



Press Release

Berlinale World Cinema Fund: Funding Recommendations for Projects from Lebanon, Paraguay, Turkey, Costa Rica, Venezuela, the Philippines, Tunisia, Burkina Faso and Kenya

At the 29th jury session of the *World Cinema Fund (WCF)*, the juries recommended contributing to the funding of 13 film projects.

Four film projects - from Lebanon, Paraguay, Turkey and Costa Rica - have been proposed for production funding. Within the framework of the additional funding programme, *WCF Europe*, three recommendations were also announced for the production of projects from Venezuela, the Philippines and Tunisia. For the special programme *WCF Africa*, two more projects have been recommended for funding: one from Burkina Faso and one from Kenya.

Four recommendations were made for distribution funding. The Paraguayan film *The Heiresses (Las herederas)* by Marcelo Martinessi, which won the Silver Bear for Best Actress and the Silver Bear Alfred Bauer Prize at the last Berlinale, will receive *WCF Europe* distribution funding for the release in France, Sweden, Mexico, Portugal and Argentina. *Rafiki* by Wanuri Kahiu (Kenya), *The Reports On Sarah & Saleem* by Muayad Alayan (Palestine) and *Our Time (Nuestro tiempo)* by Carlos Reygadas (Mexico) will receive *WCF* distribution funding for a German release.

Among the funding recommendations are four projects by *Berlinale Talents* alumni, as well as a film that participated in the *Berlinale Co-Production Market*.

Since its establishment in October 2004, the *WCF* has awarded production and distribution funding to a total of 209 projects chosen from 3,587 submissions from Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Central and Southeast Asia, the Caucasus, as well as from the countries Mongolia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan 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.

Production and Distribution Funding

The *WCF* jury made their selection based on 135 submissions from a total of 50 countries. Their funding recommendations amount to 382,000 euros. The jury members are producer and distributor Hania Mroué (Lebanon), documentary producer Marta Andreu (Spain), the producer Alexander Hassan Wadouh (Germany), and *WCF* project manager Vincenzo Bugno. For *WCF Africa*, they are joined by the additional jurors Alex Moussa Sawadogo (Burkina Faso), a producer, the festival director of Afrikamera and artistic director of Ouaga Film Lab; and Dorothee Wenner (Germany), the Berlinale delegate to Sub-Saharan Africa.

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Production Funding WCF

Accordion Player, director: Özcan Alper (Turkey). Production: Nar Film (Turkey) and Unafilm (Germany). Feature film. Funding: 30,000 €

Clara sola, director: Nathalie Álvarez Mesén (Costa Rica). Production: Pacifica Grey (Costa Rica) and Laidak Films (Germany). Feature film. Funding: 50,000 €

The director Nathalie Álvarez Mesén participated in *Berlinale Talents* in 2017.

Érami. The Forest That Is the World, director: Paz Encina (Paraguay). Production: Silencio Cine (Paraguay). Feature film. Funding: 40,000 €

The River, director: Ghassan Salhab (Lebanon). Production: Khamsin Films (Lebanon) and Unafilm (Germany). Feature film. Funding: 30,000 €

WCF Europe

WCF Europe has been made possible with the support of the European Commission's Creative Europe - MEDIA Programme. Production funding has been recommended for:

El retorno del Señor Roque Thielen a la Isla Akare-Meru, director: Jorge Thielen Armand (Venezuela). Production: La Faena Films (Venezuela) and Viking Film (Netherlands). Feature film. Funding: 40,000 €

The director Jorge Thielen Armand participated in *Berlinale Talents* in 2018.

Tlames, director: Ala Eddine Slim (Tunisia). Production: Exit Productions (Tunisia) and Still Moving (France). Feature film. Funding: 45,000 €

When the Waves Are Gone, director: Lav Diaz (Philippines). Production: Epicmedia Productions (Philippines) and Snowglobe (Denmark). Feature film. Funding: 30,000 €

WCF Africa

WCF Africa, which grants funding for projects from Sub-Saharan Africa, was launched in 2016 thanks to additional funding from the German Federal Foreign Office. Recommendations for production funding:

Bufis, director: Mahad Ahmed (Kenya). Production: Cultural Video Production (Kenya) and Good Karma Fiction (Germany). Feature film. Funding: 30,000 €

No Gold for Kalsaka, director: Michel K. Zongo (Burkina Faso). Production: Diam Production (Burkina Faso) and Film Five GmbH (Germany). Documentary. Funding: 30,000 €

Distribution Funding WCF

Our Time (Nuestro tiempo), director: Carlos Reygadas (Mexico). Distribution: Grandfilm (Germany). Feature film. Funding: 10,000 €
German release: June 29, 2019



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Rafiki, director: Wanuri Kahiu (Kenya).
Distribution: Salzgeber & Co. Medien GmbH (Germany). Feature film.
Funding: 10,000 €. German release: January 31, 2019
Rafiki was a project at the 2014 *Berlinale Co-Production Market*.

The Reports On Sarah & Saleem, director: Muayad Alayan (Palestine).
Distribution: missingFILMS (Germany). Feature film. Funding: 10,000 €
German release: March 15, 2019
The director Muayad Alayan participated in *Berlinale Talents* in 2016.

Distribution Funding *WCF Europe*

Las herederas (The Heiresses), director: Marcelo Martinessi (Paraguay).
World sales: Luxbox (France).
Distribution: Rouge International (France), Edge Entertainment (Sweden),
Cinemas Nueva Era (Mexico), Nitrato Films (Portugal) and Varsovia Films
(Argentina). Feature film. Funding: 27,000 €.
The director Marcello Martinessi participated in *Berlinale Talents* in 2013.

On November 25, the *World Cinema Fund (WCF)* will be a guest at Berlin's
"Around the World in 14 Films" festival. See [here](#) for detailed information on
the programme.

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. Thanks to
additional funding from the German Federal Foreign Office, the special
programme *WCF Africa* was started in 2016.



Press Office
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