

Press Release

Berlinale: World Cinema Fund supports films from Peru, Chile and Jordan

In the fifth selection round of the **World Cinema Fund (WCF)**, five film projects from Peru, Chile and Jordan were chosen for funding. The **WCF** jury – independent distributor Isabelle Dubar (France), curator Keith Shiri (Zimbabwe/England), programme coordinator of Swiss Television Alberto Chollet (Switzerland) and Berlinale director Dieter Kosslick – made its selection from 82 projects submitted from 27 countries and awarded a total of 225,000 € in funding.

“The response to the **World Cinema Fund** continues to be overwhelming. Thanks to a very effective strategy for supporting films, the **WCF** has established itself internationally within no time; and the quality of the projects has been extremely persuasive”, says Berlinale director Dieter Kosslick. “We are delighted to be able to give German producers a wider scope of activity while contributing to the development of film industries in **WCF** regions.”

In the fifth round on November 7, 2006, the **WCF** jury selected the following films for funding:

Dioses, director: Josué Méndez (Peru); producer: CHULLACHAKI PRODUCCIONES, Lima; German co-producer: MILCOLORES MEDIA Munich/CACHOEIRA FILMS, Tübingen / feature, funding: 55,000 €

Dioses takes a look at the upper class in Peru. The main characters portray the different social realities and the separate worlds existing in the director’s homeland.

Huacho, director: Alejandro Fernandez (Chile); producer: FERNANDEZ FILM, Santiago de Chile; German co-producer: PANDORA, Cologne / feature, funding: 50,000 €

In **Huacho** the narrative focuses on a family. Socio-political conditions in Chile are examined in four episodes which show the transition from rural to industrial and global structures.

El cielo, la tierra y la lluvia (The Sky, the Earth and the Rain), director: José Luis Torres Leiva (Chile); producer: JIRAFÁ LTDA, Valdivia; German co-producer: PETER ROMMEL PRODUCTIONS, Berlin / feature, funding: 40,000 €

This directorial debut is set in a remote and rainy region in southern Chile. It depicts the lives of three young women of different ages: Ana, Veronica and Marta. **El cielo, la tierra y la lluvia** is a journey between bodies and landscapes, one which enables the rediscovery of love and emotions.

La teta asustada (The Scared Breast), director: Claudia Llosa (Peru); producer: VELA PRODUCCIONES, Lima; German co-producer: THE MATCH FACTORY, Munich / feature, funding: 50,000 €

The director explores archaic Peruvian legends and customs, in particular the “disease”

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affecting the lives of generations of raped women. The film is a metaphor for the failure of a growingly divided country.

Recycle, director: Mahmoud Al Massad (Jordan); German producer: MEC FILM, Münster / documentary, funding: 30,000 €

Jordanian director and actor Mahmoud Al Massad, who lives in Holland, takes a look at the life of former Mujahid Abu Turk. ***Recycle*** attempts to analyse what lies behind Islamic radicalism.

Since its founding in October 2004, the ***WCF*** has been a resounding success. To date, a total of 522 projects from 53 countries have been submitted from the regions on which the ***WCF*** focuses (Africa, Latin America, The Middle East and Central Asia). 32 projects have received production or distribution funding. Of the ten films completed, seven have already been screened in German cinemas.

Within merely two years, the ***World Cinema Fund*** has established itself as an instrument for cultural funding and intercultural dialogue, as well as for promoting international contacts within the film industry. Ultimately, the international success of the funded projects can be seen in the number of prize-winning films. All films completed to date have been presented at international film festivals and taken home awards.

The next deadline for ***WCF*** funding applications is March 15, 2007.

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



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