

Press Release



Berlinale 2008: International Jury

This year, eight international film experts and stars will decide who is to take home the Golden Bear and the Silver Bears.

Jury President **Costa-Gavras** (France) is one of the most renowned figures of dedicated, political filmmaking. His international breakthrough came in 1969 with the political thriller *Z*, which won him two Academy Awards. In 1990 Costa-Gavras was awarded the Berlinale Golden Bear for his film *Music Box* (with Armin Mueller-Stahl and Jessica Lange). He last participated in the Berlinale *Competition* in 2002 with *Amen*. Costa-Gavras is also President of the French Cinemathèque.

The other members of the Jury are Susanne Bier (Denmark), French actress Sandrine Bonnaire, production designer Uli Hanisch from Germany, actress Diane Kruger (Germany), cutter and sound designer Walter Murch (USA), the Russian film producer Alexander Rodnyansky and Taiwanese actress Shu Qui.

Danish director **Susanne Bier** is one of her country's most internationally successful filmmakers. She received numerous awards for her *Dogma* film *Open Hearts* (2002). In 2007 her drama *After The Wedding* received a Best Foreign Film Oscar nomination. Her latest film, *Things We Lost In The Fire*, with Halle Berry, will be released in Germany this summer.

Sandrine Bonnaire is one of France's most popular and successful actresses. Her international breakthrough came at the start of her career with her role in Agnès Varda's *Vagabond* (1985). A holder of two César Awards, she has played in films by Jacques Rivette and Claude Chabrol (*The Ceremony*, 1995). In 2004 she was on screen in the Berlinale *Competition* in *Intimate Strangers* by Patrice Leconte.

Production designer **Uli Hanisch** was honoured with the German and the European Film Awards for his work in the adaptation of Patrick Süskind's novel *Perfume - The Story Of A Murderer* (2006). He has done the production design for almost all of Tom Tykwer's films, including the upcoming *The International*, starring Clive Owen and Naomi Watts. His set designs also shaped films by Oliver Hirschbiegel (*The Experiment*) and Sönke Wortmann (*The Miracle Of Bern*).

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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



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Diane Kruger's international breakthrough came with her role in Wolfgang Petersen's monumental epic *Troy*. The young actress played in the 2007 Berlinale *Competition* film *Goodbye Bafana* by Bille August. Together with Nicolas Cage she is currently on screen in *National Treasure: Book Of Secrets*.

Walter Murch is a multiple-Academy Award winner who wrote film history with his spectacular sound design for Francis Ford Coppola's anti-war film *Apocalypse Now*. As a cutter and sound designer he has collaborated with Coppola for 30 years, on films ranging from *The Godfather* to his latest work *Tetro*. He has also created image and sound montages for George Lucas, Jerry Zucker and Anthony Minghella.

Alexander Rodnyansky was born in the Ukraine, and is one of the biggest cinema and TV producers in Russia. A studied filmmaker, he is now president of the Moscow media holding CTC and a formative figure in Russia's media landscape. His work as a director includes a series of documentaries about contemporary Russia, including 1992s two-part *Farewell USSR*, which won numerous awards.

Shu Qi is one of the most popular and sought-after actresses in Asian cinema. Born in Taiwan, she has played in over 50 films in a great variety of genres. On the international circuit she attracted attention for her role in the thriller *The Transporter* (2002). In 2000 Shu Qi appeared in the Berlinale *Competition* film *The Island Tales* directed by Stanley Kwan.

Press Office
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