



Wiesbaden, November 22, 2009

PRESS RELEASE

**IL GIARDINO by Michael Ester winner of
exground filmfest 22's German short film contest**

Closing of exground filmfest 22

On Sunday, November 22, 2009, exground filmfest finished successfully. In the past ten days, the films from all over the world found huge acclaim with the international audience who travelled to the Hessian state capital Wiesbaden for the 22nd time already – for the most important platform for the German independent film. This year, the festival lured around 2.000 viewers more into the cinemas than last year. exground filmfest had a total of 14.000 guests, 11.000 of which visited the film screenings.

German short film contest

In two screenings, the audience decided on this year's winners of the GERMAN SHORT FILM CONTEST. The final vote took place on Sunday in the sold-out Caligari FilmBühne. The first prize went to Michael Ester's film IL GIARDNIO. The award is endowed with 3.000 Euros and sponsored by the Cultural Office of the state capital Wiesbaden. BOB by directors Jacob Frey and Harry Fast reached the second place, endowed with 2.000 Euros, sponsored by the BEWEGTE ZEITEN film production GmbH. The third prize went to JUDAS AND JESUS. Directors Olaf Encke and Claudia Romero received 1.000 Euros, again sponsored by the Cultural Office of the state capital Wiesbaden.



In the course of the award ceremony, the winners of the other exground contests were announced as well.

youth days – International youth film contest

The jury of the international youth film contest gave the only feature film award of exground filmfest to the US entry MY SUICIDE by David Lee Miller. The youth jury explained their decision as follows: „The unique collage of documentary and staged images, of old film snippets and animations, accompanied with expressive music, has carried us over. This experimental and extraordinary execution turns this film into a work of art that provides food for thought not only for us adolescents.“ Thanks to the state capital Wiesbaden, the award is endowed with 450 Euros; certificate and cheque were accepted by leading actor Gabriel Sunday.

International ON-VIDEO contest

The international ON-VIDEO CONTEST was won by Dutch cartoon NOTEBOOK (NOTEBOEK). The professional jury, consisting of last year's winner Marion Pfaus, as well as Martin Gessner and Jürgen Kittel, was convinced by the complexity and personal touch of the Dutch short film. Director Evelien Lohbeck accepted the award of 1.500 Euros in person, which for the first time has been sponsored by the exground circle of friends. Honorary mentions from the jury went to MISS KONG (director: Minna Suoniemi), SECRET ENCOUNTER (director: Danilo Vogt), and WAGAH (director: Supriyo Sen).

Wiesbaden-Special – Short film contest

Already last Sunday, the audience decided on the winner of the WIESBADEN-SPECIAL SHORT FILM CONTEST, which is exclusively reserved for filmmakers from Wiesbaden. In the course of the award ceremony, director Kolja Erdmann was honoured for his film DREISSIG. Andrea Wink from the festival team presented the certificate and the prize money of 500 Euros, sponsored by the Wiesbadener Kurier newspaper.

Betting On Shorts

This year again, exground filmfest participated in the international contest BETTING ON SHORTS: MORE THAN A EUROVISION OF SHORTFILM. 12 short films were shown simultaneously in just as many cities. In every city, a jury elected the winner, while the audience could place bets on their favourite. In Wiesbaden, the British film SECTION 44 by Daniel Wilson was the winner, while



MEMOTECH by Marianna Mørkøre & Rannvá Káradóttir from the Faro islands was the winner of the international contest.

Concert and party

Following the award ceremony, the festival audience and the filmmakers celebrated friskily in the foyer of the Caligari FilmBühne. The Rock 'n' Roll Quartett laid the ground, DJ Ras-Andi then took over the musical design of the closing party.

exground filmfest 23

The date for the next exground filmfest is already fixed. Between November 12 and November 21, 2010, numerous international filmmakers will present their works in Wiesbaden vorstellen. Until then, the filmfest will present a monthly „exground film of the month“ in the Caligari FilmBühne, on December 16 this will be Quentin Tarantino's INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS.

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exground filmfest is an honorary event of the Wiesbaden Kinofestival e. V. and is being supported by the following institutions and businesses:

Promoters/sponsors

- Cultural office of the state capital Wiesbaden
- Hessian Ministry for science and art
- Hessian film subsidy
- Media Center Wiesbaden e. V.
- ESWE transport GmbH
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- Hessian state center for political education
- US Consulate General Frankfurt
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- ergosum
- German-Finnish Society
- Aerticket
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- Hassia Mineralquellen
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Media partners

- Wiesbadener Kurier newspaper
- PRINZ magazine

Co-operation partners

- Caligari FilmBühne
- Kulturpalast Wiesbaden
- Filmtheater Ewert
- F.W. Murnau Stiftung
- Perspektive 50plus
- Intervideo Filmproduktion
- Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF
- U.S. Consulate General Frankfurt
- Instituto Cervantes
- German-Finnish Society.
- Schlachthof Wiesbaden
- Wi & You

Festival trailer

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