



Press Release

Berlinale: *World Cinema Fund* to Support Seven New Projects

At the 10th session of the *World Cinema Fund (WCF)* jury on June 26 and 27, five new film projects were selected for production funding; and two films, for distribution funding.

Since its establishment in October 2004, the *WCF* has awarded production and distribution funding to a total of 63 projects chosen from 1035 submissions from Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Central and South East Asia, and the Caucasus. All of the *WCF* films completed so far have screened in cinemas and/or in the programmes of renowned international film festivals - proof of the international success of the initiative. Most recent examples include the winner of the Berlinale *La teta asustada (The Milk of Sorrow)* and the four *WCF*-funded entries screened in Cannes this year: *The Wind Journeys* by Ciro Guerra, *Independencia* by Raya Martin, *Ajami* by Scandar Copti and Yaron Shani, as well as *Huacho* by Alejandro Almendras Fernandez.

The *WCF* is also pleased that the board of the German Federal Cultural Foundation under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Culture Bernd Neumann agreed at its last meeting to extend its financing of the *WCF* until the end of 2011. (See press release from 15 June 2009).

Latest Funding Decisions

The *WCF* jury - film scholar and curator Viola Shafik (Germany/Egypt), programme coordinator of Swiss Television Alberto Chollet (Switzerland), dramaturge Alby James (England), as well as *WCF* project managers Sonja Heinen and Vincenzo Bugno - made their selection from 107 submissions from a total of 40 countries. They awarded funds totalling 222,500 euros to:

The Bad Intentions, director: Rosario Garcia-Montero (Peru); producer: Garmont Films, Lima. German co-producer: Barry Films, Berlin. Feature film, funding: 50,000 euros

Post Mortem, director: Pablo Larraín (Chile); producer: Fabula, Santiago de Chile. Feature film, funding: 50,000 euros

"3" (TRES), director: Pablo Stoll (Uruguay); producer: ControlZ Films, Montevideo. German co-producer: Pandora Film Produktions GmbH, Cologne. Feature film, funding: 40,000 euros

Jean Gentil, director: Laura Amelia Guzmán (Dominican Republic); producer: Aurora Dominicana, Santo Domingo. German co-producer: Bärbel Mauch Film, Berlin. Feature film, funding: 40,000 euros

60. Internationale
Filmfestspiele
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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

Geschäftsführung:
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
HGR Nr. 96 · HRB 29357
USt ID DE 136 78 27 46



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Shirley Adams, director: Oliver Hermanus (South Africa); producer: DV8 Films, Johannesburg. Feature film, funding: 25,000 euros
The funds for this project will be provided by the Federal Foreign Office.

Distribution funding:

Gigante, director: Adrián Biniez (Argentina); producer: ControlZ Films (Montevideo). German distributor: Neue Visionen Filmverleih GmbH, Berlin. Feature film, funding: 10,000 euros
Release in German cinemas: October 2009

The One Man Village, director: Simon El Habre (Lebanon); producer: Beirut DC, Beirut and Mec Film, Münster. German distributor: Mec Film, Münster. Documentary, funding: 7,500 euros
Release in German cinemas: September 2009.
The funds for this project will be provided by the Federal Foreign Office.

The *World Cinema Fund* not only stands for innovative cinema, visual power, and the diversity of cinematic art in the regions funded by the *WCF*, but also for an ideal relationship between filmmakers from these regions and the film industry in Germany. Within a short period, the *WCF* has established itself as a cultural-political instrument for awarding funds, as a seal of quality for the supported projects, and as an initiative for making international contacts within the business.

Submission deadline for the next round of funding: 3 August 2009
For further information, go to: www.berlinale.de

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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