



Press Release / Berlin, February 11, 2006

**“BerlinBall“, documentary on Marcelinho’s home village, wins third BERLIN TODAY AWARD.**

**Award ceremony follows the opening of Berlinale Talent Campus by Foreign Minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Dieter Kosslick.**

“Berlin doesn’t really exist“, says Josafá’s mother in “BerlinBall“, the contribution to the BERLIN TODAY AWARD 2006 competition by Brazilian director Anna Azevedo.

In the end, Anna Azevedo’s touching documentary on the Berlin dream in the Brazilian home village of Hertha BSC football star Marcelinho prevailed over the other two nominated short films, “If you need me“ and “Under these wings“, and she wins the third BERLIN TODAY AWARD which will be awarded on Saturday, February 11, on the occasion of the BERLINALE TALENT CAMPUS opening.

Foreign Minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier and the festival’s director Dieter Kosslick will give the opening speeches before approximately 1,200 invited guests at the House of World Cultures. Subsequently, MTV host Markus Kavka will be the emcee of the BERLIN TODAY AWARD 2006 award ceremony. DJane Marie Leão (sound composer of “BerlinBall“), Radio Eins DJ Johannes Paetzold and the Berlin-based band “PR Kantate“ guarantee a lavish opening party of Berlinale Talent Campus.

Jury member Aelrun Goette (“Die Kinder sind tot“), who is joined by Christian Petzold (“Gespenster“) and Thilo Graf Rothkirch (“The Little Polar Bear“) as one of the mentors for the new installment of the Award competition, explains the jury’s decision: “This film has everything a good documentary needs: a great story, powerful and touching characters and the look at a part of the world we do not usually see. The film tells about the power of hope in a simple and straightforward, yet poetic way.“

The short films of the BERLIN TODAY AWARD competition were produced by the production company zero film backed by extensive sponsoring by the regional film industry and promoted by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg (€ 70,000 per film).

While the team of “BerlinBall“ still celebrates their win of the third BERLIN TODAY AWARD the next round of the BERLIN TODAY AWARD competition has already begun: the participants of this year’s Berlinale Talent Campus can submit their ideas on ‘Berlin Today’ until April 13, 2006 to the organizer boxfish events. For further information visit [www.berlintoday.de](http://www.berlintoday.de).

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