

## Press Release



### **World Cinema Fund: Expanded Subsidy Programme, WCF goes EFM and WCF Africa Day**

In 2015, the *WCF* significantly expanded and strengthened its palette of support programmes. That would not have been possible without funds provided by the German Federal Cultural Foundation, which thus guarantee the existence of the *WCF* until at least 2018. Thanks to enhanced cooperation with the German Foreign Office, which substantially raised its level of support, the *WCF* also now enjoys additional discretion in its actions.

Additional financing from the European Commission's Creative Europe MEDIA programme made possible the founding of the new *WCF* initiative *WCF Europe*, which has become a regular element in the subsidy programme, allowing the *WCF* to complement its slate of initiatives with an additional international cooperative venture for European partners in the areas of distribution and production subsidies.

Since its establishment in October 2004, the *WCF* has awarded production and distribution funding to a total of 141 projects chosen from 2,625 submissions from Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Central and Southeast Asia, the Caucasus, as well as from the countries Mongolia, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. All *WCF*-funded films produced to date have screened in cinemas and / or the programmes of renowned international film festivals, and are evidence of the initiative's worldwide success.

### **WCF-funded films at the 2016 Berlinale**

*Panorama: Antes o tempo não acabava (Time was Endless)* by Sérgio Andrade and Fabio Baldo (Brazil / Germany)

*Forum: Akher Ayam El Medina (In the Last Days of the City)* by Tamer el Said (Egypt / Germany)

*WCF* films go through the same selection process as all other films submitted to the Berlin International Film Festival. They have no special advantages because they are *WCF* subsidised. The filmmakers are also free to submit their films elsewhere; they are not required to debut at the Berlinale.

### **WCF goes EFM**

Two initiatives have emerged from *WCF*'s work with the *EFM*. First, the *WCF* and the *EFM*, with the support of *Berlinale Talents*, invite

**66. Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
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international distributors to the *WCF Distributors' Meeting at the EFM* on February 16, 2016. The aim of the meeting is to strengthen and optimise cooperation between the *WCF* and international distributors. The *WCF* offers various subsidy possibilities for the distribution of films from *WCF* regions, both in and outside Europe.

In addition, three films subsidised by the *WCF* or *WCF Europe* will be screened as part of the *WCF First Look Market Screenings* on February 17, 2016. The films are *A cidade onde envelheço (Where I Grow Old)* by Marília Rocha (Brazil / Portugal, premiere in competition, International Rotterdam Film Festival, 2016), *Antes o tempo não acabava (Time Was Endless)* by Sérgio Andrade and Fábio Baldo (Brazil / Germany, premiere in the Berlinale *Panorama*, 2016) and *Oscuro Animal* by Felipe Guerrero (Argentina / Colombia / Germany / Greece / Holland, premiere in competition, International Rotterdam Film Festival, 2016).

### **WCF Day 2016**

#### **WCF Africa Day**

Wednesday, February 17, from 10:30 am

Filmmuseum Berlin - Deutsche Kinemathek, Potsdamer Str. 2, 4th floor

The *WCF Africa Day* will be dedicated to discussing the memory, present and future of African films. What can we do at this point in time to provide contemporary support for the African film scene? We need new priorities. At issue are creating new cooperative ventures, fostering commitment from the European - including the German - film industry, developing new strategies that are both visionary and pragmatic, and making sure they produce long-term effects. At the event, the *WCF* will present pathbreaking initiatives and explore innovative cooperative models for the future.

#### **AFRICA'S CINEMA: WHAT'S NEXT?**

*Practicing pragmatism: steps for a concrete approach*

(in English)

#### **10:30 Uhr: Welcome**

Berlinale: Dieter Kosslick (Festival Director), Vincenzo Bugno (Project Manager *WCF*)

Federal Foreign Office: Dr Andreas Görgen (Director General of the Department for Culture and Communication)

German Federal Cultural Foundation: Dr Lutz Nitsche (Assistant to the Executive Board)



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### 11:00 am: Project Pitching of Case Studies

#### African realities / Supporting memory, present, future of cinema

This is the Nest, Njoki Ngumi (Nairobi, Kenya);  
Cine Guimbi, Bernie Goldblat (Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso);  
Realness, Elias Ribeiro (Johannesburg, South Africa);  
Visionary Archive / Africa, Didi Anni Cheeka and Stefanie Schulte Strathaus

### 12:00 noon: Keynote Speech

The analysis, Pedro Pimenta

### 12:30 pm: panel discussion: THE CHARM OF INNOVATION

#### Creating new strategies and spaces for the African Cinema / Re-inventing cooperation

With Alex Moussa Sawadogo (Afrikamera, Ouaga Lab, Germany, Burkina Faso), Tschoper Kabambi (Bimba Production, Congo RDC), Katarina Hedrén (FestivalCinemAfrica, South Africa), Jean Pierre Bekolo (Director, Cameroon), Dorothee Wenner (Berlinale Africa Delegate, Germany)

Panel moderator: Vincenzo Bugno (Berlinale *World Cinema Fund*)

### 13:45 Q&A / Conclusions and life report followed by get-together

The *World Cinema Fund* is an initiative of the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the Berlin International Film Festival, in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office, with further support by the Goethe-Institut.

The special *WCF Europe* programme was launched with the support of the European Commission's Creative Europe MEDIA programme.



Press Office

February 5, 2016