

## Press Release

Frankfurt / Wiesbaden, February 2007

## A Festival Week of Premieres

**Extensive programme with 47 film premieres / Festival guests Katharina Thalbach and Marjia Škaričić / Readings by Wojciech Kuczok and Saša Stanišić / Party with DJ Russ Jones / Film and reading with Peter Urban and Sergei Loznica / School Film Days / Trade Meeting for young filmmakers and industry representatives / Performance by media artist Pavel Bräila**

The countdown begins in Wiesbaden, Germany – only four weeks to go until **goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film** (March 28th – April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007). The comprehensive programme encompassing over 140 feature-length and short films from 25 different countries includes 43 international and 4 world premieres. Sixteen contenders for prizes amounting to 29,500 euros in addition to the International Film Critics' Award will be screened in the contemporary fiction and documentary film competition.

**goEast** is put on by the German Film Institute – DIF and funded primarily by the Hessian Ministry of Science and Art and the City of Wiesbaden, state capital of Hessen. Further important festival partners are the Non-profit Hertie Foundation, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, and Škoda Auto Deutschland.

### Visiting Actors: Katharina Thalbach and Marjia Škaričić

The goEast Sunday Matinee will present the latest film by Oscar-winning director Volker Schlöndorff: **STRAJK – DIE HELDIN VON DANZIG / STRIKE** (Germany, Poland, 2006), a historical drama about the Polish labour movement. Solidarność co-founder Anna Walentynowicz is played by noted stage and screen actress Katharina Thalbach, who recently won the Bavarian Film Prize in recognition of the “credibility, intelligence and intensity” of her portrayal. After the screening, **Katharina Thalbach** and **Jürgen Haase**, the film's producer, will make a personal appearance to talk about the shooting (Caligari FilmBühne, Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 11.00 am). Making a guest appearance on the opening night of the festival, is the young Croatian actress **Marjia Škaričić**, whose list of distinctions (Best Actress at Sarajevo two years in succession, Shooting Star at the Berlinale) meanwhile rivals those awarded to the film **DAS FRÄULEIN / FRAULEIN** (Germany, Switzerland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, 2006) by Andrea Štaka, in which she plays a leading role. Distinguished at the Locarno and Sarajevo Film Festival, the film tells the story of three women from ex-Yugoslavia who meet up in their Swiss exile (Caligari FilmBühne, Thurs, 29.03., 21.30).

### Readings with Wojciech Kuczok and Saša Stanišić / Party with London DJ Russ Jones

With two highly promising young authors Wojciech Kuczok and Saša Stanišić guesting at the festival, the varied **goEast** sidebar programme again guarantees stimulating highlights. Celebrated by Polish critics and readers and hotly tipped for success in Germany, the author, screenwriter and film critic **Wojciech Kuczok** will read from his latest novel **GNÓJ (MUCK)** coinciding with the publication of that work's German translation (Villa Clementine, Mon, 02.04., 19.00, admission: 6/5 €). Kuczok's “anti-biography”, which has already won the Nike Award, recounts the dramatic vicissitudes of German and Polish history in the 20th century burdened by a legacy of violence perpetuated in the domestic life of the “K.” family.

**Saša Stanišić**, a writer originally from Bosnia-Herzegovina, reads at **goEast** on Saturday, 31.03.

(Kulturzentrum Schlachthof, doors open 20.00). The novelist shot to public notice after his debut **HOW THE SOLDIER REPAIRS THE GRAMOPHONE** unexpectedly appeared on the 2006 short list for the prestigious German Book Prize. Set in Bosnia during the civil war, the novel recounts the exploits of young Aleksandr after his family flees to Germany, where he exuberantly spins bizarre tales about the past, his huge family, and the quirks of life back home in Višegrad. The reading precludes the traditional **goEast Party**, featuring **DJ Russ Jones** and his “Gypsy Beats and Balkan Bangers”. DJ Russ Jones, the artistic director of the Blue Note in London, promises to bring to the Schlachthof in Wiesbaden the “sound of Eastern Europe”: a mixture of Polish punk, Bosnian rap, Russian ska, mixed with sweet and melodic sounds. The unequivocal verdict of Time Out in London: “The best party in town!” (c. 21.30, combined ticket for reading/party: 7 €).

### Film and reading with Peter Urban and Sergei Loznica

Renowned translator Peter Urban reads a selection of German renderings, due to appear in print this autumn, of the poems of Gennadij Gor (1907-1981). Gor was in Leningrad throughout the 900-day siege by

German troops, during which time he wrote poems as a means of survival. Filmmaker Sergei Loznica unearthed from Moscow archives unsettling footage of Leningrad under siege and presents his material in the extraordinary documentary BLOCKADE (Russland, 2005). A discussion between Peter Urban and Sergei Loznica is scheduled to follow the reading and film screening (Caligari FilmBühne, Sun, 01.04., 15.30).

### **School Film Days**

Running this year within the framework of the "SchulKinoWochen" programme for schools in Hessen, the school film days offer films for all age groups. Wolfgang Staudte's classic DIE GESCHICHTE VOM KLEINEN MUCK / THE STORY OF LITTLE MOOK (GDR, 1953) is screening for primary-school pupils on Thurs, 29.03., 8.30 am. Introducing their films at 11.00 on the same day, the directors Wojtek Wawszczyk (Poland) and Alla Churikova (Ukraine) offer first-hand descriptions of animation techniques. Wojtek Wawszczyk also presents a documentary about the making of his film SPLINTER, which combines 3-D computer animation with oil paintings. Several of the paintings are on show in the foyer of the Caligari FilmBühne. Alla Churikova specializes in sand animation, one of the most intricate and aesthetically pleasing animation techniques, involving "strewing" the individual frames instead of painting or drawing them. MUSÍME SI POMÁHAT / DIVIDED WE FALL (CZ, 2001) by Jan Hřebejk plays in a small Czech town under German occupation during World War II (Fri, Fr, 30.03. at 8.30). Teachers may register their classes with Julia Fleißig per Email at fleissig@deutsches-filminstitut.de or per telephone under the number: 069 / 961 220 682

### **Trade Meetings for young filmmakers and established industry representatives**

For the second time, **goEast** is the venue of a **workshop presented in the scope of the Robert Bosch Stiftung Promotional Prize for Joint Film Productions**. This promotional prize offers young Germans working in the fields of production, directing, cinematography and screenwriting the opportunity to work on a joint film project with young partners from Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Two films funded by the Stiftung last year will screen during the workshop: SPLINTER (dir: Wojtek Wawszczyk) and the German-Croatian short MILAN (dir: Michaela Kezele). Excerpts from the documentary LES ENFANTS DE PARADA (dir: Annett Schütze) will also be shown. The workshop takes place on Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, at 14.00 in the Museum Wiesbaden. "**East European Productions and International Licensing – Risks, Chances and Constraints**" is the title of a **goEast** roundtable. The invited guests are industry representatives whose experience allows the issues to be approached from various aspects: Alexander von Dülmen (A Company Consulting & Licensing AG, EEAP), Gabriele Brunnenmeyer (Connecting Cottbus), Tobias Pausinger (The Match Factory, Munich/Cologne), Marta Lamperová (mdc int., Berlin) and Jörg Schneider (ZDF/Das kleine Fernsehspiel, Mainz). The discussion will be moderated by Bernd Buder, film journalist. **Roncalli-Haus, Friedrichstrasse 26-28, 02.04. / 16.00**

### **Performance art in Villa Clementine**

Moldavian artist Pavel Brăila returns to **goEast** for a guest appearance in the stylish surroundings of the Villa Clementine: the festival centre is the venue for a presentation of excerpts from his films SHOES FOR EUROPE und WELCOME TO EUROPE as well as for a live performance entitled "Eurolines-Catering or Homesick Cuisine". Based in Berlin and Chişinău, the media artist began presenting his video works and performances at international art exhibitions and film festivals in the mid-1990s; a solo exhibition is currently showing at the New National Gallery in Berlin. The performance foreseen for Wiesbaden was inspired by the "Eurolines Moldova" bus company, whose services to cities in Europe and beyond are vital to the travel arrangements of itinerant workers from Chişinău. According to the artist, however, "Eurolines" primarily exists in order to make everybody happy. **Villa Clementine: 01.04. / 20.00**

### **Tickets and Prices**

General information on the **goEast** programme is available via phone at +49 (0)69–961 220 650. Starting 12 March, tickets can be booked in advance from Wiesbaden Tourist Information at +49 (0)611–1729780. Admission to any **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.

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