



Press Information

Berlin, 1. September 2008

Shooting for the Berlin Today Award 2009 begins in Berlin and Brandenburg

Invitation to visit the sets of *The Berlin Wall* and *Teleportation* - two of the five films that will be created as part of the short film competition of the Berlinale Talent Campus.

The film shoot for *The Berlin Wall* begins in Berlin on Wednesday, 10.09.2008, and continues until 14.09.08. The shoot for *Teleportation* follows from 30.09.08 to 05.10.08 in the Märkisch-Oderland district of Brandenburg. These two short films are amongst the five projects that have made it to the final round of the Berlin Today Award 2009 – the short film competition of the *Berlinale Talent Campus*.

Director Paul Cotter from England will shoot *The Berlin Wall* together with the Berlin production company Kaminski.Stiehm.Film. The poetic-realist film touches on themes of misunderstanding and xenophobia. It tells the story of Werner Krüger, a 75 year-old who one day silently begins to rebuild the Berlin wall. He soon attracts the help of many volunteers, although not one of them knows the true motives behind his actions. Paul Cotter says, "It's great being in Berlin, preparing to make a film in this wonderful city. So far things have been great. Good actors, good support. Just hoping I can do justice to my script, working in a language (German) that is not native to me. It is exciting all the same."

Teleportation will be realised by director Markus Dietrich from Weimar together with another Berlin-based production company, Schiwago Film. The film reveals who was really responsible for the fall of the Berlin wall on November 9, 1989: Frederike and Fabian, two 10-year-olds who try to teleport their friend Jonathan during a secret experiment. But everything goes wrong, and as they leave their laboratory, they notice that instead of Jonathan, all the other citizens of their city have disappeared. "*Teleportation* is a chance for me to dive back into my childhood on the one hand and on the other hand, to make an adventure story come to life, a story that, as a kid, only existed in the craziest of dreams. Maybe this is the reason why I became a filmmaker," says Markus Dietrich about his film.

The Berlin Today Award 2009 is supported by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg and the Federal Foreign Office. This year's competition, which will address the theme "My Wall" in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall, will take place under the auspices of the Federal Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

The five short films will celebrate their world premiere during the opening of the *Berlinale Talent Campus* 2009 (7. – 12.02.2009). The winner will receive the Berlin Today Award. More information is available at www.berlintoday.de

If you would like to visit the finalists during their film shoots and/or you would like to interview them, please contact us: Tel.: 030 44044 751, E-Mail: steiner@boxfish-films.de.

Sincerely, the boxfish team, Christiane Steiner