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Press Release # 5

First Berlinale Talent Campus - a great success

Established film professionals and public eager to join young filmmakers at House of World Cultures

From February 10 to 14, 476 filmmakers from 61 countries came together for the first **BERLINALE TALENT CAMPUS** in Berlin's House of World Cultures. **Master School Drehbuch** organised this week of exchange between established film professionals and aspiring young filmmakers in co-operation with **Filmboard Berlin-Brandenburg** and **U.K. Film Council**.

The five day programme offered a total of 68 events and workshops dealing with the various aspects of filmmaking, from scriptwriting and creative financing to editing and film marketing. Renowned film professionals like **Lia van Leer**, **Wim Wenders** and **Ken Adam** acted as hosts for this new platform for young filmmakers at the Berlin International Film Festival. They were joined by colleagues like **Stephen Frears**, **Anthony Minghella**, **Tom Tykwer**, **Atom Egoyan** and **Spike Lee** who all came to the BERLINALE TALENT CAMPUS to hold a workshop, give a speech, or simply chat with young filmmakers over lunch. **Dennis Hopper** talked about ups and downs in his life and career, **Ken Adam** took talent on an excursion to the current exhibition about his work at the Martin-Gropius-Bau, and **Nik Powell**, **Cédomir Kolar** and **Rainer Kölmel** talked about the experience of failure. Other guests of the BERLINALE TALENT CAMPUS included **Lynn Hershman**, **Mike Figgis**, **Mathilde Bonnefoy**, **Jacques Delmoly**, **David Eggby**, **Mechthild Holter**, **Jakob Claussen**, **Karl Baumgartner**, **Ioan Allen** – and a lot of others. They all came to find out what the Campus is, how it works, and most of all, to be part of a fascinating atmosphere.

In the afternoons, a series of **public events** attracted more than **1,000 visitors** every day - film professionals, visitors of the festival and the Berlin public. They came to join some of the discussions and workshops, watch films, or visit the Campus Lounge with different information stands. In the Campus Lounge, a **data base** set up by **Q~est** allowed visitors and participants to watch the film excerpts the young filmmakers had sent in with their application. The computer terminals were highly frequented throughout the entire week - more than **17,500 hits** and **over 1,500 messages** were recorded. In addition, a **CD-Rom** included in the Campus Magazine gave visitors, professionals and journalists an overview of all talent.

During the **BERLINALE TALENT CAMPUS**, the “**Talent Movie of the Week**”, a unique project presented by the **BERLINALE TALENT CAMPUS** and **SONY**, allowed 20 of the participants the realisation of a total of 4 digital short films with SONY HD and DV Cams. **trigger happy productions** acted as supervising production company for the four projects chosen by **Wim Wenders**, mentor of the “Talent Movie of the Week”. At the Farewell Party on Friday evening, all four films were presented and **Phil Traill's** short film "**Dangle**" was awarded “Talent Movie of the Week”.

The talents are now homebound again, but three of them will be back: as nominees for the first **Berlin Today Award**. All participants in this year's Campus can compete for the realisation of a short film with a Berlin connection. „The Berlin Today Award is the bridge to the Berlinale Talent Campus in 2004“, says Prof. Klaus Keil, director of **Filmboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH**, the Award's initiator and sponsor. What's special about the award? An executive production company and Berlin-Brandenburg's film industry will support the three nominees in the realisation of their projects. And they will be assisted by three renowned directors who act as advisors: **Andreas Dresen**, **Esther Gronenborn** and **Volker Schlöndorff**.

The success of this year's Campus has impressed both partners and sponsors and financing next year's **BERLINALE TALENT CAMPUS** should be much easier, says **Christine Dorn**, project manager: "The Campus has exceeded all expectations although we only had about five months to organise it. Various event partners and sponsors have supported us enormously and have helped to create a positive and refreshing atmosphere. With this success, we are excited to start organising a new – and still independent – financing scheme for 2004”.

The **BERLINALE TALENT CAMPUS** is a project of the Berlin International Film Festival, in co-operation with Filmboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH, U.K. Film Council, MEDIA Promotion and House of World Cultures. Organised by Master School Drehbuch Berlin.

More information at: www.berlinale-talentcampus.de

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Berlin Today Award: www.berlintoday.de

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