

Press Release

Wiesbaden, 24th of April 2012

The winners at goEast 2012 have been announced – The main award goes to the Russian film LIVING

Films from Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Russia and Germany claim the main awards at the twelfth edition of goEast. This Tuesday the Festival of Central and Eastern European Film, hosted by Deutsches Filminstitut, closed with the official award ceremony in Wiesbaden.

"Besides the examples of current Eastern European cinema which we have presented, the programmes concerned with film history were met with particular interest by the audience", emphasised Gaby Babić, goEast Festival Director, in her closing statement. Cécile Schortmann, presenter of the 3sat TV show "Kulturzeit", hosted the award ceremony at the crowded Caligari FilmBühne.

During the past week, ten feature films and six documentaries were shown in the **Competition** for the four main awards. The independent jury, headed by Romanian director Cristi Puiu, has now announced its decision: the ŠKODA Award "The Golden Lily" for Best Film, donated by ŠKODA AUTO Deutschland with a value of 10,000 Euro, goes to LIVING (Russia 2012) by Vasilij Sigarev. The film has the courage to speak about the unspeakable in a way only cinema can, argued the jury in their statement.

The winner of the Documentary Award "Remembrance and Future", also with a value of 10,000 Euro, is REVISION (Germany 2012) by Philip Scheffner. It reminds us that the most important attributes of documentary filmmaking are genuine curiosity, passion and solidarity, resulting in research and exploration. And it allows the audience to experience this curiosity, passion and solidarity and to take part in research and exploration, explained the jury. The Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" honours the critical involvement of filmmakers with this award and seeks to inspire them to continue to work on future documentary projects.

The Award for Best Director donated by the State Capital of Wiesbaden (7,500 Euro) goes to AVÉ (Bulgaria 2011) by Konstantin Bojanov. The jury chose this film because it displays assured and remarkably precise directorial skills. And by doing so, turning a small, humble subject matter into a moving event.

MOTHER'S PARADISE (Kazakhstan 2011) by Aktan Arym Kubat is the winner of the Award of the Federal Foreign Office for "artistic originality which creates cultural diversity" (2,000 Euro).

The documentary WILL THERE BE A THEATRE UP THERE?! (Georgia 2011) by Nana Janelidze received an honourable mention from the jury.

A jury set up by FIPRESCI, the International Federation of Film Critics, annually presents the FIPRESCI Prize. This year the award goes to LIVING (Russia 2012) by Vasilij Sigarev.

For the sixth time at **goEast** the Robert Bosch Stiftung presents the **Co-Production Prize** for young filmmakers from Germany and Eastern Europe in the categories Animation, Documentary and Short Feature Film. In the category Animation the Co-Production Prize 2012 goes to the Bulgarian–German Project MANGO MANGA by producer Samuel Weikopf, director Milen Vitinov and scriptwriter Vera Trajanova. The project faces up to the challenge of expressing the ill-treatment of a minority group with artistic and commercial animation techniques. Winner in the category Documentary is the Armenian–German film project THE CHOSEN ONES by directors Arman Yeritsan and Yulia Grigoryants and the producer Fabian Gasmia. The jury praised the inspiring plot which proves that faith and optimism are possible despite age or circumstances. The award in the category Short Feature Film goes to the Kosovan–German co-production I'LL GO TO WAR, BUT FIRST MAKE ME COFFEE by producers Catharina Schreckenber and Arben Zharku as well as director Ariel Shaban. The team convinced the jury with a film project that translates the everyday life and the emotions of a Kosovan family during war times into a touching and vivid film. With a value of up to 70,000 Euro per project and a total value of up to 210,000 Euro the Co-Production Prize is one of the most coveted German awards for projects of aspiring filmmakers.

The winners of the audience awards in the **Students' Competition** who had already been announced on Saturday night received their prizes on Tuesday night during the official award ceremony. The BHF-BANK Foundation Award for Best Short Film from a non-German film school, with a value of 1,500 Euro, goes to BOYS, WHERE ARE YOU? (Serbia 2011) by Jelena Gavrilović, a student at the FDU Belgrade. The decision of the three members of the jury of the **Students' Competition** was based on the haunting, chillingly composed images and the minimalist plot of this coming-of-age drama about the emotional blankness of a generation that still needs to find itself.

It's all in the mix, as the past week of the festival has shown: real life and Utopias, current issues and historical events, dramas and comedies, classics and new discoveries captivated both the audience and the guests of the festival.

The **goEast Competition** presents Central and Eastern European film productions from the past and the present year of production. Works by successful auteurs were shown as well as those by promising newcomers.

This year's **Portrait** section presented the first complete German retrospective of director **Sergei Loznitsa**. Soviet history and the post-soviet everyday life in the Russian hinterland are the recurring themes of his work. In a studio conversation Loznitsa presented the work on his second feature film IN THE FOG, which will see its world premiere in the competition of the 65th edition of Cannes International Film Festival.

The **goEast Symposium "RealAvantgarde – With Lenfilm Through the Short 20th Century"**, curated by Barbara Wurm and Olaf Möller, focused on the oldest (Soviet-)Russian film studio and ventured to undertake a film historic re-assessment: through films, lectures and a panel discussion the participants cast a light on the different stages of the studio's development as well as the interrelations of film history and general history.

With coming-of-age stories, images of protest movements and a panel on queer activism in the Balkan the festival section **Beyond Belonging** brought together various perspectives on the topic of **Protest**. Historical and more recent works illustrated the cinematic expression of the desire for a better world.

The many guests at this year's **Matinée** admired Joachim Król in the role of Matthias Bleuel, a lead individually tailored for the actor, in AUSGERECHNET SIBIRIEN (Germany, Russia 2012). Thanks to the support of goEast partner ŠKODA AUTO Deutschland Król was present at the German premiere of this charming and bizarre comedy.

After the official goEast award ceremony filmmakers, guests and the audience celebrated the end of the successful festival until the early morning, accompanied by interpretations of Eastern European music by Polish singer KAROLINA TRYBALA.

goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film is supported by various partners:

The main sponsors are the Hessen State Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts, the State Capital Wiesbaden, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future", ŠKODA AUTO Deutschland, the BHF-BANK Foundation, the Sparkassen-Kulturstiftung Hessen-Thüringen, and the Nassauische Sparkasse.

Further information is available online at www.filmfestival-goEast.de.

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Winners goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film 2012

THE JURY

Cristi Puiu (Romania, Head of the Jury)
Susanna Harutyunyan (Armenia)
Jurij Meden (Slovenia)
George Ovashvili (Georgia)
Franziska Weisz (Austria)

The FIPRESCI Jury

Bernard Besserglik (France)
Prof. Dr. Maya Dimitrova (Bulgaria)
Larisa Malyukowa (Russia)

ŠKODA Award “The Golden Lily” for Best Film

ZHIT / LIVING
Russia 2012
Director: Vasilij Sigarev

Documentary Award “Remembrance and Future” donated by the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future”

REVISION / REVISION
Germany 2012
Director: Philip Scheffner

Award for Best Director donated by the City of Wiesbaden

AVÉ / AVÉ
Bulgaria 2011
Director: Konstantin Bojanov

Award of the Federal Foreign Office for “artistic originality which creates cultural diversity”

RAY DLYA MAMY / MOTHER’S PARADISE
Kazakhstan 2011
Director: Aktan Arym Kubat

Honourable Mention

NETAVI IQ TEATRI ARIS?! / WILL THERE BE A THEATRE UP THERE?!

Georgia 2011

Director: Nana Janelidze

Prize of the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI Prize)

ZHIT / LIVING

Russia 2012

Director: Vasilij Sigarev

Co-Production Prize of the Robert Bosch Stiftung

JURY

Doris Hepp (Editor ZDF/arte, Germany)

Stefan Kitanov (Festival Manager Sofia International Film Festival, Bulgaria)

Matthijs Wouter Knol (Programme Manager Berlinale Talent Campus)

Christine Kopf (Film Expert, Germany)

Mait Laas (Filmmaker and Artist, Lettland)

Mirsad Purivatra (Sarajevo Film Festival, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Ada Solomon (Film Producer, Romania)

Nikolaj Nikitin (filmplus, Germany)

Animation Category

MANGO MANGA

Bulgaria, Germany

Director: Milen Vitanov

Production: Samuel Weikopf

Script: Vera Trajanova

Documentary Category

THE CHOSEN ONES

Armenia, Germany

Director: Arman Yeritsan, Yulia Grigoryants

Production: Fabian Gasmia

Short Feature Film Category

I'LL GO TO WAR, BUT FIRST MAKE ME COFFEE

Germany, Kosovo

Director: Ariel Shaban

Production: Catharina Schreckenber, Arben Zharku

BHF-BANK Foundation Award for Best Short Film from a non-German film school

JURY

Dr. Marie-Hélène Gutberlet (Film Scholar and Curator, Frankfurt am Main)

Peter Müller (Journalist, Wiesbadener Kurier)

Prof. Anja Stöffler (Head of the Media Design Class and the Institute of Media Design at FH Mainz)

MOMCI GDE STE? / BOYS, WHERE ARE YOU?

Serbia 2011

Director: Jelena Gavrilović

Film School: FDU Belgrade

Audience Awards in the goEast Students' Competition

Documentary Category

STREMT 89

Romania 2012

Director: Anda Puscas

Film School: UNATC Bucharest

Animation and Experimental Film Category

FROM DAD TO SON

Germany 2011

Director: Nils Knoblich

Film School: KHS Kassel

Short Feature Film Category

WEDDING DUET

Romania 2011

Director: Goran Mihailov

Film School: UNATC Bucharest