



Press release No. 1
May 10, 2011

**Berlinale Talent Campus reinforces its collaboration
with East and Southeast Asia:
First Talent Campus Tokyo to take place in November 2011**

**Berlin Today Award 2012 "Every Step You Take" finalists
have been chosen**

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First Talent Campus Tokyo in the framework of film festival TOKYO FILMeX

The first Talent Campus in Japan will be held from November 21-26, 2011 in Berlin's twin city of Tokyo during the renowned film festival TOKYO FILMeX. Presented by the TOKYO FILMeX organizing committee, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture, the Talent Campus Tokyo will invite about 15 talented young directors and producers from East and Southeast Asia to attend workshops, masterclasses and panel discussions with high-profile experts and filmmakers. In 2010, a successful pilot programme, entitled "Next Masters Tokyo", featured 20 young filmmakers from nine different Asian countries and regions. Experts included, among others, Hou Hsiao-Hsien, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Kiyoshi Kurosawa, Amos Gitai, Simon Field, Emilie Georges and Iranian filmmakers Abbas Kiarostami and Amir Naderi. Young filmmakers from East and Southeast Asia will be able to apply from June 1, 2011. Programme details, experts, and participants will be announced in autumn. The Talent Campus Tokyo will be held in cooperation with the *Berlinale Talent Campus* and the Goethe-Institut Tokyo. "Considering the current situation in Japan and in light of the 150th anniversary of German-Japanese friendship, this is an important project to intensify film relations with Japan and Asia in the future," commented German Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media, Bernd Neumann, upon the announcement of the first Talent Campus Tokyo. "The *Berlinale Talent Campus* is a unique initiative for artistic exchange that links international talent to the German film industry."

Finalists selected for the Berlin Today Award 2012 "Every Step You Take"

Five finalists have been selected for the ninth round of the *Berlinale Talent Campus'* short film competition. 15 directors were invited from about 170 applications to present their short film ideas to selected producers at the *Campus*. After the Berlinale, five short film projects were chosen to be produced in collaboration with Berlin-based production companies and with support from Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg. These films will be completed by the end of 2011:

1. Ana Lily Amirpour (USA) and her compelling *A Little Suicide*, an animated short about a suicidal cockroach, that will be produced by Ambrosia Film. Ana Lily Amirpour was already present at this year's Berlinale with her short film *Pashmaloo*, which screened in *Generation 14plus*.
2. In *A Stands for ABC*, Madli Lääne (Estonia) accompanies a young Liberian named Vele as she fulfils her big dream: to learn how to read. The short film will be realised by DETAILFILM, which produced the 2009 Berlin Today Award-winning film *Wagah*.
3. *Batman at the Checkpoint* by Rafael Balulu (Israel) tells the story of six-year-olds Yuval from Israel and Mahmoud from Palestine, both stuck with their parents in traffic at a checkpoint outside Jerusalem. The film will be produced by Lichtblick Media.
4. *Five Ways to Kill a Man* by Christopher Bisset (South Africa) will be produced by Filmgestalten and is a surrealistic examination of global responsibility and how people deal with consumer goods in their everyday lives.
5. Finally, the documentary film *The White Lobster* by British director David Lale will be produced by SLP Filmproduktion and takes us to Nicaragua's Mosquito Coast, where cocaine-littered shores have been both a curse and a blessing for the surrounding area.

The five short films will premiere during the 10th *Berlinale Talent Campus* (February 11-16, 2012). The winning film is selected by a jury and receives the Berlin Today Award. More information at www.berlinale-talentcampus.de.

The *Berlinale Talent Campus* is an initiative of the Berlin International Film Festival, a business division of the Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin GmbH, funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media upon a decision of the German Bundestag, in co-operation with MEDIA - Training programme of the European Union and Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg.