

➔ **Press Release No. 3**

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East Europe is coming

Our New Neighbours Are Old Friends at goEast

A few days before the eastern enlargement of the European Union, the fourth goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film, starts on Wednesday the 21st of April 2004 in Wiesbaden.

Udo Corts, the Hessian state minister for science and arts, will inaugurate the festival at the Caligari FilmBühne in the evening, accompanied by over more than ninety international guests.

This year's program includes the Competition section, symposiums, students' films, highlights, specials, as well as numerous corollary events, attracts over 300 professionals, among them journalists, directors, festival managers, distributors, producers, and politicians from numerous countries. Hence, not only is goEast a film festival, but also an established meeting place for the East and West where dialogue and discussions take place, such as for instance, the challenges and opportunities of the "European Reunion."

Over 5,000 visitors from across the adjacent area are expected at the festival.

The program will also include 104 films and short films from 16 Central and Eastern European countries, as well as 14 German and 3 international premieres.

Again, both the state capital Wiesbaden and the Landesinitiative Hessen-media are the chief patrons of the festival, which is organized by the German Film Institute – DIF.

In the **Competition**, nine feature films and six documentary films compete for the following awards: The main award, the "Golden Lily" for best film, is endowed with 10.000 Euros; the award of the city of Wiesbaden for best directing is endowed with 7.500 Euros.

Additionally, the documentary that most impressively shows the changes taking place in Central and Eastern Europe will be awarded with the Hertie-Foundation Documentary Award (10.000 Euros). This award has gained importance in Central and Eastern Europe, since 93 documentary films were submitted, which represents an increase of 25 films in comparison to last's year submissions. In fact, the number of feature films submitted to the festival has also risen continuously, helping to establish the festival, since 75 films were submitted to this section.

An international jury decides on the presentation of the awards, and is chaired by the Hungarian director Ibolya Fekete. Other members of the jury are Stefan Kitanov (Bulgarian producer for Bread over the Fence – winner of the special award of the goEast festival 2003), Marion Döring (European Film Academy), the Russian film critic Andrej Plachov, as well as the Romanian actress Diana Dumbrava. Already for the second time, a jury of the FIPRESCI attends the festival and presents the International Critics' Award. This year it consists of the Serbian film critic Ivan Karl, Steven Yates from England and the German journalist Markus Hockenbrink.

In the **Student Film** section the audience can watch and award prizes to the works of tomorrow's film directors consisting of students from Sofia, Zagreb, Weimar, Hamburg, Kassel, Offenbach, Mainz and Wiesbaden, which compete for three awards each endowed with 750 Euros by the HypoVereinsbank.

On Friday (23rd of April, 2004) the festival will organize a forum titled "Meet the Film Schools" at Café Maldaner (2 pm), where the invited universities will present their study programs. As well, on this day the festival will host the Student's Film Sections party at the "Kulturzentrum Schlachthof" (11 pm onwards) with a Bucovina DJ Session by shantel.

On Saturday (24th of April, 2004) the screening of "Mulit" by the Czech director Ivan Zacharias, which is a Bollywood musical about a very special hair cut, will be followed by the presentation of the awards. Afterwards, Malte Tinnus, from the artistic group "saas fee", will turn the theatre into an electro lounge.

The research **Symposium**, a traditional pillar of the festival, deals with "Identities in the Post-Communist Era" and studies current trends in the cinematography of the four new member states of the European Union: Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Under the direction of the Berlin film historian Hans-Joachim Schlegel, scholars, directors, and screenwriters from Ljubljana, Novi Sad, Prague, Bratislava, Budapest, and Bremen discuss the difficult process of surmounting totalitarianism. The symposium takes place at Bellevue-Saal (25th to 27th of April), and is sponsored by Daimler Chrysler and Allianz Kulturstiftung. Next year's symposium will concentrate on Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

The following events deserve particular attention:

The festival presents a **Tarkovskij-Special**:

The films THE MIRROR (Caligari 25th of April, 12 am) and NOSTALGHIA (Caligari 21st of April, 9.00 pm, repetition Bambi 22nd of April, 10 pm) by Andrej Tarkovskij will be shown on the big screen. In the Museum Wiesbaden, an accompanying exhibition titled "Lichtbilder" displays sixty polaroids taken by the world-famous director, and which are presented for the first time in Germany.

Furthermore, goEast will have Marina Tarkowskaja, the guest of honour, present at the opening of the exhibition (Saturday, 24th of April, at 5.00 pm) who will read excerpts from her book "Splitter des Spiegels – Die Familie des Andrej Tarkowski" ("Fragments of a Mirror – The Family of Andrej Tarkovskij"), which deals with her brother's personal world (25 April at 11.00 am at Caligari FilmBühne, hosted by Martina Mrochen).

In cooperation with the editorial department of ZDF/Das kleine Fernsehspiel, goEast presents films by young German directors in the film series "**A Look to the East**". Among other things, this section presents the awarded drama DISTANT LIGHTS by Hans-Christian Schmid, SCHOOL TRIP by Henner Winckler, and EN ROUTE by Jan Krüger. On Saturday (24th April) a **Co-Production-Panel** will discuss the topic "**The EU Enlargement and the Potential for Co-Production**", which takes place at the Bellevue-Saal (2.00 pm). During this discussion film makers, from East and West, can exchange their experiences and discuss future perspectives. Georgia Tornow, the secretary general of film20, will host the panel.

We also would like to refer you to the presentation of the **Project "Generation,"** which was created by relations – an initiative of the "Kulturstiftung des Bundes" (Federal Cultural Foundation). Six young, talented directors from Central and Eastern Europe each developed a short film on the subject of "generation." On the weekend, a director's workshop will take place in the festival centre. Project "Generation" is pleased to present one short-film by each director involved (Caligari, Saturday, 24th of April, 11.30 pm).

The section **Highlights** presents the film BABUSJA / GRANNY (Russia/France 2003) which deserves special attention, since it was the winner of the Main Award of the 13th Cottbus Film Festival in 2003, will be presented in the presence of director Liidja Bobrova and the director of the Film Festival Cottbus, Roland Rust, at Caligari FilmBühne on Saturday, 24th April, at 1.30 pm.

This year two artists committed themselves to decorating the festival centre Villa Clementine: Betty Rothe and Silke Bauer, who are well-known in Frankfurt for campaigns such as “Schmalclub” in the TAT or “Hase und Igel” (“Rabbit and Hedgehog”). It is certainly worth a visit, for instance in order to attend the film conversations every evening from 10 pm (Thursday, 22nd of April until Monday 26th of April).

In cooperation with the Literaturhaus Villa Clementine, goEast will present Matthias Hirth, Munich author and actor, who reads from his chapter “Last Journey” (Monday, 26th of April, 8.00 pm). The reading is a funny, sad, and adventurous journey to Armenia, and that is part of the book “Osten. In 26 Geschichten um die Welt” (“East. In 26 Narratives Around the World.”), published by Blumenbar Verlag.

On Tuesday (27th of April) a round table about the subject “**Young Cinema in Europe**” takes place in the festival centre at 11 pm. The renowned Russian film critic Andrej Plachov will host the event.

On Thursday (22nd of April), Friday (23rd of April), and Monday (26th of April), goEast presents “films for schools”. The series **School Film Days** –supported by the “Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung bpb” (Federal Agency for Civic Education) – presents three films: the children’s classic NO HOLIDAY FOR INOCHKIN by Elem Klimov (Soviet Union 1964), BATTLESHIP „POTEMKIN“ (Soviet Union 1925), and A SHORT FILM ABOUT KILLING (Poland 1987). The latter two are part of the cinematic canon of the Federal Agency for Civic Education. The Agency also supports the series. Registration is still possible by phoning: 0611 / 16 65 86 4, or via email: weidemann@filmfestival-goEast.de.

The festival’s **catalogue** contains detailed summaries of all films in the competition (in German and in English) as well as the directors’ bio- and filmographies. The other sections of the festival are presented in English, and the German version can be found in the festival’s **programme**. The catalogue comprises 84 pages. It is available at the cinema box offices and the festival centre at the price of 4 Euros. Please visit our homepage for more detailed information: www.filmfestival-goEast.de

In the festival centre Villa Clementine, eight monitors are installed for journalists and professionals to view all the films of the competition, as well as most of the films submitted to the festival, the films of the section Highlights, and of the Student Film Competition. Most of the films of the Symposium are available on VHS, and serve as a good base to review the current film production in Central and Eastern Europe.

Additionally, there is the possibility of interviewing present directors, jury members and guests. Please contact our press office before doing so. The complete press material and photographs from the films are available for download at: www.filmfestival-goEast.de. They are also available on location.

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