



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Berlin Today Award – it's not just neck or nothing**

### **Prof. Klaus Keil, Dieter Kosslick and Volker Schlöndorff present the Berlin Today Award nominees**

On Friday, the nominees for the international film award for newcomers, Berlin Today Award, were announced in Berlin. At the press conference in Brandenburg's permanent representation in Berlin, Prof. Klaus Keil, director of Filmboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH, and Dieter Kosslick, director of the Berlin International Film Festival, were joined by the cinematic directors Esther Gronenborn and Volker Schlöndorff, Doris Zander, manager of STUDIO BERLIN Adlershof and representative of the Berlin Today Award sponsors, Frank Stehling, Filmboard, and the Berlin Today Award nominees.

Stéphanie Chuat & Véronique Reymond (Switzerland), Grace Lee (U.S.A.) and Myrna Maakaron (Lebanon) were nominated for their submitted concepts and can now put their digital short films into reality until the end of this year. Each has a combination of up to 70,000,- € of payments in kind and cash funds available for their film.

At the start of the press conference, Prof. Klaus Keil presented this unique film award which was initiated by Filmboard and awarded in cooperation with Berlin-Brandenburg's film industry. 'Surprisingly, the decision for the three projects was made without a hitch', the jury members Esther Gronenborn, Volker Schlöndorff and Doris Zander said. According to Volker Schlöndorff, who is one of the hosts of the Berlin Today Award together with Andreas Dresen and Esther Gronenborn, the jury had based its decision on those stories that possessed a personal and individual perspective of the Berlin Today topic.

The nominees had been invited to a 'teaching week' in Berlin to prepare their short films. The three nominees and the three hosts have intensively discussed the scripts over the course of the past week to fine-tune them; and the hosts stressed how much fun they had in helping to develop the projects.



In „A Place To Stay“, the two Swiss nominees tell the story of a homeless man who experiences a short moment of happiness at the Berlin Philharmonics. In her cinematic essay „Berlin & Beirut“, Myrna Maakaron compares these two formerly divided cities, and Grace Lee tries to dig up where Berlin’s obsession with the “currywurst” derives from in „Best Of The Wurst“. The responsibility for the production of the three digital short films lies with the young Berlin-based production company credofilm GmbH. Shooting will begin later this summer in Berlin, Beirut and Los Angeles.

Dieter Kosslick built the bridge to the next Berlinale Talent Campus in 2004 where the three short films will be presented. Preparations for the next Campus have already started – 10,000 young filmmakers who want to participate in the next Berlinale Talent Campus are expected to apply. According to Dieter Kosslick, the Berlin Today Award was a good opportunity to keep the idea of the Campus alive over the course of the year. He was impressed how committed the three hosts and the sponsors were in their support of the international newcomers. ‘Here in the capital region, it is always impressing to see the energy and the commitment that particularly the big names of Germany’s film industry put into the promotion of movies, Kosslick said

Until the end of the year 2003, three new hosts will be appointed to support and continue next year’s Berlin Today Award. It will be one of their first tasks to choose the best between these three films during the Berlinale Talent Campus 2004. The winner will receive the very first Berlin Today Award.

You can find up-to-date information at [www.berlintoday.de](http://www.berlintoday.de)

**Organization and liaison office for the press:**

boxfish films – Büro für Film + Kommunikation  
Senefelderstr. 22  
D-10437 Berlin  
Phone: +49 30 44044 751 / - 753  
Fax: +49 30 44044 691  
E-Mail: [info@boxfish-films.de](mailto:info@boxfish-films.de)