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Berlin International Film Festival
Berlinale Talent Campus

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**Opening of the *Berlinale Talent Campus* & Award Ceremony for the Berlin Today Award
Wagah by Supriyo Sen from India wins the Berlin Today Award 2009
Special Mention goes to *My Super Sea Wall* by Gina Abatemarco from the USA**

On Saturday evening (7.2.) Festival Director Dieter Kosslick and *Campus* Programme Manager Matthijs Wouter Knol opened the 2009 edition of the *Berlinale Talent Campus* before approx. 600 invited guests at the Theater Hebbel am Ufer, HAU 1. 350 Talents from 106 countries will converge at the Hebbel am Ufer until 12.2. to exchange with international experts and network amongst themselves. Directors and screenwriters Sir David Hare (*The Reader*) and Daniela Thomas (*O Primeiro Dia*) as well as composer Max Richter, mentor of the Volkswagen Score Competition, welcomed this year's participants, partners and guests. The evening culminated in the world premiere of five short films nominated for the Berlin Today Award 2009. The short films dealt with the theme "My Wall" and were realised with support from Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg and the Federal Foreign Office.

"And the Berlin Today Award 2009 goes to..."

During the "Dine & Shine Talents Rendezvous with Berlinale Guests" event on Sunday evening (8.2.), the patron of the competition, Festival Director Dieter Kosslick together with the jury members Wim Wenders, Andreas Dresen und Emily Atef as well as CEO of Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg Kirsten Niehuus, handed the Berlin Today Award 2009 to this year's winner. Andreas Gørgen from the office of the Federal Foreign Minister welcomed the about 450 guests with a short speech. The sixth Berlin Today Award went to Supriyo Sen from India for his short film *Wagah*, the story of an extraordinary event that takes place at the only border crossing between India and Pakistan: Every evening thousands of cheering spectators gather to witness a patriotic parade for the ritual closing of the border (produced by DETAILFILM). Wim Wenders, reading from the jury's statement, concluded that the film is "a convincing manifesto against any wall that divides people." The documentary *My Super Sea Wall*, which shows the struggle for survival of 375 inhabitants on the Alaskan island Kivalina, received honorable mention (produced by Anna Wendt Filmproduktion). Director Gina Abatemarco manages "to tell a universal story in a nutshell, and very movingly so," said jury member Emily Atef. There will be a screening of the Berlin Today Award short films for the general public on "Berlinale Kinotag", Sunday, February 15, in CinemaxX 6 at 4pm.

While the five short films head on their world tour - with screenings planned by the Goethe-Institut and Deutsche Welle as a broadcasting partner - the next round of the Berlin Today Award 2010 has already been launched. The competition seeks the five best short film ideas from *Campus*-participants on the theme "Straight to Cinema". The five finalists will be announced at the end of the Berlinale 2009. They will realise their films in cooperation with production companies from the Berlin-Brandenburg region. More information and photos available at www.berlintoday.de.