



Press release

WCF Spotlight in Berlin: Berlinale World Cinema Fund Celebrates its 5th Anniversary

This autumn, the Berlinale *World Cinema Fund* turns five and is celebrating with a presentation of selected *WCF* films from 4 to 7 November in the "Hackesche Höfe Kino" in Berlin.

The *WCF* was established in October 2004 as an initiative of the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the Berlinale in cooperation with the Goethe Institut. Since then, 63 films from Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Central and South Asia and the Caucasus have received production or distribution funding. These films have screened internationally in cinemas and/or programmes of renowned international film festivals.

In little time, the *WCF* has established itself as a facilitator in the cultural-political sector, a seal of approval for projects receiving support and an initiative to promote contacts in the international film industry. To mark this 5th anniversary, the Berlinale, together with the German Federal Cultural Foundation, is organizing a *WCF* spotlight called *Infectious Films*. It will highlight ten *WCF* films to give cineastes and Berlin audiences a taste of the authentic stories and artistic strengths of *WCF*-supported productions.

"The more local, the more international: The *WCF* believes that films that show one's own cultural identity, in all its fluctuations, can move and infect international audiences as well," says Festival Director Dieter Kosslick.

"Every film supported by the *World Cinema Fund* shows determination and artistic courage and opens a window into a world that we otherwise wouldn't be able to experience in German cinemas. These five years also show that *WCF* is a cultural-political success story: German producers are systematically involved in the funding programme and thereby hold their ground in the international film industry," comments Hortensia Völckers, Artistic Director of the German Federal Cultural Foundation.

The *WCF* spotlight *Infectious Films* will open on Wednesday, 4 November at 8 p.m. with an introduction by famous director of photography Michael Ballhaus in "Hackesche Höfe Kino". It will be followed by the premiere of this year's Berlinale winner *The Milk of Sorrow (La teta asustada)* by Claudia Llosa, in cooperation with the distributor Neue Visionen, who will release this Peruvian film the next day in German cinemas nationwide.

**60. Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
11. – 21.02.2010**

Presse

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. Bernd M. Scherer,
Prof. Dr. Joachim Sartorius

Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats:
Bernd Neumann

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



Press release

Directors Salif Traoré, Raya Martin and Kiko Goifman, whose films will screen at the *WCF-Spotlight*, will also attend the opening on 4 November. Until 7 November three *WCF*-supported films will be shown every day. Renowned German filmmakers will serve as "patrons" and introduce the films and guests: Robert Thalheim, Hannes Stöhr and Emily Atef.

5 November 2009

6 p.m. *Faro* (Mali, 2007). Directed by: Salif Traoré.

Guests: director Salif Traoré, German Producer Bärbel Mauch

8 p.m. *Independencia* (Philippines, 2009). Directed by: Raya Martin.

Guests: director Raya Martin, German producers Gerhard Meixner and Roman Paul. Presented by: Robert Thalheim.

10 p.m. *Liverpool* (Argentina, 2008). Directed by: Lisandro Alonso.

6 November 2009

6 p.m. *Hamaca Paraguaya* (Paraguay, 2006). Directed by: Paz Encina.

8 p.m. *The Wind Journeys* (Colombia, 2009). Directed by: Ciro Guerra.

Guests: lead actor Marciano Martínez, German producers Gerhard Meixner and Roman Paul. Presented by: Hannes Stöhr.

10 p.m. *Ajami* (Israel/Palestine, 2009). Directed by: Yaron Shani, Scandar Copti.

7 November 2009

6 p.m. *Paradise Now* (Palestine, 2005). Directed by: Hany Abu-Assad.

8 p.m. *Pandora's Box* (Turkey, 2008). Directed by: Yesim Ustaoglu.

Guests: director Yesim Ustaoglu, producer Serkan Cakarer.

Presented by: Emily Atef.

10 p.m. *Filmphobia* (Brazil, 2008). Directed by: Kiko Goifman.

Guest: Kiko Goifman

The *World Cinema Fund* is an initiative of the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the Berlin International Film Festival in cooperation with Goethe Institut.



Press office
7 October 2009