

## Press Release



### **World Cinema Fund supports films from Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Argentina and Turkey**

Five film projects from Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Argentina and Turkey were recommended on June 20 for production funding in the fourth selection round of the *World Cinema Fund (WCF)*. The jury of the *WCF* – the independent distributor Isabelle Dubar (France), the curator Keith Shiri (Zimbabwe/England), the programme coordinator of Swiss Television, Alberto Chollet (Switzerland) and Berlinale director Dieter Kosslick - made its selection from 80 submitted projects from 27 countries, awarding a total of € 290,000 in funding.

The *WCF* jury has decided to support the following films:

*L'Aquarium*, director: Yousry Nasrallah (Egypt), MISR INTERNATIONAL FILMS, Cairo / feature, funding: € 100,000

Cairo today. Packaged in a modern day story, the director shows life in the city – a social panorama of the Egypt of today: the role of Muslim fundamentalists, the fears of the Christian minority, teenage love, AIDS, the restoration of virginity in abortion clinics...

*Süt (Milk)*, director: Semih Kaplanoglu (Turkey), KAPLAN FILM PRODUCTION, Istanbul / feature, funding: € 50,000

*Süt* is the second episode of a trilogy. The film portrays a mother-son relationship in the Turkish countryside.

*The Light*, director: Aktan Arym Kubat (aka: Aktan Abdykalykov) (Kyrgyzstan), OY ART PRODUCTION, Bishkek / feature, funding: € 70.000

Through the cinematic themes of “electricity” and “light”, there is a confrontation with the history of Kyrgyzstan, in which the generation of electricity played an important role.

*Liverpool*, director: Lisandro Alonso (Argentina), 4L S-R-L., Buenos Aires  
German producer: CMW Film Company, Berlin/feature, funding: € 35,000

After twenty years away, sailor Farrell returns to his harsh homeland Patagonia in order to see his mother again. He wants to ask her for forgiveness for something in the past which won't leave him in peace.

*Silent Light*, director: Carlos Reygadas (Mexico), NODREAM CINEMA, Mexico

German producer: Network Movie, Cologne /feature, funding: € 35,000

*Stilles Licht* takes place in a community of Mexican Mennonites who live in the north of the country and still speak an old version of Dutch. In a poetic story, the director depicts the irrepressible power of love.

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## *Press Release*

Since the fund's foundation in October 2004, 447 projects from 52 countries in the focus regions of the *WCF* (Africa, Latin America, Middle East and Central Asia) have been submitted.

Including the fourth round of funding, a total of 25 films have received production and distribution funding from the *WCF*. Six films have been completed and presented at international film festivals, with some winning awards:

*Paradise Now* (Hany Abu Assad) won the "Blue Angel" for the best European film and the Amnesty International Film Award. In 2005 it won the European Film Award for the best script as well as the Golden Globe for the best foreign film.

*Naoussé* (Khalil Joreige) won the Fipresci international critics award at the Locarno film festival 2005.

*El Custodio* (Rodrigo Moreno) received the Alfred Bauer Award at the Berlinale 2006.

*Hamaca Paraguaya* (Paz Encina) won the Fipresci international critics award at the Cannes Festival 2006.

*Saratan* (Ernest Abdyshaparov) won the award for the best film at the Marrakesh film festival. Abdyshaparov's film and *Atos dos Homens* (Kiko Goifman) were invited to numerous international festivals.

The next deadline for *WCF* funding applications is August 3, 2006.

The World Cinema Fund is an initiative of the **German Federal Culture Foundation** and the **Berlin International Film Festival**, in cooperation with the **Goethe Institut**.



Press Office  
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