

PRESS INFORMATION

goEast: Even More Countries Represented in Festival Programme

123 films from 35 different countries – former prize-winners as festival guests

(Wiesbaden, 15 April 2010) The 2010 goEast festival programme is even more international than that of the preceding editions: 123 films from 35 different countries are set to run at the tenth festival in Wiesbaden between 21 and 27 April. The figures were presented on the occasion of a press conference held in that city's Caligari cinema by the festival together with the organizer, Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF.

Among the guests expected in Wiesbaden are the noted directors **Boris Khlebnikov** and **Peter Buslov**, who will present *CRUSH / KOROTKOE ZAMYKANIE* (Russia, 2009) at the festival opening. No less than four of the five Russian directors jointly responsible for the episodic film are previous goEast prize-winners.

"The geographical spectrum stretches from the Baltic to the Caucasus, from Croatia to Russia," notes festival director Nadja Rademacher. "The programme is an opportunity to learn more about diverse and fascinating cinematic landscapes." The special jubilee programme of the tenth festival combines a host of films with readings, parties and a concert to make Wiesbaden, state capital of Hessen, a venue of cultural exchange and dialogue.

"With an impact spreading far beyond the festival boundaries, goEast has contributed to the growing public awareness of films from Central and Eastern Europe," says Claudia Dillmann, the head of Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF and founder of the festival. "For the third year running, repeat screenings of selected films from the festival programme are scheduled in neighbouring Frankfurt. And because Deutsches Filmmuseum is closed for building work, we are very glad to have found, with the kind assistance of the company Saalbau, an alternative venue in CineStar Metropolis."

"goEast is a figurehead of Hessen's film-related activities. The festival resonates far beyond the film industry, intensifying the dialogue with the countries Central and Eastern Europe. The state of Hessen supported goEast from the outset, and that makes the tenth edition a cause for special celebration," says Gerd Krämer, secretary of state in the Hessen Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts. Minister Eva Kühne-Hörmann will attend the opening ceremony of goEast 2010.

"Wiesbaden has traditionally cultivated links with Eastern Europe, and the festival provides the city with fresh ideas from artists in Central and Eastern Europe. The enthusiastic audience response speaks for itself," remarks Rita Thies, head of the Wiesbaden Department of Cultural Affairs. "And the Festival Centre can now return to the extensively refurbished Villa Clementine – the ideal venue for animated conversations among filmmakers and audience."

Contemporary Productions, Encouragement for Newcomers, and Film-Historical Analysis

The festival centres round the Competition showing ten current feature films and six documentaries. The ten features compete for the Škoda Prize – the "Golden Lily" (10,000 euros) – for Best Film. The non-fiction films compete for the "Remembrance and Future" documentary prize (10,000 euros) awarded by the foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility

and Future". Wiesbaden, State Capital of Hessen, awards the Prize for Best Director (7,500 euros). The Federal Foreign Office of Germany donates a prize for "artistic originality that creates cultural diversity" (2,000 euros). The FIPRESCI Jury awards the International Film Critics' Prize. The Reinhard Kämpf Prize (1,000 euros) completes the festival prize list. Notable support is also received from Sparkassen-Kulturstiftung Hessen-Thüringen and from Nassauische Sparkasse (Naspa).

With the goEast Students' Competition staged annually for changing groups of film schools in Germany and Central and Eastern Europe, the festival promotes young filmmakers. The same goal is pursued by the goEast Young Professionals Programme and the goEast Project Market. The festival also provides a platform for the awarding of the Co-Production Prize of Robert Bosch Stiftung, which awards funding to projects involving the joint efforts of young filmmakers from East and West. Distributed over the three categories Documentary, Animation, and Short Film, the prize is worth up to 210,000 euros.

The goEast Homage is dedicated to Otar Iosseliani, the Georgian-French grand master of film who will also be present in Wiesbaden for the festival. The annual goEast Symposium dedicated to examining the impact of socio-political history and culture on film runs under the title "Liberating Laughter – A Short History of Eastern European Film Humour", and investigates the comedy genre over the past fifty years.

The complete programme is available for download at www.goEast-filmfestival.de.

The jubilee festival also sees the launch of an official media partnership with 3sat, the broadcaster which has cooperated with goEast from the first edition onward, as well as a new festival blog at <http://blog.zdf.de/goeast/>

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