

## Press Release



**Success for the *World Cinema Fund – Paradise Now* submitted for Oscar for best foreign film**

“The *World Cinema Fund* has undoubtedly made the Berlinale a place where things start and don’t just take place,” remarked Argentinean director Ariel Rotter on the new funding mechanism.

Hany Abu-Assad’s film *Paradise Now* vividly supports this assessment. The German-Dutch-French co-production from Palestine has just been submitted for an Oscar for the best non-English-language film. Since its world premiere in the Competition of the Berlinale 2005, the film has been enjoying international success with audiences and critics alike. At the Berlinale *Paradise Now* won the Blue Angel Award for the best European film endowed by AGICOA, the Amnesty International Film Prize and one of the Audience Awards. Since then, the film has been screened at more than 50 other film festivals worldwide. *Paradise Now* is opening in German cinemas on September 29, distributed by Constantin Filmverleih.

The politically sensitive and artistically ambitious film about the final hours of two Palestinian suicide bombers is one of the first projects funded by the *World Cinema Fund (WCF)*, which was founded by the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the Berlin International Film Festival in the autumn of 2004. 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. The *World Cinema Fund* intends to promote films that give an authentic cultural picture of their region. Regions on which the *WCF* is focused include Latin America, the Middle East/Central Asia and Africa.

The *World Cinema Fund* is a joint initiative of the **German Federal Cultural Foundation** and the **Berlin International Film Festival**, in cooperation with the **Goethe Institute**.



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