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An Unique Forum for Dialogue and Film Art

goEast dedicated to topical European themes / Matinee and exhibition honouring Sergei Paradzhanov / Young Ukrainian literature represented by Ljubko Deresch / Balkanbeats at the Schlachthof party / School Film Days in cooperation with the Aktives Museum Spiegelgasse / Highlights of Eastern European cinema programmed / New goEast venues in Wiesbaden

Four weeks before the start of goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film in Wiesbaden (9 to 15 April 2008), the programme has been finalized: Alongside the competition with ten current fiction films and six documentaries, the eight festival sections span an interesting range of cinematic highpoints and fascinating cultural discoveries. goEast offers festival guests and visitors to Wiesbaden an unique forum for dialogue and specialist debate.

goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film in Wiesbaden is staged by the German Film Institute – DIF, Frankfurt, and funded primarily by the City of Wiesbaden and the Hessian Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts. The competition prizes worth 29,500 € are donated by Škoda Auto Deutschland, the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future”, the City of Wiesbaden, the BHF-BANK Foundation, and the Federal Foreign Office. 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 Promotional Prize for Joint Productions by Young Filmmakers from Germany and Eastern and Southeastern Europe, and stages the Young Professionals Programme together with the festival.

goEast 2008 centres on topical European issues and developments. The still fraught situation in the ex-Yugoslav region, at present very much in the public eye due to the Kosovo question and the unstable political situation in Serbia, is addressed by the discussions and films scheduled to take place during the **Symposium “Iconography and Nation (Re-)Building – Documentaries from the Ex-Yugoslav Region”** (Thursday, 10.4. to Saturday, 12.4. in Roncalli-Haus). A special slot is devoted to the situation of Europe’s largest minority: **“Coming in from the Sidelines – Roma in Eastern Europe”**, with a panel discussion, the screening of the documentary VIERKA, and a reading by the Roma authoress Luminita Mihai Cioaba from Romania (Monday, 14.4., 19.00, Museum Wiesbaden).

The **goEast Sunday Matinee** widens the focus of festival’s Homage to Sergei Paradzhanov. Two guests of honour – the filmmaker’s nephew Georgi Paradzhanov, and Zaven Sarsyan, the director of the Sergei Paradzhanov Museum in Yerevan – and their host Ulrich Gregor will re-trace the course of the charismatic artist-director’s life and work (Sunday, 13.4., 11.00 in Caligari FilmBühne). For the duration of the festival, the **photography exhibition “World of Sergei Paradzhanov – Art Without Borders”** is showing at the Bellevue-Saal. Encompassing 40 photographs, the show includes reproductions of his works, pictures relating to his films, and portraits of the artist.

The forums of the numerous goEast young filmmakers’ programmes and the **Film Discussions in Bellevue-Saal** offer filmmakers, actors and audiences from East and West ample opportunity to meet up and talk. Those who like to dance take over the floor at the legendary **goEast-Party in Kulturzentrum Schlachthof** (Saturday, 12 April, 21.30), this year featuring the DJs Ahilea Durcovski (Macedonia) and Zoran Tomašev (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and their compelling mixture of traditional and contemporary Balkan sounds. The party is preceded by the **goEast Reading**, with a guest appearance by Ljubko Deresch from Lviv (Schlachthof, Saturday, 12.4., 20.00) who presents his latest novel *Intent! Oder die Spiegel des Todes*, due

to appear in German translation in edition suhrkamp in May. Born in 1984, Deresch counts among the foremost representatives of young Ukrainian writing and is an unsparing analyst of social conditions in his country. His writing resonates with the passion for collecting and collating "trash, mystical literature, horror stories and Stephen King" (DIE ZEIT). Ljubko Deresch will read from the original Ukrainian version, with Wiesbaden-based actor Armin Nufer reading from the German translation exclusively for goEast.

The sixth **goEast School Film Days** are supplementing the festival programme once again. The Estonian box-office hit **LOTTE FROM GADGETVILLE** and the GDR classic **MORITZ IN DER LITFASSSÄULE** cater to children of primary-school age and younger, while Roman Polanski's award-winning **THE PIANIST** is screening for pupils aged 12 upward. School classes from Wiesbaden and the surrounding region not only welcome the opportunity to sample the special festival atmosphere, but benefit from the critical approach to the film medium encouraged by the experienced pedagogic team from Medienzentrum Wiesbaden, who organize and supervise the showings. **THE PIANIST** will be followed up with a discussion chaired by the Aktive Museum Spiegelgasse für Deutsch-Jüdische Geschichte in Wiesbaden. Teachers can register their classes for individual screenings by mailing Martin Urban (urban@filmfestival-goeast.de, 069 / 961 220 657).

The various sections of goEast 2008 encompass **over 150 feature-length and short films**, documentaries and fictions, experimental and animated films, works by established directors and ambitious newcomers. The festival opens with the screening in the Caligari FilmBühne (21.30, 9.4.) of Nikita Michalkov's Oscar-nominated **12** (Russia, 2007), a masterly adaptation of Sidney Lumet's **12 ANGRY MEN**. With **KATYŃ** (Poland, 2007), goEast is screening a further Oscar contender. Andrzej Wajda's film about the massacre of over 4,000 Polish prisoners of war by the Soviet secret service in 1940 has already won recognition as one of the most important Polish productions of the present day.

New venues for goEast: The ongoing renovation of Villa Clementine, the familiar festival centre, is also an opportunity for goEast to discover other arts venues in Wiesbaden. The Information Centre with information and press desk is to be found on the premises of the Nassauischer Kunstverein (Wilhelmstrasse 15). Serving as the festival lounge, the Bellevue-Saal (Wilhelmstrasse 32) is the venue of film discussions and informal meetings with filmmakers. As in previous years, the goEast festival cinemas are Caligari FilmBühne and Alpha, while Museum Wiesbaden will be showing several digital-format films. The goEast Symposium takes place at Roncalli-Haus (Friedrichstrasse 26-28), and screening venues for the symposium films are Roncalli-Haus and Alpha. For the first time, the Kino im Deutschen Filmmuseum in Frankfurt will be showing all competing feature films, as well as several films from the Homage and one film from the School Film Days programme.

Tickets and prices: Advance sales begin on **17 March 2008** from Wiesbaden Tourist Information (+49 (0)611 / 172 9780). Admission to any one goEast screening costs 6 euros (concessions: 5 euros). A festival pass valid for all screenings and special events is available for 40 (35) euros. Day passes cost 16 (12) euros. The 2008 goEast programme brochure with full details of times and venues is now available for download at www.filmfestival-goeast.de. Detailed information on all festival sections will be retrievable from the same address one week before the festival begins.

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