

## Press Release

Wiesbaden, February 2011

### **Involved, Original, Remarkable: A First Glimpse at the Film Highlights of goEast 2011**

This year, goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film introduces a new section with a focus on migration. The **Homage** honours czech surrealist and filmmaker Jan Švankmajer and the goEast-Symposium takes a look at the treatment of new right-wing movements in Eastern European Film. First highlights of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival were presented to the public at the reception of the Deutsches Filminstitut, host of goEast, at the 2011 Berlinale.

### **A New Festival Section: Beyond Belonging**

For the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of goEast Festival Director Gaby Babić has developed a new section that is curated according to a particular theme. **Beyond Belonging** is committed to the geographic widening of goEast: it offers a space for films from beyond the borders of Middle and Eastern European cinema, which are however related to Middle and Eastern European issues in terms of their content. This new festival section acknowledges that a different view is required in a changing European landscape. There is a necessity to find a common perspective, beyond national and regional borders, outdated conventions and notions, in order to examine the transformation processes that shape both post-communist and western societies. In 2011, the thematic focus is on cinematic works concerned with migration and exile, following the central question of how the history and experience of migration can be translated into film. The section presents current feature films, critically ironic documentaries on mass work-migration during the 1970s, a silent film classic about Russians in exile, as well as contemporary video and media works by selected visual artists that draw on their own experience of migration as a subject.

### **goEast Homage**

This year's **Homage** honours the work of Czech filmmaker and multimedia artist **Jan Švankmajer**. All of his long features are presented in a comprehensive retrospective along with a selection of short films crafted by the master of animation. By a touch of fate, Švankmajer was born in 1934, the same year that saw the emergence of Czech surrealism. He eventually developed into one of the most significant surrealists of the country, admired by renowned auteurs such as Terry Gilliam and Tim Burton. The stop motion technique he developed and refined over long years has set international standards for animated films. The trained stage designer and puppet player received a perennial ban from his profession in the former ČSSR, because he clearly expressed his resentment of any form of Totalitarianism, including Stalinism. goEast also presents the most recent work of this groundbreaking filmmaker: **PŘEŽIT SVŮJ ŽIVOT / SURVIVING LIFE** (Czech Republic, Slovakia 2010).

## **goEast-Symposium**

The rise of right-wing populism and nationalist movements in Eastern Europe and the exploration of this highly current phenomenon in cinema is the topic of this year's **goEast-Symposium "Marching Into the Picture – The New Right in Eastern European Film"**. Headed by cultural studies scholar and ethnologist Dr. Grit Lemke, the symposium presents fourteen works dealing with this issue in the accompanying film programme. The variety of the films illustrates the different aesthetic and narrative approaches taken by filmmakers to reflect on this development. Among other titles, the festival presents the Russian feature film *ROSSIYA 88 / RUSSIA 88* (Russia 2009), a tragedy based on actual events in the Russian skinhead scene, and the Hungarian documentary *DÜBÖRÖG A NEMZETI ROCK / ROCKING THE NATION* (Hungary 2007) about the nationalist rock-band "Romantikus Erőszak". Panelists from various disciplines will speak about the occasionally diverging strains of the New Right in Eastern Europe, outline historical and cultural backgrounds and pursue the issue of aesthetic representation.

The **goEast Competition** showcases ten feature films and six documentaries. An international jury awards the four main prizes with a total value of 29,500 EUR. (Škoda-Award "The Golden Lily" for Best Film, Documentary Award "Remembrance and Future" donated by the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future", Award for Best Director donated by the City of Wiesbaden, Award of the Federal Foreign Office – Federal Republic of Germany – for "artistic originality which creates cultural diversity".) The FIPRESCI jury awards the Prize of International Film Critics. **goEast** focuses on young talents as well: the **Young Professionals Programme** includes various workshops and panel discussions. As part of **goEast** the Robert Bosch Stiftung donates the **Co-Production Prize** in the categories short feature, documentary and animation with a total value adding up to 210,000 EUR. In the **Students' Competition** classes from Lodz, Tbilisi, Hamburg, Kassel and the Rhine-Main-Region will compete for the four awards donated by the BHF-BANK-Foundation with a total value of 4,500 EUR.

**goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film** is supported by numerous **Partners**:

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

Further information is available online at [www.filmfestival-goEast.de](http://www.filmfestival-goEast.de)

### **Press Contact:**

Mirjam Schwenn  
phone: +49 (0)611 / 23 68 43-14  
[schwenn@filmfestival-goEast.de](mailto:schwenn@filmfestival-goEast.de)

goEast – Filmfestival  
Friedrichstraße 32  
65185 Wiesbaden  
Germany

### **Host:**

Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF e.V.  
Schaumainkai 41  
60596 Frankfurt am Main  
Germany

[info@filmfestival-goEast.de](mailto:info@filmfestival-goEast.de)  
[www.filmfestival-goEast.de](http://www.filmfestival-goEast.de)