Press Release

Director Matthias Luthardt will be Jury President of the „Dialogue en perspective“ Award by TV5MONDE and the German-French Youth Office (FGYO)

German director Matthias Luthardt (*Pingpong*) will be president of the “Dialogue en perspective” jury at the 59th Berlin International Film Festival. In 2009 the independent jury prize will be awarded for the sixth time to a film in the Berlinale section *Perspektive Deutsches Kino*. It will also be the sixth year of partnership between the Berlin International Film Festival and the francophone TV channel TV5MONDE, which is awarding the prize in co-operation with the German-French Youth Office (FGYO). One special feature of the award is that the jury will consist of seven German and French film lovers aged between 18 and 29, who will select the winning director of next year‘s prize.

A jury president has been found in the highly talented young director Matthias Luthardt. “I am very much looking forward to experiencing this German-French encounter and to learning about the individual views of the jury members on the latest German productions. The jury presidency also offers me the great opportunity to discover the current issues and the different narrative forms of young German film makers.“

After studying French, German language and literature and rhetorics in Tübingen, Paris and Hamburg, Matthias Luthardt attended the film academy „Konrad Wolf“ in Potsdam-Babelsberg from 1998 to 2005. In 2001/2002 he completed the Masterclass of the German-French Film Academy in Baden-Württemberg and of the FEMIS in Paris.
With his first feature film *Pingpong* Matthias Luthardt was invited to the „Semaine de la Critique“ at the Cannes festival in 2006, where he won two prizes: the SACD (Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques) award for the best script and the “Prize of the (Very) Young Critic” awarded by the FGYO-TV5MONDE student jury. Later, his film received further awards, among others the „Förderpreis Deutscher Film“ for the best screen-play at the Munich film festival, the prize for the best film at the Brussels film festival and the Jury Grand Prix Bronze Gryphon at the Giffoni festival in Italy. In 2006 *Pingpong* was also nominated by the European Film Academy for the Fassbinder-Preis for ”Best European Discovery”. Finally, *Pingpong* was highly acclaimed in French theatres. After this success, Matthias Luthardt contributed to the episodic documentary *Jesus liebt dich* (*Jesus Loves You*), which was part of the Berlinale *Perspektive Deutsches Kino* programme in 2008. On the occasion of his jury presidency, he will present his feature film *Der Tag, an dem ich meinen toten Mann traf* in a *Perspektive* – special during the Berlinale 2009. Most recently he took part in

59. Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin
05. – 15.02.2009

Press Office

Potsdamer Straße 5
10785 Berlin

Phone +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 M. Scherer,
Dr. Joachim Sartorius

Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats:
Bernd Neumann

Amtsgericht Charlottenburg
HRG Nr. 96 · HRB 29357
USt ID DE 136 78 27 46

Press Release

the huge multimedia project *24h Berlin*, which portrays the disrupted but vital city of Berlin, 20 years after the fall of the Wall.

German and French film lovers between 18 and 29 years of age can still apply for the jury "Dialogue en perspective" until January 12, 2009. Terms and conditions for participation may be found at:
www.tv5.de, www.dfjw.org and www.berlinale.de

Contact:

TV5MONDE representative for Germany
Jessica Davies
Tel.: +43 (0)1 920 3661
E-Mail : tv5@chello.at

German-French Youth Office (FGYO)
Florence Batonnier
Tel.: +49 (0)30/288 757 32
E-Mail: batonnier@dfjw.org

Press Office
December 5, 2008