



PRESS RELEASE  
Berlin, 9 July 2007

## Three Berlin-Short Films for the Berlinale: Short film projects selected for the BERLIN TODAY AWARD 2008

The *Berlin Today Award* (BTA) – the short film competition organised in cooperation with the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, the regional film industry and the Berlinale Talent Campus – is gearing up for the 5<sup>th</sup> round. On Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2007, this year's Summer Campus came to a successful end. Twelve young filmmakers from Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Israel etc. were selected from the over 110 entries from 46 countries to present and develop their short film ideas on "Berlin today" during the 5-day Summer Campus.

After four intense working days, the Summer Campus came to a climax with the presentation of the projects before a panel of 8 film experts. Jury members included Director and Advisor of the BTA 2008, Sebastian Schipper (*A friend of mine*), among others Campus Director, Dorothee Wenner, Rainer Traube, Deutsche Welle DW-TV, Rangeen Horami, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, the Producer Doris Zander representing the sponsors of the Berlin Today Award and Martin Hagemann, Director of the executive production company, zero fiction film.

Following a spirited and stimulating round of discussions, the jury selected three short film ideas for BTA 2008. The lucky three are:

**"Match Factor"** by Maheen Zia from Pakistan is a story about the power of prejudices and the strength of trust. Ahmed, a young football player from Iraq comes to Berlin to participate in the Fifa Charity Match. When he disappears from his hotel, a search for him is mounted as a possible case of defection. Brigitte, a young policewoman is on patrol duty when she comes across him...

*„I found the BTA Summer Campus engaging, challenging and informative in an as relaxed and accessible manner imaginable. Quite a pleasant combination! I am really looking forward to returning to make a film here,"* says Maheen at the end of the campus.

**„The Last Wash"** by Ville Jankeri from Finland is a black comedy about an unusual suicide attempt. After thirty years of washing other Berliners' dirty clothes, Olga, a Polish laundry worker, decides to end her misery and loads her last wash.

**„A potential short love story"** by Talya Lavie from Israel. A young German tries to hit on an Israeli waitress in a café in Tel-Aviv, but their poor English leads to a break in communication. The only help they can get is from an elderly couple, Holocaust survivors, sitting beside them. While Mr. Jacobsen tries his best to help the young, budding love, Mrs Jacobsen does just as much to sabotage it. Will love prevail?

*"After years of excellence in the documentary sector in the BTA competition we are delighted to welcome three talents with outstanding fiction projects to Berlin,"* to quote producer, Martin Hagemann.

By the end of the year, the three short films will be digitally produced with Medienboard funding of 50,000 Euros for each film. The Berlin-Brandenburg Film Industry will contribute up to 20,000 Euros per project by way of provision of material.

The three short films will celebrate their world premiere at the Berlinale Talent Campus 2008 within the framework of the 58<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival Berlin, and the winner will be presented the much-coveted *BERLIN TODAY AWARD*. Boxfish events is the presenter and organiser of the BTA and Deutsche Welle, DW-TV, the media partner.

Photo/film material and further information at [www.berlintoday.de](http://www.berlintoday.de)

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