

Press Release



Berlinale *World Cinema Fund*: New funding decisions and positive balance for 2008

In the ninth selection round of the *World Cinema Fund (WCF)* on October 25, the *WCF* drew a positive balance for 2008 and proposed three film projects for production funding.

The *WCF* jury - film scholar and curator Viola Shafik (Germany/Egypt), programme coordinator of the Swiss Television Alberto Chollet (Switzerland), director of the script programme of the EON Screenwriters' Workshop Alby James (England), as well as *WCF* project managers Sonja Heinen and Vincenzo Bugno - chose between 108 projects submitted from a total of 33 countries and granted funds totalling 160,000 euros. The funding recommendations of the ninth selection round:

Primitive: Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives, director: Apichatpong Weerasethakul (Thailand), producer: Kick The Machine Films, Bangkok. Feature film, funding: 60,000 €

Independencia, director: Raya Martin (Philippines), producer: Cinematografica Films, Manila. Feature film, funding: 50,000 €

Bi, Don't Be Afraid, director: Di Phan Dang (Vietnam), producer: Vietnam Media Corp, Hanoi. Feature film, funding: 50,000 €

Since the founding of the *WCF* in October 2004, supported by the German Federal Cultural Foundation, 928 projects have been submitted from 69 countries in the regions that are the focus of the *WCF* (Africa, Latin America, Middle East and Central Asia; and since summer 2007, South East Asia and the Caucasus). 52 projects have received production or distribution funding so far.

Within just a few 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. The *WCF* enjoys worldwide esteem and all of the funded films completed in the interim have been invited to important international film festivals. Once again, 2008 has been a very successful year for the *WCF*. Six *WCF*-films celebrated their world premiere at international film festivals:

International Film Festival Locarno 2008:
Dioses by Josué Méndez (Peru) / Competition
Filmefobia by Kiko Goifman (Brazil) / Filmmakers of the Present

59. Internationale
Filmfestspiele
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Pusan International Film Festival 2008:

Jermal by Ravi Bharwani (Indonesia) / A Window on Asian Cinema
Songs from the Southern Seas by Marat Sarulu (Kazakhstan) / A Window on Asian Cinema

Venice Film Festival 2008:

Süt/Milk by Semih Kaplanoglu (Turkey) / Competition

Toronto International Film Festival 2008 (in the "Visions" series) and

San Sebastián International Film Festival 2008 (in the Competition):

Pandora´s Box by Yesim Ustaoglu (Turkey)

Pandora´s Box by Yesim Ustaoglu won two awards at the San Sebastián International Film Festival: the Golden Shell for Best Film and the Silver Shell for Best Actress.

Hamaca Paraguaya by Paz Encina (Paraguay) was awarded the Luis Buñuel Prize for Best Ibero - American Film of the Year.

Three WCF-funded films have been selected for the "Global Lens 2009" - programme, a series of ten films. "The Global Film Initiative", an international non-profit organisation with the mission of promoting cross-cultural understanding through cinema, is compiling this programme every year.

WCF-films in "Global Lens 2009":

Possible Lives (Las Vidas Posibles) by Sandra Gugliotta (Argentina)

Songs from the Southern Seas by Marat Sarulu (Kazakhstan)

What a Wonderful World by Faouzi Bensaïdi (Morocco)

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
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