

## Press Release



### Berlinale *World Cinema Fund* (WCF): Success and Strong Showings at Festivals in Locarno, Venice, Toronto and at documenta

The Berlinale *World Cinema Fund* is pleased that eight WCF-backed films have had great success this summer:

The feature film *Cocote* by Dominican director Nelson Carlo de los Santos Arias won the award for best film in the new competition of the “Signs of Life” section at the Locarno Festival (Aug. 2 - 12, 2017). In the “Cineasti del presente” section, French-Algerian director Narimane Mari presented her documentary film *Le fort des fous*, which was also invited to participate in documenta.

And the summer will continue well for WCF-funded films: at the 74<sup>th</sup> Venice International Film Festival (Aug. 30 - Sept. 9, 2017) four films are set for world premieres:

*Maia Mee Samui Samrab Ter (Samui Song)* by Pen-ek Ratanaruang (Thailand) will open this year’s “Venice Days” section. And on September 9, Columbian director Jhonny Hendrix Hinestroza’s *Candelaria* will close the section’s programme.

During “International Film Critics’ Week”, which is devoted to debut works, Argentinian director Natalia Garagiola will be showing *Temporada de caza (Hunting Season)* on September 2; Turkish director Emre Yeksan will present *Körfez (The Gulf)* on September 4.

The Toronto International Film Festival (Sept. 7 - 17, 2017) has invited five WCF-backed films. The Canadian festival is set for the world premiere of a film supported by WCF Africa, Khalo Matabane’s *The Number* (South Africa). Also in the festival programme are *Félicité* (directed by Alain Gomis), which won the Berlinale’s Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize; and the aforementioned prize-winning film in Locarno, *Cocote* (directed by Nelson Carlo de los Santos Arias); as well as *Le fort des fous* (directed by Narimane Mari) and *Maia Mee Samui Samrab Ter (Samui Song)* by Pen-ek Ratanaruang.

“We are thrilled that WCF-funded films have received recognition from the most important summer festivals. We wish all these innovative and bold filmmakers great success in the future,” states Vincenzo Bugno, Project Manager of the WCF.

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