



## Press Release

### **World Cinema Fund – Iranian and Kurdish projects to receive distribution funding**

The **World Cinema Fund (WCF)** has selected two new films for distribution funding: ***Dol*** by Kurdish director Hiner Saleem, and ***Zemestan (It's Winter)*** by Rafi Pitts, who was born in Iran.

By providing distribution funding, the **WCF** makes it possible for films made outside Europe, i.e. from the regions which the **WCF** promotes (Latin America, the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa), to present themselves to German audiences. "The **World Cinema Fund** not only contributes to developing world cinema, but also decisively enhances the filmscape in Germany", says Berlinale director Dieter Kosslick. "These outstanding films give an authentic picture of the cultures in their countries of origin and should not be withheld from German or other European audiences", adds Hortensia Völckers, artistic director of the German Federal Cultural Foundation.

#### **Distribution funding will go to the following films:**

***Dol***, director: Hiner Saleem; distributor for Germany: MITOSFILM, Berlin. Feature, funding: EUR 8,000

***Dol*** explores the conflict between the autonomous region of Kurdistan in northern Iraq and the areas lying in Turkey and Iran. It is set in the small Turkish-Kurdish village of Balliova, which is under the rigid control of the Turkish military. During wedding festivities, it all culminates in a confrontation. Release date for Germany: April 2007

***Zemestan (It's Winter)***, director: Rafi Pitts; distributor for Germany: FSK KINO&PERIPHER FILMVERLEIH, Berlin. Feature, funding: EUR 3,600

***Zemestan*** is a study of living and working conditions in the outskirts of Tehran. The film focuses on a family which is forced to live apart in order to survive financially. ***Zemestan*** ran at the Berlinale **Competition** in 2006.

Release date for Germany: March 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**.



Press Office  
January 9, 2007

Seite 1 von 1

57. Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin  
08. – 18.02.2007

#### 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. Bernd Scherer,  
Dr. Joachim Sartorius

Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats:  
Bernd Neumann

Handelsregister: Amtsgericht  
Charlottenburg Nr. 96 HRB 29357  
USt ID DE 136 78 27 46