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Press Office:

Televisor
Birgit Mangold

Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin
Berlinale Talent Campus

Potsdamer Straße 5 · 10785 Berlin
Germany
Tel.: +49 30 259 20 518
Fax: +49 30 259 20 199
pr@berlinale-talentcampus.de
www.berlinale-talentcampus.de

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Berlinale Talent Campus: PLANET Documentary Film Award and Berlin Today Award

Spotlight on up-and-coming film professionals – on February 11, 2004, during the next Berlinale, *Awards Night 2004* will take place. Not just one, but two prizes will be awarded to the young film-makers of the *Berlinale Talent Campus*. The *Berlin Today Award* will be awarded to one of three short-listed films about Berlin produced during a year-long project as part of the *Berlinale Talent Campus*. The winner of the *PLANET Dokumentarfilmpreis 2004* has already been chosen: Bartek Konopka from the Andrzej Wajda Masterschool, Warsaw, convinced the jury with his proposal for *Goat Walker – the Way of the Goat* and will receive the prize during *Awards Night*.

Three short films have been nominated for the *Berlin Today Award*. *Best of the Wurst* by Grace Lee (USA) investigates Berlin's devotion to "Currywurst". *BerlinBeirut* by the Lebanese Myrna Maakaron examines the differences and similarities between the two cities. In *Berlin Backstage*, with Axel Prahl (*Halbe Treppe*) in the leading role, Stéphanie Chuat und Véronique Reymond (both from Switzerland) relate the tale of a homeless person who slips into the role of a highly respected citizen. All participants in the *Berlinale Talent Campus 2003* had the chance to submit a proposal for a film project. Three of these were chosen and produced with funding provided by the Filmboard GmbH and the film industry of Berlin-Brandenburg. During the presentation of the *Berlin Today Award* – at 2 p.m. on February 10, in Haus der Kulturen der Welt – the films will be given their premiere. Volker Schlöndorff, Andreas Dresen and Esther Gronenborn are the patrons of the first *Berlin Today Award*. As in the previous year, the participants in the *Berlinale Talent Campus 2004* will be invited to submit their proposals for a film project with the theme "Berlin Today". The *Berlin Today Award* is a joint award of the film industry of Berlin-Brandenburg. It is initiated and supported by the Filmboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH, coordinated by Frank Stehling and organised by boxfish films – Büro für Film + Kommunikation.

Bartek Konopka is the winner of the *PLANET Dokumentarfilmpreis 2004* with *Goat Walker – the Way of the Goat*: a film which describes an unusual social project in a Polish community – as seen through the eyes of a goat. To quote the chairwoman of the jury Barbara Rudnik: "What convinced us was the film's unconventional way of looking at things. This made it possible to view an earnest subject in an amusing way." The jury, which included Christian Frei (*War Photographer*), Andres Veiel (*Black Box BRD*), the Polish author and director Andrzej Titkow and Matthias Pfeffer, editor-in-chief of Focus TV, chose *Goat Walker* from the more than 100 proposals submitted. The 50 minute film will be broadcast by PLANET, who also covered all production costs. Kabel Deutschland is the sponsor of the prize. The film premiere will take place in Haus der Kulturen der Welt on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 at 10.30 a.m. In the discussion afterwards Bartek Konopka will talk about his work. In 2005, as a partner of the *Berlinale Talent Campus*, PLANET will again offer the *PLANET Dokumentarfilmpreis*, which will enable young film-makers to realise their own documentary project. Information about the conditions of application can be found on www.planet-tv.de.

An initiative of the Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin, a business division of the Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin GmbH, in co-operation with MEDIA Training, Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Frauen, House of World Cultures and Volkswagen. Founding members are the Filmboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH and the UK Film Council.