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THE DREAM OF BERLIN

BERLIN TODAY AWARD 2006 – shooting of documentary on home village of Hertha BSC's football star Marcelinho finished

"Brazil and football, these two just go together. Who does not think of the football frenzy in that country when thinking of Brazil?" says Anna Azevedo. The young Brazilian has just finished her exceptional documentary on Hertha BSC football star and fellow Brazilian Marcelinho that has gained her a slot in the final elimination round for the BERLIN TODAY AWARD 2006.

Berlin Today – Create Your Vision is the motto of the international film competition that annually invites participants of the Berlinale Talent Campus to present their personal take on Germany's capital in three short films. And Anna Azevedo has found a very special vision of Berlin – in the northeast of Brazil.

This is where Campina Grande is located – the home village of Hertha BSC star Marcelinho. The Paraiba region is one of the poorest in Brazil, a region where football, just like elsewhere in Brazil, continues to be a ticket to a better life. But while most young and budding players want to go to one of Europe's top clubs, Campina Grande's young players dream of playing in Berlin. Because since 2001 Berlin has been the second home of Marcelinho who was contracted by Bundesliga club Hertha BSC. "Marcello is an idol, both here and in Berlin", Anna Azevedo explains. "He is somebody who has made the dream come true and has contributed to creating a very special idea of Berlin in the minds of the citizens of Campina Grande – compounded of tales, newspaper clippings, souvenirs, gifts and stories Marcelinho has brought back from the German capital on his many trips home. I wanted to follow this fascinating dream of Berlin."

"BerlinBall" will have its **world premiere** together with two other nominated short films at the **opening ceremony of the Berlinale Talent Campus on February 11, 2006 at the House of World Cultures in Berlin**. One of the three short films will receive the coveted BERLIN TODAY AWARD 2006 at the subsequent official award ceremony. Following the award ceremony, Berlinale Talent Campus and Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg and about 1,200 invited guests will celebrate the Opening Night Party.

The BERLIN TODAY AWARD is a joint award of the film industry in Berlin-Brandenburg – initiated and sponsored by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg and organized by boxfish events. Its cooperation partner is Berlinale Talent Campus. Its media partner is Deutsche Welle, DW-TV. This year's production of the three BERLIN TODAY AWARD films was carried out by zero film under the responsibility of Martin Hagemann.

For pictures and further information, please visit www.berlintoday.de.

To receive accreditation for the world premiere / opening event of Berlinale Talent Campus, please contact Ricarda Disla, disla@boxfish-films.de.

Cordially, the boxfish-Team!

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