

PRESS RELEASE

BERLIN, 25 October 2004

BERLIN TODAY AWARD on the road to success! Myrna Maakaron, winner of the international newcomers project BERLIN TODAY AWARD, wins first German documentary competition in Leipzig.

“BerlinBeirut“, by the young Lebanese director Myrna Maakaron, won the "Discovery Channel Film Prize" for best German documentary at the 47th documentary film festival in Leipzig yesterday. The prize is endowed with a prize money of 10,000 EUR. The poetic homage to the two formerly divided cities of Berlin and Beirut asserted itself against 23 competitors.

“BerlinBeirut“ was made during the BERLIN TODAY AWARD competition, a joint project of Medienboard, Berlinale Talent Campus and the film industry of Berlin-Brandenburg. This newcomers project invites the 500 international filmmakers of the Berlinale Talent Campus to turn their visions and impressions of today's Berlin into film. Every year, 3 projects are nominated for the Award and then realized. Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg provides financial assistance of 50,000 EUR for each project. The film industry in Berlin-Brandenburg provides up to 20,000 EUR of in-kind support.

“It's a great opportunity for young filmmakers from all over the world. We, the talents, have been received with open arms here in Berlin“, says recent award winner Myrna Maakaron. “The combination of sponsorship by the Medienboard, professional support by a multitude of sponsors and the provision of a production company (credofilm) is really unique. Just one year ago I wouldn't have imagined that my short film ‘BerlinBeirut’ would be shown at festivals around the world “.

The three projects for the BERLIN TODAY AWARD 2005 are currently under production. „Workers from Poland“, „Alright Love“ and „Bucuresti-Berlin“ will premiere at the Berlinale Talent Campus 2005.

Up-to-date information available at www.berlintoday.de.

The Berlin Today Award is a joint award by the film industry in Berlin-Brandenburg – initiated and sponsored by Filmboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH, coordinated by Frank Stehling, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH and organized by boxfish films – Büro für Film + Kommunikation.

The sponsors of the BERLIN TODAY AWARD include Berliner Union-Film, cine impuls, cine plus Media Service, Das Werk, GWFF, Elektrofilm, Film und Video Untertitelung Lehmann, Gruppe 3, Kanzlei Unverzagt von Have, KOPPFILM, Kortwisch Filmtontechnik, Scriphouse, Studio Babelsberg, Studio Berlin Adlershof, Tonbüro, VCC Perfect Pictures, Vienna Symphonic Library. Deutsche Welle, DWTV, is the media partner of the BERLIN TODAY AWARD.

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