



Wiesbaden, September 18, 2009

PRESS RELEASE

**exground filmfest 22 with new program „News from Germany“
and country focus Sweden**

**American Independents again strongly represented // prize money and material prizes of
appr. 25.000 Euros in total**

Film enthusiasts from near and far should mark the following date in their calendars now: Between November 13 and 22, 2009, exground filmfest in Wiesbaden – the most important independent festival in Germany – will present appr. 300 highlights from more than 2.000 submissions from the current choice of independently produced short and feature films. 2009's country focus lies on Sweden.

Among the highlights from the „American Independents“ program are YOU WONT MISS ME by Ry Russo-Young (tragicomedy starring Stella Schnabel, daughter of multi-talent Julian Schnabel), BLACK DYNAMITE by Scott Sanders, a comedy in the style of Seventies blaxploitation films such as SHAFT, as well as the moving portrait of a New York working class family, OCTOBER COUNTRY by Michael Palmieri and Donal Mosher, about the America beyond the glittering facade.

Special mention must be made of the Oscar winner for best foreign language film, DEPARTURES by Yôrirô Takita. The film, which can be seen as part of the „News from Asia“ program before its official cinema release, offers ruminant and droll-funny insights into a corpse-washer's day-to-day life.

exground filmfest 22 honours the fact that German films carry increasing weight in the international market by offering a new program called „News from Germany“. Among others, exground regular Jörg Buttgereit will be there in person to present his vampire trash comedy CAPTAIN BERLIN VERSUS HITLER. Additionally, Jochen Hick will visit Wiesbaden with GOOD AMERICAN – a sensitive film portrait of largely unknown gay icon Tom Weise. Even before its official German premiere, the documentary DIE ANWÄLTE – EINE DEUTSCHE GESCHICHTE will be shown.



Birgit Schulz retraces the lives of the three RAF lawyers from the Seventies: Otto Schily, Hans-Christian Ströbele, and Horst Mahler.

In the “International” section, TEHRAN WITHOUT PERMISSION by Sepideh Farsi will surely cause a furor: The Iranian director shot with a hidden mobile phone camera in Tehran and therefore is able to offer unusual insights into the everyday life in the Islamic theocracy.

In the youth film program, the exground youth days, six films will compete for the prize money of 2500 Euros, sponsored by the state capital Wiesbaden, in the „youth days – International Youth Film contest – among them the winner of the „Gläserner Bär“ at this year’s Berlinale, MY SUICIDE by David Lee Miller from the US.

A new sponsor for the prize money of 2000 Euros for the second place in the German Short Film contest could be won: The Wiesbaden film production BEWEGTE ZEITEN – the state capital Wiesbaden will continue to sponsor the prize money for first and third place.

In addition, the winners of two new contests will be elected in the course of exground filmfest 22: The Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs presents – in cooperation with exground filmfest – its short film contest „film ab! 50“, which was initiated in the framework of the federal program „Perspektive 50plus“ (more info can be found at www.perspektive50plus.de). On November 18, 2009, the films chosen by a professional jury will compete for the prize money of 10 000 Euros total in the Caligari FilmBühne. Also, the Intervideo Film production Mainz will introduce the winners of its contest for young students and professionals on November 15, 2009, in the Caligari FilmBühne. This jury award – presented for the first time – stands under the motto „Morgen sehen wir weiter – Realitäten, Visionen, Utopien (We will see what tomorrow brings – realities, visions, utopias)“ and is endowed with 1.500 Euros prize money as well as precious material prizes.

exground filmfest is an event by the Wiesbaden Kinofestival e. V. and is supported by the Cultural Office of the state capital Wiesbaden, the Hessian Film Promotion, the Media Center Wiesbaden, the ESWE public transport company mbH, the Hessian head office for political education, upstart! media, and the media partners Wiesbadener Kurier newspaper & PRINZ Frankfurt magazine. exground filmfest 22’s complete program will be available online as of October.

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