

Press Release



Berlinale and German Federal Cultural Foundation set up *World Cinema Fund*

Support for the production and distribution of film projects from Latin America, the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa.

Funding can begin – the *World Cinema Fund* has been launched. This initiative is committed to the development of world cinema and to the enrichment of the cinematic landscape in Germany.

The *World Cinema Fund* is designed to aid film projects from countries whose film industry is having difficulty evolving or is endangered due to political and economic crises. It is being set up with the generous support of the German Federal Cultural Foundation, which will provide the first funds, a total of 1.5 million euros for the first three years. Until 2007 the *Fund* will focus on supporting the production and distribution of films from Latin America, the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa.

The *World Cinema Fund* intends to promote films with extraordinary aesthetics and compelling stories that give an authentic picture of their countries of origin.

In a unique way, film can further understanding of complex realities in other cultures and hence is an important medium in intercultural dialogue. And despite all economic problems, individual cultural cinematographies exist in the shadow of mainstream cinema and demonstrate the diversity of world cinema. Often these films are hardly accessible or only shown to audiences outside their countries of origin at international festivals. For such productions, interaction with the international film world and participation in the global market is difficult. The *World Cinema Fund* wants to tackle these challenges by developing a cooperation model which brings filmmakers from the aforementioned regions together with German film producers. Aside from its cultural and political dimensions, the *World Cinema Fund* also provides economic perspective.

“Film funding has to be seen as a comprehensive measure, as a factor that can contribute to globalization in a positive sense”, Berlinale Director Dieter Kosslick commented on the establishment of the *World Cinema Fund*. “By including German producers, we would like to intensify cooperation between the German and the international film industry. We thank the Federal Cultural Foundation for their enthusiasm and commitment to this project.”

“The *World Cinema Fund* fills a gap in the film-funding system. Its establishment

55. Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
10. – 20.02.2005

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
Bundes in Berlin (KBB) GmbH

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



Press Release

improves conditions that allow non-European films to be screened in German cinemas too”, explains Hortensia Völckers, the Artistic Director of the Federal Cultural Foundation. “The great response which the *Fund* has already attracted is a clear sign that together we have succeeded in setting up an important and necessary instrument for promoting culture.”

The German UNESCO Commission is very pleased that the *World Cinema Fund* has been established and will make a concrete contribution to cultural diversity. The Commission will take the *Fund* under its auspices during its initial stage 2005-2007.

More detailed guidelines and application forms can be found at our website: www.berlinale.de . The first **submission deadline** is **October 27, 2004**.

Berlinale Director Dieter Kosslick has entrusted Sonja Mörkens und Vincenzo Bugno with running the *World Cinema Fund* project.

For further information, please contact the *World Cinema Fund* team:

Sonja Mörkens, Fund Manager: moerkens@berlinale.de
Vincenzo Bugno, Fund Advisor: bugno@berlinale.de

World Cinema Fund
Berlin International Film Festival
Tel: +49-30-259 20-516/517
Fax: +49-30-259 20-519

The *World Cinema Fund* is initiated by the

kulturstiftung des bundes, German Federal Culture Foundation

Press Office
October 5, 2004