in Warsaw

Second prize:

FRAUENBILDER

Director: Tinatin Gurchiani, Germany/Iran 2007

Academy: HFF "Konrad Wolf" Potsdam-Babelsberg

ABOUT THE SHOES / O TOPANKI

Director: Rozálie Kohoutová, Czech Republic 2007

Academy: Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts – FAMU, Prague

#### **The prize of Animated- and Experimental Films (1.000 Euro) is presented to:**

CHORD

Director: Simon Rauh, Germany 2008

Academy: Academy of Mainz

Second prize:

MY HAPPY END

Director: Milen Vilanov, Germany 2007

Academy: The Film and TV Academy „Konrad Wolf“, Potsdam

PARK BENCH PEOPLE / LAVIČKÁŘI

Director: Denisa Grimmová, Czech Republic 2007

Academy: Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts – FAMU Prague

#### **The prize of Fiction Shorts (1.000 Euro) is presented to:**

I DON'T FEEL LIKE DANCING

Directors: Evi Goldbrunner und Joachim Dollhopf

goEast →

8. FESTIVAL DES MITTEL- UND OSTEUPÄISCHEN FILMS  
WIESBADEN 09.04. BIS 15.04. 2008

Academy: HFF "Konrad Wolf" Potsdam-Babelsberg

Second prize:

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE MY MOTHER / JAK TO JEST BYĆ MOJĄ MATKĄ

Director: Nora McGettigan, Poland 2007

Academy: Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing, Warsaw

Dritter Preis:

WORMS / ČERVI

Director: Viera Cakanyova, Czech Republic 2007

Academy: Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts – FAMU Prague