



Press Release, 29th June 2005

BERLIN TODAY AWARD 2006 — THE JURY ANNOUNCES ITS VERDICT!

The competition for the third BERLIN TODAY AWARD, a prize presented by the Berlin film industry and Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, is now entering the final stages.

Berlin Today — Create Your Vision! Once again, this was the call for filmmakers around the world to submit ideas for a short film presenting their view of Berlin. As ever, the BERLIN TODAY AWARD (BTA) is more than just an award, since for the three best applicants it also offers the chance to produce their film in full.

The only condition of entry is that competing filmmakers must have already taken part in the Berlinale Talent Campus. This year saw 180 filmmaking talents from 41 countries submit a total of 130 projects for the BERLIN TODAY AWARD 2006.

In order to select the three best ideas from all the entries submitted for the BTA, it was this year decided to hold a special BERLIN TODAY AWARD Summer Campus from 18th – 24th June 2005. The 10 applicants on the preliminary shortlist were therefore invited back to Berlin for a week of intensive coaching and script consultation. The Summer Campus concluded with a presentation of the 10 projects to a jury including director Andres Veiel (Black Box BRD) and Doris Zander (Studio Hamburg Produktion).

"And the nominees for the BERLIN TODAY AWARD 2006 are..."

..."**BerlinBall**" by Anna Azevedo (Brazil). What's the view of Berlin for people who come from north-eastern Brazil, as does Marcelinho, star of Hertha BSC, Berlin's leading football club? And what makes up the "real" Berlin for Marcelinho?

..."**Big Eden**" by Shelly Federman (Israel). This documentary focuses on the Berlin playboy Rolf Eden, who returns to Berlin from Israel after the War.

..."**If You Need Me**" by Darija Andovska (Macedonia) and Mladen Djukic (Bosnia-Herzegovina). Archangel Gabriel, who resides atop of Berlin's landmark Victory Column, is going through a major crisis. Sick and tired of all the moaning and discontent around him, he then meets Marc, whose car has broken down in the middle of the road below. "If You Need Me" is the first ever animation project to be produced for the BTA.

This year, zero film GmbH, under the leadership of Martin Hagemann, will produce the three short films for the BERLIN TODAY AWARD. Each film will receive Medienboard sponsorship to the tune of €50,000 plus up to €20,000 of material support provided by a range of sponsors, including the three major studios STUDIO BERLIN Adlershof, Studio Babelsberg and Berliner Union-Film as well as cine plus Media Service, Das Werk, Electric Sun, Euro Arts, FGV Schidle, Film und Video Untertitelung Lehmann, Granada, KOPPFILM, Kortwich Filmtontechnik, Tonbüro and VCC Perfect Pictures. In addition, the BERLIN TODAY AWARD is supported by the Vienna Symphonic Library. This year, BFC (Berliner Film Companie), which specialises in animation, has also been secured as a sponsor.

The three short films will be produced starting in August and are scheduled for completion by mid-November. They will be premièred at the Berlinale Talent Campus during the Berlinale in February 2006. The BERLIN TODAY AWARD 2006 will be presented on the Awards Night. For further information:

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The BERLIN TODAY AWARD, a joint prize presented by the film industry in Berlin-Brandenburg, is an initiative of Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg (Coordination: Frank Stehling), who also sponsors the award. The competition is organised by boxfish films.