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BERLIN TODAY AWARD opens the *Berlinale Talent Campus 2006*

On 11 February 2006, the *Berlinale Talent Campus* will kick off with the BERLIN TODAY AWARD (BTA) ceremony. The BTA is sponsored by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg. After the premieres of the three short films nominated for the prize, the BTA will be awarded. Candidates from the next round of participants of the *Berlinale Talent Campus 2006* will then be welcomed on stage.

180 talents from 41 countries submitted their ideas on the topic of "Berlin today". Ten of them were selected for a one-week BTA Summer Campus, at the end of which three films were chosen as finalists:

Berlinball directed by Anna Azevedo (Brazil) is a documentary which she and the famous cinematographer Walter Carvalho (*Central Station*) filmed in the home town of Hertha's renowned starting forward Marcelinho. *If You Need Me* by Darija Andovska (Macedonia) and Mladen Djukic (Bosnia-Herzegovina) is the first animation film to be nominated for the BTA. *Under These Wings* by Harrie Verbeek (Netherlands) is the fiction film in this year's competition. It tells the story of Sarah, who is unexpectedly reminded of the day when the Berlin Wall fell.

Among the jurors of the BTA were Martin Hagemann (producer, zero film), Andres Veiel (director) and Doris Zander (producer, Studio Hamburg Berlin Produktion). The major source of support for the competition is provided by the Berlin-Brandenburg filmindustry: in addition to the sum of 50.000 Euros by the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg for each short film, they also contributed know-how and materials in the amount of approximately 20.000 Euros per film. The media partner Deutsche Welle/DW-TV provides support for the BTA by, for example, broadcasting the winning films and producing reports on their production.

The BTA 2005 turned out to be a real door-opener for the Finnish *Campus* participant Samuli Valkama: "I had never expected that so many positive reactions, awards and invitations to festivals would follow on the heels of the BTA 2005. Within a single year this short film (and sometimes myself as well) has almost gone round the world!"

Visit www.berlintoday.de for more information about the competition.

The *Berlinale Talent Campus* is an initiative of the Berlin International Film Festival, a division of the Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin GmbH, in co-operation with MEDIA Training, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Skillset and UK Film Council as well as Volkswagen.