



## **Forum opens with *Lost and Found***

The opening film of the 35th *International Forum of New Cinema* has been selected: The German production *Lost and Found* unites stories by young directing talents from six Central and Eastern European countries.

The international contributions to this compilation of short films were produced in Estonia, Bulgaria, Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hungary, and Serbia-Montenegro and post-produced in Germany. The countries were chosen as project partners on the basis of their rich film culture. At the same time, cooperating on this film project contributes to creating lasting new infrastructures, especially for up-and-coming artists. The four short films, one documentary, and one animated film reflect a new cinematic self-understanding on the part of the young generation of filmmakers from Central and Eastern Europe. The directors include five participants from the *Berlinale Talent Campus* 2004, as well as a winner of the Golden Bear (Stefan Arsenijevic for the short film *(A)Torzija*, 2003). The world premiere of *Lost and Found* will take place on February 11, 2005 in the Delphi movie theater.

The stories in *Lost and Found* are tied together by the Estonian animated film *Gene-Ration* by Mait Laas, which relates the fantastic journey of a matchstick man who helps give birth to a new generation. – In *The Ritual*, by Nadejda Koseva (Bulgaria), a wedding party waits in suspense for the bride and groom. – A young girl goes to the capital for the first time and has to master a difficult situation (*Turkey-Girl*, Cristian Mungiu, Romania). – Two children in the same city are born on the same day, but have no possibility of getting to know each other (*Birthday*, Jasmila Zbanich, Bosnia-Herzegovina). – A suicide counselor finds himself in an existential conflict when he attempts to master his own family situation after the death of his mother (*Shortlasting Silence*, Kornél Mundruczó, Hungary). – In Stefan Arsenijevic's *Fabulous Vera* (Serbia-Montenegro) a streetcar conductor exceeds her authority and finally finds happiness.

*Lost and Found* was produced by the Cologne production company ICON FILM. Initiator is the Berlin association "relations", which, as an initiative project of the German Federal Cultural Foundation, fosters art and culture projects in Central and Eastern Europe.

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### **Press Office**

Potsdamer Straße 5  
10785 Berlin

Tel. +49 • 30 • 259 20 • 707  
Fax +49 • 30 • 259 20 • 799

press@berlinale.de  
www.berlinale.de

Ein Geschäftsbereich der  
Kulturveranstaltungen des  
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### **Management:**

Dieter Kosslick  
(Intendant Internationale  
Filmfestspiele Berlin),  
Dr. Thomas Köstlin  
(Kaufmännischer Geschäftsführer),  
Dr. Hans-Georg Knopp,  
Dr. Joachim Sartorius

Vorsitzende des Aufsichtsrats:  
Dr. Christina Weiss

Handelsregister: Amtsgericht  
Charlottenburg Nr. 96 HRB 29357  
USt ID DE 136 78 27 46