



Press Release

Berlinale 2010: *World Cinema Fund* Day on February 17, 2010

"Strategy makes sense, and passion does, too..."

On February 17, 2010, the *WCF* Day will once again provide an opportunity to learn more about the programme, successes, funding strategies, films, initiatives, and partners of the *World Cinema Fund (WCF)*.

On this occasion the *World Cinema Fund* will present its new promotional DVD edition that has been made possible with the special additional support of the German Federal Cultural Foundation. On the same day, the *WCF* invites all its friends and fans as well as representatives of the industry and press to a panel discussion on Iranian Cinema.

***World Cinema Fund* Day Focus: Iranian Cinema**

February 17, 2010, 11 am - 2 pm at the Filmhaus, Potsdamer Str. 2, 4th floor

Iranian Cinema: Present and Future. Expectations inside and outside of Iran

For many years now, a large number of Iranian directors have been an integral part of the programme of the Berlinale and other festivals. Directors such as Abbas Kiarostami or Jafar Panahi are well known - and not only to top experts of world cinema. Yet how is the situation of Iranian cinema changing? Especially now, when the country has to cope with the inflexibility of the political system on the one hand, and impresses with the desire of many politically active citizens for change, on the other? How are filmmakers dealing with these issues? Will they be able to reflect the country's atmosphere and conflicts? Will we soon experience a new versatility in Iranian cinema?

At this event we will investigate these questions as well as many others.

Panellists:

Rafi Pitts, Director (*Shekarchi, Competition* 2010)

Jafar Panahi, Director (*Offside, Silver Bear* 2006)

Reza Haeri, Director

Asghar Farhadi, Director (*Darbareye Eily, Silver Bear* 2009)

Mohammad Farokhmanesh, Director/Producer

Maryam Mameghanian-Prenzlow, cultural theorist

Moderation: *World Cinema Fund*

**60. Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
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The *World Cinema Fund* was founded in October 2004 as a joint initiative of the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the Berlinale. It immediately established itself as one of the leading institutions funding outstanding international productions and rapidly gained recognition from those in the industry. Funding from the *WCF* has become something like a mark of quality.

Since its establishment, the *WCF* has awarded production and distribution funding to a total of 70 projects chosen from 1165 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, like *Shekarchi (The Hunter)* by Rafi Pitts which will be presented in this year's *Competition*, and most recently the winner of this year's Berlinale *The Milk of Sorrow (La teta asustada, Peru)*, which has, alongside *Ajami* (Israel), just received an Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Language Film.

More information about the *WCF* at: www.berlinale.de
Or contact: worldcinemafund@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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