



News

The Berlin International Film Festival mourns Karl Baumgartner

Karl Baumgartner, one of Germany's most important independent producers and distributors, died on March 18. With his company Pandora Film Distribution, founded in 1982, he brought world cinema to German audiences and introduced current art-house greats and legends such as Andrei Tarkovsky, Jim Jarmusch, Sally Potter, Kim Ki-duk and Aki Kaurismäki to the German-speaking market. Emir Kusturica's *Underground* (1995) - on which Baumgartner worked as executive producer - was awarded the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1995.

Karl Baumgartner and the Berlinale had a close connection. He was present at the Berlin International Film festival several times as a producer - in the *Competition* with films such as *Super 8 Stories* by Emir Kusturica (out of competition, 2001), *My Sweet Home* by Filippos Tsitos (2001), Sam Garbarski's *Irina Palm* (2007) and Jasmila Žbanić's *Na putu* (*On the Path*, 2010). He last took part in the Berlinale *Competition* in 2012 as co-producer of Edwin's *Kebun binatang* (*Postcards from the Zoo*) and of *Layla Furie* (2013) by Pia Marais.

Only last month Festival Director Dieter Kosslick presented the Berlinale Camera to Karl Baumgartner. Kosslick says: "It's a painful loss, also for the Berlinale. Many films Baumi produced with his company Pandora screened at the Berlinale. We've lost not only a great and brave producer and distributor, but also a close friend and ally in German and European film politics. Karl 'Baumi' Baumgartner was a committed member of my team which conceptualised the first European distribution funding institution EFDO - the European Film Distribution Office - and pushed it through politically in Brussels. EFDO lead to the foundation of the biggest audio-visual funding programme in the European Community, MEDIA, which has today become the Creative Europe programme. We'll all miss him very much."

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**Internationale
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