

## Press Information

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### **Eastern European Cinema on the Winning Track: goEast 2013 starts in five days with the best films from 30 countries**

**Films from Central and Eastern Europe have experienced a boom since this year's Berlinale: The immediacy, diversity and creative force of cinematic art in Eastern Europe was enough to convince the jury, audience and press. The 13th edition of goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film once again presents a selection of the most current productions and historical works from Wednesday, April 10 to Tuesday, April 16 in Wiesbaden. During a press conference on Thursday at the Caligari FilmBühne, the film festival's host, Deutsches Filminstitut, disclosed that 132 films will be shown from 30 countries ranging from Poland to Kazakhstan, including eight world premieres, seven international premieres and 21 German premieres. The festival officially opens on Wednesday, April 10 at 7 p.m. at the Caligari FilmBühne.**

The festival director Gaby Babić provided a glimpse of the festival programme at the press conference: "Non-conformist cinema from Central and Eastern Europe under the motto "Striking 13!" defines our programme. We have dedicated the Symposium to the Black Wave and as such, to the enfants terribles of Yugoslav film. With the Hommage to Miklós Jancsó, we present one of the most prominent representatives of Hungarian New Wave cinema. The Hommage can also be considered a definite commentary on the current situation in Hungary." Established stereotypes and gender relations in Central and Eastern Europe are called into question in Gender Check! from the section Beyond Belonging. The Highlights are devoted entirely to genre cinema. "At the Berlinale, the broader public finally realized what has been going on for quite some time in the Eastern European film scene. For the 13<sup>th</sup> year, the goEast Competition is a central forum for the quality and diversity of cinematic art from this region", Babić emphasised.

Claudia Dillmann, director of Deutsches Filminstitut, stressed the conceptual uniqueness of the festival: "goEast differentiates itself from many other film festivals in that it complements the most recent productions from countries in Central and Eastern Europe with historical films. A retrospective view of Central and Eastern European cinema is worthwhile, in addition to a look at what is currently happening – and is also necessary, in our opinion. It is vital to convey an awareness of the cinematography of entire nations to the public and to experts."

"goEast is without a doubt a highlight of the local festival calendar," Ingmar Jung, the State Secretary at the Hessen State Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts, underscored. He especially acknowledged the festival's contribution to the promotion of Hessian films: "The festival organisers have always placed great value on establishing a link between local and international productions. This is especially true with the young talent programmes, which – in spite of an obvious international orientation – unfailingly incorporate young talent from Hessen."

In emphasising the goEast School Film Days' 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Rose-Lore Scholz, Head of Cultural Affairs of Wiesbaden, State Capital of Hessen, stressed the importance of the festival for young audiences. "It's impossible to imagine an everyday school life that does not convey film culture and media competence to children and adolescents. Therefore, we have to celebrate a jubilee like the 10-year anniversary of goEast School Film Days appropriately. The programme also gives pupils the opportu-

nity to become acquainted with the cinematic art of our Eastern neighbours in a unique festival atmosphere." On a personal note, she is excited that as guest of the goEast Matinée the actress Martina Gedeck will present THE DOOR, the latest film by acclaimed Hungarian director István Szabó.

### **Current Cinematics and Young Talent in the Competition**

The centrepiece of goEast is the Competition, in which ten feature films and six documentaries compete for the ŠKODA Film Award with a value of 10,000 euros. The Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" will give the Documentary Award "Remembrance and Future" (10,000 euros) and the State Capital of Wiesbaden will present the Award of the City of Wiesbaden for Best Director (7,500 euros). The Federal Foreign Office will tender the Award "for artistic originality which creates cultural diversity" and has underscored its significance by doubling the prize money from 2,000 to 4,000 euros this year. Gaby Babić also announced the members of the international jury at the press conference: The Hungarian director Bence Fliegauf will serve as head of jury. Other jury members who will determine the winners include the Bulgarian director and last year's winner of the Award of the City of Wiesbaden for Best Director, Konstantin Bojanov; the Croatian actress Marija Škaričić; the Czech producer Jiří Konečný; and the curator Rada Šešić, who lives in Amsterdam. A FIPRESCI jury will present the International Film Critics' Award.

**goEast Focuses on Young Talent:** With the Young Professionals Programme and the Film Prize for International Cooperation, the Robert Bosch Stiftung supports young talent in the film branch. With a total of up to 210,000 euros, the prize is awarded in the categories short fiction film, documentary and animation. The Young Professionals Programme prepares talent for international cooperation, with experienced directors and producers giving valuable tips on such topics as screenplay development or successful pitching. "The Film Prize and the preparatory Young Professionals Programme offer young filmmakers much more than financial support," said Frank Albers, project manager for Art and Culture at the Robert Bosch Stiftung. "The German-East European teams are given the opportunity to cooperatively develop their ideas further and to become acquainted with the work methods of the respective countries. The contacts they make open many doors and make new film projects possible." The BHF-BANK Foundation supports the goEast Students' Competition, with film students participating from Budapest, Prishtina, Munich and the Rhine Main area.

**goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film is supported by numerous partners:** Main sponsors are the Hessen State Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts and 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.

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