

Press Release

Off to a Strong Start: Three Awards and 1200 Meetings at the Berlinale Co-Production Market

Three cash prizes have now been awarded to selected projects at the *Berlinale Co-Production Market* (February 8-10).

On Sunday night the EUR 20,000 Eurimages Co-Production Development Award, which was presented for the first time in Berlin this year, went to the project 3 Days in Quiberon, directed by Emily Atef which is presented by the German company Rohfilm. The Miracle of the Sargasso Sea directed by Syllas Tsoumerkas from Greece received a Special Mention. With this award, the Eurimages - European Cinema Support Fund wants to promote the project's development.

Today two other, well-established prizes were awarded at the *Berlinale Co-Production Market*: the EUR 10,000 VFF Talent Highlight Pitch Award, which is provided by the VFF, a copyright association for film and TV producers based in Munich, went to the project *Biencuidao*. The project was presented in Berlin by its producer Gema Juarez Allen from Argentina and its director Abner Benaim from Panama. Since 2004, the VFF awards this prize to a promising work from the "Talent Project Market", which is organized by the *Co-Production Market* in cooperation with *Berlinale Talents*. Besides Juarez Allen and Benaim, Macedonian producer Emilija Chochkova was nominated this year for the VFF Talent Highlight Pitch Award with her project *The Secret Ingredient*, as was French producer Guillaume de la Boulaye with his project *One Thousand*. They pitched their projects to participants of the *Berlinale Co-Production Market* and received a cash prize of EUR 1,000 each for their nomination.

The ARTE International Prize was established in 2011 and went this year to *Los Perros*, the new project by Marsela Said which is produced by the company Jirafa from Chile and the company Cinéma Defacto from France. With this prestigious prize - which is endowed with EUR 6,000 - ARTE honours an exceptionally creative project selected for the *Berlinale Co-Production Market*.

At the 12th *Berlinale Co-Production Market* (February 8-10), the producers of the 36 selected film projects meet with potential co-production and financing partners. Within three days, more than 1200 individual meetings take place with a total of 500 participants. To date 190 films that have participated in the *Co-Production Market* have been completed - this year alone, five of them are screening at the Berlinale.

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The main partners of the *Berlinale Co-Production Market* are the MDM - Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung and Creative Europe MEDIA, a programme of the European Union.

Once again, the Berlin House of Representatives is the *Berlinale Co-Production Market's* cooperation partner and main venue.

The Berlinale Co-Production Market is part of the European Film Market.

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