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Shooting begins for the next round of the BERLIN TODAY AWARD / Setvisits

Film and TV star Anneke Kim Sarnau plays policewoman in MATCH FACTOR

On Friday, September 28, 2007, shooting begins with BERLIN HAIR TODAY (working title), the first of three selected short film projects competing for the BERLIN TODAY AWARD (BTA) 2008.

In this amusing documentary film project, Danish director Ole Bendtzen follows the eccentric hair stylist Hisen – the Danish owner of a small yet refined hair salon in Kreuzberg – on a precarious mission : to set out in Hisen’s mobile salon and bring back good taste to hair styling in Berlin.

Ville Jankeri follows, from October 6 to 8, with THE LAST WISH, filmed in an authentic Berlin launderette. The BTA Jury was intrigued by the Finn’s dark comedy about an extraordinary suicide attempt. After 30 monotonous years working in a Berlin launderette, Olga, from Poland, receives notice that her favourite washing machine will be replaced by a new model. With the help of her devoted friend, she decides to end her depressing life.

The final shoot of this year’s BTA season is MATCH FACTOR, a film by Pakistani director Maheen Zia, whose haunting story about the power of prejudice and the strength of trust will be shot in historical locations around Berlin from October 17 to 21. Ahmed, a young Iraqi soccer comes to Berlin for a FIFA charity match. When one evening he doesn’t return to his hotel, fear of a possible terrorist plot instigates a city-wide manhunt. Meanwhile, Ahmed meets the young police officer Brigitte, played by the two-time Grimme award-winning actress Anneke Kim Sarnau (“The Constant Gardner“, “FC Venus – Made In Germany“, “Prager Botschaft“).

The three finalists of the international competition, organized by boxfish events in cooperation with the regional film industry and the Berlinale Talent Campus, were selected during the BTA Summer Campus in July. This year’s competition drew 110 applications from 46 countries. Every year the international short film competition invites the participants of the Campus to realize three Berlin-related short films.

Once again, the three short films will be produced by the Berlin production company zero fiction film, under the direction of Martin Hagemann. Each of the short films is funded with 50.000 EUR by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg as well as up to 20.000 EUR worth of technical support from the Berlin-Brandenburg film industry.

The three digital films about Berlin will premiere at the 2008 Berlinale during the opening of the Berlinale Talent Campus. The winner will receive the coveted BERLIN TODAY AWARD.

<p>If you would like to cover the film shoots and/or interview the nominees, please contact us : Tel.: 030 44044 751, Email: steiner@boxfish-films.de, herkenrath@boxfish-films.de</p>

Organisation and press relations

boxfish events – Christiane Steiner, Kirsten Herkenrath
Senefelderstr. 22
D-10437 Berlin
Tel / Fax: 030 44044 753 /-691
Email: info@berlintoday.de