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BERLIN TODAY AWARD-Nominee Cristian Mungiu wins the Golden Palm at Cannes

The BERLIN TODAY AWARD (BTA) congratulates Cristian Mungiu on winning the Golden Palm for his film "4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days" at Cannes last Sunday. The Romanian filmmaker participated in the 2004 edition of the Berlinale Talent Campus and subsequently submitted the short film project "Bucuresti-Berlin" for the BTA as a producer in collaboration with director Anca M. Lazarescu. The BTA-Jury selected their project from numerous entries as one of three contenders in the final round. "Bucuresti-Berlin" is the story of Ioana (Ana Ularu), a young Romanian searching for happiness in Berlin. The film had its world premiere during the 2005 edition of the Berlinale Talent Campus.

This recent award once again confirms the BERLIN TODAY AWARD, supported since 2003 by Medienboard and the film industries of Berlin-Brandenburg, as a successful instrument in helping support young international filmmakers in the development of their projects. In the past, BTA short films have continued on after their premiere at the Berlinale Talent Campus to participate in international festivals and receive numerous prizes, including for example the award for best German documentary film, garnered by Myrna Maakaron for her film "BerlinBeirut" at the 47th DOKfilm Festival in Leipzig.

This winner of this year's BTA, "Wasserchlacht – The Great Border Battle", has been invited to screen in the 'Made In Germany' section of the 23rd International Short Film Festival Hamburg. The film was also presented in a selection of short films from KurzFilm Agentur, who manages the world distribution of BTA films together with the Deutsche Welle (DW TV), that were screened in the Short Film Corner at this year's 60th Cannes Film Festival.

Of the 350 participants at the 2007 Berlinale Talent Campus, 110 young filmmakers from 46 countries applied for the upcoming fifth edition of the BERLIN TODAY AWARD with their short film ideas about "Berlin Today". Ten of these applicants--who hail from Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel and Pakistan, amongst others--have been selected to attend the BTA Summer Campus from 2. to 6. July, 2007, and will once again be invited to Berlin in order to pitch their projects before the BTA-Jury. At the end of programme, three projects will be nominated as finalists for the BTA 2008 and will be produced by the Berlin-based production company zero fiction film with support from MBB and equipment and expertise provided by the regional film industry. The competing three films will have their world premiere at the Berlinale Talent Campus 2008, and the winner will be bestowed with the BERLIN TODAY AWARD.

Photos and more information are available at www.berlintoday.de.