

## Press Release

Wiesbaden, April 11, 2006

– Release date: Tuesday, April 11, 2006, 7 p.m. –

### **Jury praises the unusual artistic quality of the feature films in the goEast competition**

**Main awards at goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film in Wiesbaden for competition entries from Georgia, Russia and Hungary / Hertie Foundation Documentary Award goes to world premiere from Croatia / Side bar programme with international stars like Victor Erofejev and Jerzy Stuhr especially popular**

With the grand award ceremony on Tuesday evening, the sixth instalment of **goEast – Festival of Central and Eastern European Film in Wiesbaden** – came to a close. For seven days, more than 150 long and short films could be seen on the screen – accompanied by film-talks, panel-discussions and an extensive number of special events. Ten feature films and six documentaries were in competition. The head of the jury, Ulrich Gregor, handed out the awards with a total endowment of € 29,500: the “Golden Lily” or Škoda-Award for the Best Film; the Award for the Best Director, endowed by the city of Wiesbaden; a new award highlighting artistic innovation and the support of young professionals sponsored by the Federal Foreign Office; as well as the non-profit Hertie Foundation Award for the Best Documentary. In its statement, the jury expressed its admiration of the unusually high artistic quality of the feature films that were shown.

In the sixth year of the festival's existence, the many interdisciplinary events in the sidebar programme, a special feature of **goEast**, have established themselves as a fixture for audiences and trade visitors alike. Highlights of **goEast** included the symposium “Mainstream Made in Russia“, featuring guests such as the prominent Russian writer and cultural critic Victor Erofejev. More than 300 spectators attended the scholarly event and the extensive accompanying film series devoted to discovering popular Russian cinema. As in past years, the Students' Competition and the **goEast Concert** were audience hits. In its second year, the “Portrait” film series is also well-established. Numerous viewers followed **goEast's** invitation to discover the unusual film oeuvre of the Lithuanian artist Šarūnas Bartas. **goEast's** plentiful offerings for emerging filmmakers also enjoyed great popularity. Young filmmakers from Germany and Central and Eastern Europe had the opportunity to meet with professionals and come away with diverse inspiration for their own projects.

In addition, a wide range of public discussion forums such as a Round Table on issues of distributing Central and Eastern European films in German-speaking countries gave 160 international guests and 80 journalists from Germany and abroad plenty of opportunity to exchange views and make contacts. “The lively discussions and the great interest in the events prove not only that **goEast** has established itself as a festival for its audience and professionals, but also that an event such as a festival can raise awareness about Eastern Europe“, festival director Christine Kopf said at the award ceremony. In 2006 **goEast** counted nearly 8,000 visitors at its screenings and its events, furthermore 800 attended the release concert for “Brot“, the new album by the Russian cult band “Leningrad“, which came especially for the occasion.

The **Škoda-Award for the Best Film** – endowed with € 10,000 – goes to TBILISI-TBILISI (Georgia 2005) by Levan Zakarejšvili, a film that for the jury “portrays in several episodes the changing living conditions in the capital of Georgia, combining sophisticated narrative structure and intelligent observation of everyday life with references to local and international cinema”.

The **Award for the Best Director** – endowed with €7,500 by the city of Wiesbaden – goes to GARPASTUM (Russia 2005) by Aleksej German Jr. The jury noted: “The film distinguished itself by the expressive style of visual language, the fluidity of the narration and the masterful direction of the actors, with or without the football.”

The **Documentary Award by the Hertie Foundation** – endowed with €10,000 – goes to Ivona Juka for the film FACING THE DAY (Croatia 2005), that was presented as a world premiere in the **goEast-competition**. The jury judged: “An encouraging, coherent film which offers a deep analysis of the life of three prisoners who undergo a process of liberating transformation as they are offered the possibility to be engaged in a theatre play.”

„The special charm of the festival lies in its combination of feature films and documentaries in the competition. We endow the Documentary Award for the fifth time: Especially in the long run the genre gives impressive insights in the transformation process of Central and Eastern Europe“, says Marlies Mosiek-Müller, Managing Director of the Hertie Foundation, which is the main private sponsor of **goEast** since the beginning of the festival.

A new award sponsored by the **Federal Foreign Office**, endowed with €2,000, highlighting “artistic originality which creates cultural diversity” goes to: DEATH RODE OUT OF PERSIA / A HALÁL KILOVAGOLT PERZSIÁBÓL (Hungary 2004) by Putyi Horváth.

The Jury awarded two **special mentions**, one to the film THE DEATH OF MR. LĂZĂRESCU / MOARTEA DOMNULUI LĂZĂRESCU (Romania 2005) by Cristi Puiu, „in the hope that it will get distribution in Germany“ and one to LABOUR EQUALS FREEDOM / DELO OSVOBAJA (Slovenia 2005) by Damjan Kozole for a film “that succeeded with very limited means to present a touching urban story typical to any society in transition”.

For the fourth time, **FIPRESCI** the International Federation of Film Critics awarded the **International Film Critics' Prize** in Wiesbaden. THE CITY OF THE SUN / SLUNEČNÍ STÁT directed by Martin Šulík (Czech Republic, Slovakia 2005) convinced the film critics' jury.

The **BHF-BANK Foundation Award**, awarded for the first time and endowed with €1,500, goes to PREMIUM by Alexandru Ionescu, Romania 2004 (UNATC, Bucharest). The jury (Christine Kopf, director of **goEast**, Professor Harald Pulch, Mainz; and Professor Rolf Schubert, Wiesbaden) praised its “confident direction of skilful actors, its sense for apt, subtle nuances and the classical precision of its images“.

On Saturday, the best short films of the international **Students' Film Competition** won audience awards endowed with € 1,000. The top awards were won by the documentary film HALID BUNIĆ – VJEČNI / HALID BUNIĆ – THE ETERNAL (Director: Damir Nemir Janeček from the Academy of Performing Arts Sarajevo – ASU), the short feature film ON WEDNESDAYS / SRIJEDOM (Director: Alma Bećirović from the Academy of Performing Arts Sarajevo – ASU) and the animated film MR. SCHWARTZ, MR. HAZEN & MR. HORLOCKER (director: Stefan Müller from the University of Applied Sciences Wiesbaden).

**Press-materials and photos of the winning films (directors and film stills) can be downloaded at [www.filmfestival-goeast.de](http://www.filmfestival-goeast.de).**

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## goEast 2005

### THE JURY

Ulrich Gregor (Germany, head of the jury)

Boris Mitić (Serbia and Montenegro)

Mirsad Purivatra (Bosnia and Herzegovina)  
Éva Vezér (Hungary)

#### **THE FIPRESCI-JURY**

Gulnara Abikeyeva (Kazakhstan)  
Mátyás Győző (Hungary)  
Peter Hornung (Germany)

#### **THE AWARDS**

##### **Škoda Award for the Best Film**

TBILISI-TBILISI  
Georgia 2005  
directed by Levan Zakarejşvili

##### **Hertie-Foundation Documentary Award**

FACING THE DAY  
Croatia 2005  
directed by Ivona Juka

##### **Award for the Best Director**

GARPASTUM  
Russia 2005  
directed by Aleksej German Jr.

##### **Special Mentions**

THE DEATH OF MR. LĂZĂRESCU / MOARTEA DOMNULUI LĂZĂRESCU  
Romania 2005  
directed by Cristi Puiu

LABOUR EQUALS FREEDOM / DELO OSVOBAJA

Slovenia 2005  
directed by Damjan Kozole

##### **International Film Critics' Prize (FIPRESCI PRIZE):**

THE CITY OF THE SUN / SLUNEČNÍ STÁT  
directed by Martin Šulík  
Czech Republic, Slovakia 2005

##### **Special award of the Consulate General of the Russian Federation**

USSR-Russia-Transit / SSSR-Rossija-Transit  
directed by Andrej Titov  
Russia 2005

##### **BHF-BANK-Foundation Award**

PREMIUM by Alexandru Ionescu, Romania 2004

Film School: National University of Drama and Film „I.L. Caragiale“ – UNATC, Bucharest

(jury: Christine Kopf, director of **goEast**, Prof. Harald Pulch, Institute for Media Design at the University of Applied Sciences, Mainz; and Prof. Rolf Schubert, Department for Design at the University of Applied Sciences, Wiesbaden)

##### **Audience awards for the best Students' Films**

In the section Documentary and Experimental Film, the award – endowed with € 1,000 – goes to:

HALID BUNIĆ – THE ETERNAL / HALID BUNIĆ – VJEČNI by Damir Nemir Janeček, Bosnia and Herzegovina 2005

Film School: Academy of Performing Arts Sarajevo – ASU

Second Prize:

YOU CAN GET USED TO ANYTHING... by Héctor Jesús Gutiérrez Rodríguez, Germany 2005

Film School: University of the Arts Kassel

Third Prize:

OUT OF THE VOID by Markus Ruff, Germany 2005

Film School: Berlin University of the Arts – UdK

In the section Short Feature Film, the award – endowed with € 1,000 – goes to:

ON WEDNESDAYS / SRIJEDOM by Alma Bećirović, Bosnia and Herzegovina 2004

Film School: Academy of Performing Arts Sarajevo – ASU

Second Prize:

PREMIUM by Alexandru Ionescu, Romania 2004

Film School: National University of Drama and Film „I.L. Caragiale“ – UNATC, Bucharest

Third Prize:

PAYCHECK / PRVA PLATA by Alen Drljević, Bosnia and Herzegovina 2005

Film School: Academy of Performing Arts Sarajevo – ASU

In the section Animated Film, the award – endowed with € 1,000 – goes to:

MR. SCHWARTZ, MR. HAZEN & MR. HORLOCKER by Stefan Müller, Germany 2005

Film School: University of Applied Sciences Wiesbaden

Second Prize:

MANIC MOONDAYS by Martin Schiffter, Germany 2005

Film School: University of the Arts Kassel

Third Prize:

EGO SUM ALPHA ET OMEGA by Jan-Peter Meier, Germany 2005

Film School: University of the Arts Kassel