

FESTIVAL DES MITTEL- UND OSTEUPÄISCHEN FILMS WIESBADEN 05.04. BIS 11.04.2006

goEast →

Press Release

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A showcase of central and eastern European film

goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film presents: Extensive film programme / Film series and exhibition series marking tenth anniversary of Krzysztof Kieślowski's death / Guest appearance by Jerzy Stuhr / Portrait section devoted to Šarūnas Bartas / "Mainstream Made in Russia" – a symposium / Reading by Viktor Jerofejew / Russian cult band Leningrad in concert

Encompassing everything from Russian blockbusters to the uncompromising art of a Lithuanian director: for a whole week **goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film** brings to Wiesbaden the full dynamic range and variety of filmmaking in this vast region. From **5 to 11 April 2006** the festival will present more than 150 short and full-length films made in 17 different countries in central and eastern Europe, accompanied by an extensive programme of tie-in events. **goEast** is staged by the German Film Institute (DIF) and made possible above all thanks to the support of Hessen's state-initiative "hessen-media" and the City of Wiesbaden, capital of the state of Hessen.

goEast shows films that created a stir in their countries of making, attracted attention in the international media, represent the cutting-edge – or have already achieved the status of classics. The 2006 **goEast** Competition features ten fiction films and six documentaries; thirteen of these films are screening in Germany for the first time. The main **goEast** prize – the "Golden Lily" – goes to the Best Film; this Škoda Award is worth 10,000 euros. The Hertie Documentary Award goes to the non-fiction film which most impressively outlines the ongoing transformation process in central and eastern Europe, and is bestowed by the Hertie Foundation which is the main private sponsor of **goEast**. The prize for Best Director (7,500 euros) is donated by the City of Wiesbaden. Two new awards place added stress on artistic innovation and promoting young filmmakers. In 2006 the German Foreign Ministry is introducing an award which, endowed with the sum of 2,000 euros, explicitly honours "artistic originality which creates cultural diversity" among the films competing in the Feature Film Competition. The BHF-BANK Foundation has now agreed to act as a long-term sponsor for the **goEast** film school competition, and for the first time will award three prizes respectively endowed with 1,000 euros to the winners in the Animation, Short Film, and Documentary/Experimental Film categories, as well as a sponsorship prize (worth 1,500 euros) for the best short from a non-German film school. Also new as of 2006 is the Robert Bosch Foundation-sponsored "goEast Young Professionals" programme, an annual further-education workshop for film students. The foundation's sponsorship prize for co-productions with eastern and southern Europe will be presented in the framework of a special workshop.

Exhibition and series of films devoted to Krzysztof Kieślowski / Guest appearance by Jerzy Stuhr

To mark of the tenth anniversary of the death of Krzysztof Kieślowski, **goEast** is screening five of the world-famous Polish director's films and mounting an exhibition in the Museum Wiesbaden. Running under the title "Krzysztof Kieślowski – Traces and Recollections", the show opens at 5pm on Sunday, 9 April, and runs through to 7 May 2006. Curated by Łódź Film Museum, the comprehensive documentation presents numerous photographic portraits and film posters as well as a collection of photographs shot by Kieślowski when he was a student in Łódź. Jerzy Stuhr, a star of the Polish screen and stage who played in six Kieślowski films, makes a guest appearance at **goEast** on Thursday, 6 April, when he will follow up the screening of CAMERA BUFF (Caligari FilmBühne, 5pm) with his reminiscences of working together with Kieślowski.

Portrait: Šarūnas Bartas

The Portrait section introduced in 2005 is this year dedicated to the Lithuanian director Šarūnas Bartas. The challenging, sparse films of this director, which are shot in black-and-white or muted colours, often go wholly

without specific narration or dialogue, in the process developing a poetic form which leaves a memorable impression on viewers.

Symposium: “Mainstream Made in Russia”

Russia is traditionally well represented at **goEast**, and the 2006 programme includes not only works by *auteur* directors but also genre films. The extensive showcase series begins with VOLGA, VOLGA (1938), the most successful musical comedy of the Stalin era, and ends with DEAD MAN'S BLUFF (2005), the latest film by Alexei Balabonov, the director of BROTHER. Running under the title “Mainstream Made in Russia” for three days from 6 to 8 April 2006, the **goEast** Symposium will investigate the fast-moving transformation of the Russian film industry, the impact of which became clear in Germany with the success of NIGHT WATCH.

Reading with Viktor Jerofejew

One of the leading contemporary Russian authors is paying a visit to **goEast** for a reading (7pm, Villa Clementine). In his book “The Good Stalin”, published by Berlin-Verlag in 2004, the son of a close friend of Stalin reflected upon his childhood at the centre of power, and his road to liberation.

Concert by cult band “Leningrad” at Kulturzentrum Schlachthof

The concert by Russian skacore outfit Leningrad promises to be the musical highpoint of the **goEast** sidebar programme. The thirteen-strong band will take the stage at Kulturzentrum Schlachthof on Friday, 7 April (10pm). Now regularly listed in the Russian charts, the underground band established its reputation in Germany primarily through guest slots at Vladimir Kaminer's “Russendisko”, the Berlin-based event which wowed the audience when it visited **goEast** in 2005. Leningrad seems set to make an equal impact. The after-concert party features La Bolschevita.

Schools look east: the goEast-Schulfilmtage

The **goEast** festival extends an invitation to schools in Wiesbaden and further afield to visit the programme of films for schools, which is sponsored by the Federal Office of Political Education. The programme kicks off at 8.30am on Thursday, 6 April, with CHOO-CHOO (suitable for viewers aged 6 upward), an imaginative three-part puppet-animation film from Russia which deals with a small boy's friendship with the fantastical being Choo-Choo. The programme continues at 10.30am with DAISIES (suitable for viewers aged 16 upward; FSK 16) by Věra Chytilová. This classic of the Czech New Wave depicts two girls who decide to “drop out”. Showing on Friday, 7 April, at 8.30am is I WAS NINETEEN (suitable for viewers aged 12 upwards; FSK 12) by Konrad Wolf. Now included in the canonical listing of the Federal Office of Political Education, the film tells of a home-coming soldier near the end of World War II who realizes that not all Germans can be held culpable for the atrocities perpetrated and that it will be possible to create a peace-abiding state only by involving the population in the process.

Registration and information for the Schulfilmtage: tel.: 0611-1665863.

All festival venues within walking distance

The charms of **goEast** include its relaxed and friendly atmosphere, and one very special venue: the Caligari FilmBühne. This central festival cinema in Wiesbaden is one of Germany's finest motion-picture theatres. The festival centre is housed in the Villa Clementine, an imposing building likewise in the heart of Hessen's state capital. The superlative fleet of chauffeured Superb-limousines furnished by Škoda guarantees the comfort of the 140 international festival guests. New in 2006: the state-of-the-art Alpha cinema in the Apollo Kino-Center, which represents an outstanding addition to the **goEast** venues.

Tickets and prices

General information on the **goEast** programme is available by telephone at +49 (0)69-96122027. Tickets can be booked in advance from Wiesbaden Tourist Information by phoning +49 (0)611-1729780. The price of admission to any **goEast** screening is 6 euros (concessions: 5 euros). A festival pass valid for all films and events is available for 40 (35) euros. New in 2006: day passes aimed primarily at visitors travelling to Wiesbaden for the day; the price is 16 (12) euros. Admission is free to the exhibition “Krzysztof Kieślowski – Traces and Recollections”. Tickets for the reading by Viktor Jerofejew cost 5 (4) euros. Tickets for the concert by Leningrad cost 20 euros, and are also valid for the follow-up party with La Bolschevita. The lectures held in the framework of the “Mainstream Made in Russia” are open to the general public; no admission will be charged, but registration by telephone is requested.

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