

Press Information

Wiesbaden, 26th April 2009

goEast Film Festival Announces First Prizewinners

Late on the evening of Saturday, 25 April, the names of the first prizewinners at the 2009 goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern Film were unveiled: the votes of the Wiesbaden audience had been counted to decide the prizes in the three categories of the **goEast Students' Competition**. The prize in the Documentary category went to the Ukrainian film *COMMEMORATION DAY / RADUNYTSJA* by Roman Bondarchuk (I. K. Karpenko-Kary KNU of Theatre, Cinema and Television, Ukraine, 2007). First prize in the Animation and Experimental Film section went to *THE AIR ACE / VAZDUSHNIYAT* by Svilen Dimitrov (The National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts – NATFA, Sofia, Bulgaria, 2007). The audience vote for best short film went to *FAMILY THERAPY / SEMEYNA TERAPIJA* by Petar Valtchanov (Bulgaria, 2008), who is likewise a student at NAFTA in Sofia. All three **audience awards** are worth **1,000 euro** respectively; sponsored by the BHF-BANK Foundation, the awards will be presented on 28 April at the goEast Awards Ceremony. On the same occasion, the Students' Jury will announce the winner of the **Promotional Prize of the BHF-BANK Foundation** for an outstanding contribution from a film school in Eastern or Central Europe. This year, eight film schools were competing in the goEast Students' Competition; packed cinemas confirmed its status as a major festival attraction.

The awards in the Students' Competition represent the **halfway mark** in the festival staged by Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF. The balance drawn up for the first few days is highly positive. "goEast was founded with the desire to show more than the mainstream, to offer a different perspective on realities," recalled Rita Thies, Head of Wiesbaden's Department of Cultural Affairs, in a welcoming speech delivered to almost 400 guests at the opening of the 9th festival in the Caligari FilmBühne on 22 April. Just how divergent the realities of life continue to be in Eastern Europe is evidenced by the strong **Competition** section with 10 current fictions and 6 documentaries from 17 different countries. At the festival closing ceremony on Tuesday, 28 April, the goEast Jury, presided over by the renowned Czech director Jerzy Stuhr and including popular German actress Julia Jentsch, will announce the winners of the main awards at goEast 2009.

This year's non-competitive sections, dominated by the goEast commitment to intercultural dialogue and exchange, met with an equally enthusiastic response. The celebrated filmmaker **Kira Muratova** is giving impressive personal introductions to all the films screening in the goEast Homage to her work; even deeper insight into her wide and multifaceted oeuvre may be expected from her appearance at the **Film Talk** in the Bellevue-Saal festival centre on Monday, 27 April. The audience response to the goEast Portrait showing a retrospective of films by popular Czech director **Jan Svěrák** is evidence of the discoveries his work holds in store. The 2009 **goEast Symposium** "After Winter Comes Spring. Films Presaging the Fall of the Wall", which closed on Saturday with a final panel discussion among international specialists, presented a startling array of critical films from the pre-1989 era, many of them unknown in Western Europe.

The **promotion of young filmmakers** continues to play an important part in the second half of goEast 2009. A special jury will be considering the nominees for the 2009 Co-Production Prize of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, with the winners to be announced at the goEast Awards Ceremony. At the goEast Project Market, another project conducted jointly with Robert Bosch Stiftung, young directors and producers from Eastern Europe have the opportunity to pitch and discuss their own project proposals.

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.

For detailed information on all festival films, please visit the goEast home page

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Winners of the Audience Awards in the 2009 goEast student competition

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

COMMEMORATION DAY / RADUNYTSJA

Ukraine 2007

Director: Roman Bondarchuk

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

Second prize:

COUNTING LAMBS

Germany 2008

Director: Nico Sommer

Academy: Art College Kassel

Third prize:

SENSE OF MACHINIST / ZAPAH MAŠINISTA

Ukraine 2007

Director: Dimitri Medvedenko

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

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

THE AIR ACE / VAZDUSHNIYAT AS

Director: Svilen Dimitrov

Bulgaria 2007

Academy: National Academy of Theatre&Film Arts „Krustyo Sarafov“- NATFA Sofia

Second prize:

ZU-ZU

Bulgaria 2007

Director: Miroslav Mirchev

Academy: National Academy of Theatre&Film Arts „Krustyo Sarafov“- NATFA Sofia

Third prize:

ABOUT BOB; HIS TREE AND LIFE / VON BOB, DEM BAUM UND DEM LEBEN

Deutschland 2008

Director: Daniel Springer

Academy: University of applied Sciences Wiesbaden

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

FAMILY THERAPY / SEMEYNA TERAPIA

Bulgaria 2008

Director: Petar Valtchanov

Academy: National Academy of Theatre&Film Arts „Krustyo Sarafov“- NATFA Sofia

Second prize:

THE GO BETWEEN / POSREDNIKAT

Bulgaria 2008

Director: Dragomir Sholev

Academy: National Academy of Theatre&Film Arts „Krustyo Sarafov“- NATFA Sofia

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9. FESTIVAL DES MITTEL- UND OSTEUPÄISCHEN FILMS
WIESBADEN 22.04. BIS 28.04.2009

Third prize:

THE OATH / KLIATVA

Ukraine 2007

Director: Maryna Vroda

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