

Press Release

Wiesbaden, 21st February 2012

Experimental, Critical, Daring: The First Cinematic Highlights at goEast 2012

- Tsekhanovsky's GOPAK sees its world premier after its rediscovery
- The first complete Sergei Loznitsa retrospective in Germany
- Protest is the theme of the Beyond Belonging section

goEast - Festival of Central and Eastern European Film transforms the city of Wiesbaden into a display for current developments in Central and Eastern European cinema from the 18th until the 24th of April 2012. goEast presented the first highlights of its 12th edition at the official Berlinale reception of the festival's organising institution, Deutsches Filminstitut.

goEast Symposium

The **Symposium "RealAvantGarde - With Lenfilm Through the Short 20th Century"** is dedicated to the oldest (Soviet-)Russian film studio Lenfilm. During recent months Lenfilm came to global attention when the projected privatisation was stopped by the protest of the internationally renowned directors Aleksandr Sokurov and Aleksej German. From its establishment in 1918 until the late Perestroika period, Lenfilm was foremost a fertile ground for cinematic experiments and subtle, critical realism. Whether in exploring history, at play with different film genres or alternative (sur)realisms: Lenfilm combines artistic inventiveness and a fascination for social reality; avant-garde and everyday life. The Slavic studies and film scholar Barbara Wurm and the film critic Olaf Möller are heading the symposium. It will focus on the stages of the studio's development, as well as the interrelations between contemporary history and film history in a series of lectures and a panel discussion. The film programme presents a selection from the studio's 1,500 productions, including features such as OBLOMOK IMPERII / FRAGMENT OF AN EMPIRE (1929, Fridrich Ermler), BOLSCHAYA SEMYA / A BIG FAMILY (1954, Joseph Heifitz) and DNI ZATMENIYA / DAYS OF ECLIPSE (1988, Aleksandr Sokurov). The short film section includes some productions that had been presumed lost, such as GOPAK (1931, Mikhail Tsekhanovsky), which is presented as a world premier after its rediscovery.

goEast Portrait

This year, the **Portrait** section presents the first complete retrospective of Russian director **Sergei Loznitsa** in Germany: the native Belorussian currently living in Germany with a Ukrainian passport caused an international sensation with his feature film debut SCHASTYE MOYE (MY JOY) in 2010. Previously he had established himself as a documentary filmmaker. His cinematically refined films, all of which are shown at goEast, cast an uncompromising view on post-Soviet everyday life in the Russian hinterland. But Loznitsa also revives the history of Soviet Russia: in his two footage films BLOKADA (BLOCKADE, 2005) and PREDSTAVLENIYE (REVUE, 2008) he explores the siege of Leningrad and Soviet culture ideology of the 1950s, 60s and 70s with the use of original and archive footage.

Beyond Belonging

Following its successful establishment last year, **Beyond Belonging** is now a fixed section of the goEast festival programme. It includes outstanding films from beyond Central and Eastern Europe that are thematically tied to the region. The festival section acknowledges the fact that a changing Europe demands a new point of view. Beyond national and regional borders, out-dated patterns of thought and concepts it is necessary to develop a shared perspective on transformation processes. Inspired by the protest movements that burgeoned across the globe over the past year, as well as the high number of coming-of-age films in current Central and Eastern European cinema, this year Beyond Belonging focuses on the topic of "**Protest**". Young people in conflict with their parents, student revolts or the collapse of the Eastern bloc: the section's programme brings together different perspectives on forms of protest and introduces historical and recent productions.

Competition and Young Professionals Programme

Ten feature films and six documentaries are in the **Competition** of goEast. An international jury awards the four main prizes with a total value of 29,500 EUR (the ŠKODA Award "The Golden Lily" for Best Film, the Documentary Award "Remembrance and Future" donated by the Foundation EVZ, the Award of the City of Wiesbaden for Best Director, and the Award of the Federal Foreign Office for "artistic originality which creates cultural diversity"). A jury of members of the International Federation of Film Critics awards the FIPRESCI Prize.

goEast supports young talents: the **Young Professionals Programme** presents various workshops and lectures. The Robert Bosch Stiftung donates the **Co-Production Prize** in the categories Short Feature Film, Documentary and Animation at goEast, with a total value of up to 210,000 EUR. The BHF-BANK Foundation supports the **goEast Students' Competition**, where film academies from Belgrade, Bucharest, Berlin, Kassel and the Rhine-Main region will compete for the four awards with a total value of 4,500 EUR this year.

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 Naspä.

Save the date: The goEast press conference will take place on the 12th of April 2012, 1pm, at Caligari Film-Bühne, Marktplatz 9, 65183 Wiesbaden, Germany.

Press contact:

Cornelia Reichel
+49 (0) 611 2368 4314
reichel@filmfestival-goEast.de

Host:

Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF
Schaumainkai 41
60596 Frankfurt am Main
Germany

goEast - Festivalbüro
Friedrichstraße 32
65185 Wiesbaden
Germany
www.filmfestival-goEast.de