

»» 15 years

CO | CO

connecting
cottbus

east west

co-production

market at the

FilmFestival

Cottbus

7.-8. November 2013

PROGRAMM

www.connecting-cottbus.de



BETWEEN FESTIVAL SUCCESS AND A CINEMA'S DAY-TO-DAY ROUTINE

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

It's been some time since the East European cinema was so present at international film festivals as this year – this year's Berlinale, for example, showed 17 East European productions, and several recently completed connecting cottbus films began their tour through the international festival landscape in 2012/2013: THE PHOTOGRAPH was launched in Montreal in 2012, THE PRIEST'S CHILDREN and WITHERING in Karlovy Vary in 2013, ROXANNE in Locarno, WOLF in Sarajevo and TANGERINES in Warsaw.

That's a reason to be cheerful even if it is rather laborious having to traverse the ups and downs of cinemas' day-to-day routine: Eastern Europe continues to occupy a niche existence in the business despite some hopeful signs – after all, no less than two East European festival successes CHILDREN OF SARAJEVO and THE NOTEBOOK were opening in German cinemas during the coco week this year.

One of the positive signs, though, is that film funding in Hungary now seems to be taking effect, while the parameters for film production in our participating countries, taken as a whole, are still extremely different. The stagnating market share of East European films, financial crisis scenarios and the consequences of obscure and at times politically motivated decisions create a feeling of uncertainty within the industry, Where is it worth investing time and money? Where is caution advised? What does the balance between cultural quality and economic survival look like?

This is now the 15th time that connecting cottbus is also providing a forum for an intensive exchange about these issues. Workshops and case studies on audience design and the production and market careers of previous coco films offer opportunities for discussion and exploring ways of accessing new audiences.

And, last but not least, it is yet again our main objective to set new and exciting feature film projects in motion: in total, 173 projects were pitched at connecting cottbus, of which over 60 could already be realised, and others are currently in production. This year saw 98 projects from 30 countries submitted. 12 were selected by our jury, one will presented as the „coco Special Pitch Award“: strong stories between drama and comedy, which all have what it takes to become competitive films in Cottbus. This year's connecting cottbus will again see the presentation, inter alia, of the „coco Post Pitch Award“ and the „coco Best Pitch Award“, which is linked this time with an accreditation for the "Producers Network" in Cannes.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our supporters and partners, who have felt a strong bond with us over many years and have not only supported connecting cottbus financially, but also in words and deeds, as well as to our new partners who enrich our work with new aspects. We are looking forward to two days full of interesting projects, open and honest discussions, and new contacts.

The connecting cottbus team

»»» TUESDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER

- 12:00 **Individual pitching preparation**
Room Fontane (by appointment)
- 19:00 **Opening of the 23rd FilmFestival Cottbus**
(by festival invitation only)

»»» WEDNESDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER

- 09:15 **Individual pitching preparation**
Room Fontane (by appointment)
- 13:30 **Introduction and Lunch for Participants with Projects**
Room Goethe (by invitation only)
- 14:30 **Information Panel: Film Funding in Germany and Europe**
Room Fontane
participants: Brigitta Manthey (Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg)
Oliver Rittweger (MDM)
Uta Eberhardt (MEDIA Antenna Berlin-Brandenburg)
Petra Kashmiry (tbc)
moderation: Martin Blaney
- 15:30 **15 years of connecting cottbus** – film screenings and public case studies
Glad-House-Saal
MY JOY (Germany, Ukraine, Netherlands 2010, 127 min)
participants: Heino Deckert (ma.ja.de, tbc),
Brigitta Manthey (Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg),
moderation: Bernd Buder
- 16:30 **Workshop: How to talk potential partners into your project**
Room Fontane
with Katriel Schory (Israel Film Fund)
- 18:00 **Workshop: Budgeting and workflow of digital post production**
Room Fontane
with Rebekka Garrido (The Post Republic)
- 20:00 **Get-Together** – hosted by MEDIA Antenna Berlin-Brandenburg and MAIA
(by invitation only)

»»» THURSDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER

- 10:30 **Official Opening**
Room Cosiebus
- 10:45 **Panel: Funding News**
Room Cosiebus
participants: Darko Basheski (Macedonian Film Fund)
N.N.
Hrvoje Hribar (Croatian Audiovisual Centre) etc.
Moderation: Simon Perry
- 12:00 **Introduction of Participants with Projects**
Room Cosiebus
- 12:15 **Networking Lunch**
(by invitation only)
- 13:30 **Pitchings I**
Room Cosiebus
- 15:15 **Pitchings II**
Room Cosiebus
- 17:00 **Pitchings III**
Room Cosiebus
- 18:00 **Voting for the coco Best Pitch Award 2013**
Room Cosiebus
Come and Arrange Your One2One Meetings
Room Schiller
- 20:00 **Networking Reception** – hosted by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg
and MDM
(by invitation only)



>>> FRIDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER

- 09:00 **One2One Meetings I**
Room Cosiebus
- 10:00 **Panel: Focus coco:** Previous coco Projects – Works in Progress – 15 years of coco
Room Goethe
participants: Iona Draghici (*HiFilm*)
Markus Halberschmidt (*Busse & Halberschmidt*)
Branislav Trifunovic (*Hit and Run*)
and other producers of coco-projects screening at the FilmFestival Cottbus or currently in production
moderation: Martin Blaney
- 11:00 **One2One Meetings II**
Room Cosiebus
- 11:30 **Workshop:** Audience Design
Room Fontane
with Lena Thiele (*Torino Film Lab*)
- 13:00 **Networking Lunch**
(by invitation only)
- 14:00 **One2One Meetings III**
Room Cosiebus
- 16:00 **15 years of connecting cottbus** – film screenings and public case studies
Glad-House-Saal
THE TRAP (Serbia, Hungary, Germany 2007, 106 min)
participants: Alexander Ris (*Neue Mediapolis*)
Srdan Golubovic (*Bas Celik*)
Oliver Rittweger (*MDM*)
moderation: Martina Bleis
- 19:30 **15 years of connecting cottbus** – film screenings and public case studies
Kammerbühne
TANGERINES (Estonia, Georgia 2013, 89 min)
participants: Ivo Felt (*allfilm*),
Zaza Urushadse (*director*),
moderation: Martin Blaney

THREE PITCH AWARDS

COCO BEST PITCH AWARD

This year will see 13 creative teams from 12 countries vieing with one another at the annual project pitching forum to attract the interest of financiers, potential co-producers and TV commissioning editors for their projects. The professional audience at the forum will then vote for the most convincing presentation of a new project. The producer and director (or screenwriter) receive the € 1,500 coco Best Pitch Award during the networking reception which is jointly hosted by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg and Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung. This year will be the first time that the award includes an accreditation for the award-winning producer to the "Producer's Network" at the next Cannes Film Festival, sponsored by The Producer's Network.

COCO SPECIAL PITCH AWARD

Winning the Main Prize of FilmFestival Cottbus is linked each year with the Connecting Cottbus Special Pitch Award. In 2012, the Polish director Maria Sadowska won the festival's Main Prize with *WOMEN'S DAY*. This year, we welcome her producer Marcin Oginski and screenwriter Katarzyna Terechowicz, to pitch their new project which will be directed by Sadowska.

COCO POST PITCH AWARD

For the third time, the postproduction company The Post Republic will be donating a colour correction and the production of a DCP for a suitable pitch project. The winner will be chosen by a three-person expert jury. This year, we are honoured that the producer and president of Unifrance, Antoine de Clermont-Tonnerre (Mact Productions), Jörg Schneider (commissioning editor at ZDF/Das Kleine Fernsehspiel) and Rebekka Garrido (The Post Republic) have agreed to serve on the jury.

COTTBUS DOWN UNDER

THE 23RD FILMFESTIVAL COTTBUS EXPLORES EAST EUROPEAN CINEMA BETWEEN LUSATIA AND CANBERRA

From 5-10 November, the FilmFestival Cottbus will be showing the whole variety of East European film-making for the 23rd time. Three competitions and ten sidebars with 133 films from 38 countries invite you on a journey through East Europe and beyond.

While the main competition mixes commercial and strict art-house approaches, thus featuring a variety of styles from black comedy and adventure to bleak metaphorism, the "Spectrum" sidebar focuses on films showing artistic styles devoid of any specific classification. The "Focus" section sees the FilmFestival Cottbus continuing its cinematic exploration of Eastern European diversity with the theme of "Dikhen!" "Let's take a closer look." "Dikhen" is a loan word from Roma – the "Focus" sidebar features new films about the large Roma minorities in Eastern Europe, some of them made by Roma film-makers themselves, who will be in Cottbus to present the newly-founded International Romani Film Commission". The invitation to have a closer look meets one of the key goals of the whole festival: to question clichés and examine unusual connections. Thus, the section "Home/Domownja. Sorbian Life in Film" gives an insight into the history and everyday life of the Sorb minority in Lusatia – the region around Cottbus – while the "globalEAST" section looks for those traces linking film-making in East Europe with Oceania.

The programme of the 23rd FilmFestival Cottbus also features films previously pitched at connecting cottbus, which have been premiered in the competitions of major international film festivals this year.

SELECTED FILMS IN THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

The festival programme includes a selection of films which have been produced, directed or are distributed by participants of connecting cottbus as well as a number of films which were pitched at connecting cottbus. Additional information can be found on the festival website www.filmfestivalcottbus.de

Andrei Cretulescu, Icon Production
(Producer):

KILLING TIME

Romania 2012 | 95 min

Tue, 5.11., 19:30 Kammerbühne

Thu, 7.11., 14:30 Stadthalle

pitched at connecting cottbus 2009:

WOLF

Romania, Germany 2012 | 78 min

Fri, 8.11., 17:30 Obenkino

Wed, 6.11., 12:00 Stadthalle

Anja Sosic, Jan Naszewski,
New Europe Film Sales (World sales):

PAPUSZA

Poland 2013 | 131 min

Tue, 6.11., 14:30 Stadthalle

Thu, 7.11., 14:00 Kammerbühne

Heino Deckert, ma.ja.de (Co-producer)

pitched at connecting cottbus 2006

MY JOY

Germany, Ukraine,

The Netherlands 2010 | 127 min

Wed, 6.11., 15:30 Glad-House-Saal

Branislav Trifunovic, Hit and Run
Production (Producer),

pitched at connecting cottbus 2010

VANISHING

Serbia, Switzerland 2013 | 109 min

Wed, 6.11., 17:00 Stadthalle

Sun, 10.11., 12:00 Kammerbühne

Markus Halberschmidt, Busse &
Halberschmidt (Co-producer),
pitched at connecting cottbus 2009

THE PHOTOGRAPH

Poland, Germany, Hungary 2013 | 82 min

Wed, 6.11., 17:00 Kammerbühne

Rebekka Garrido, The Post Republic
(Co-producer)

FOR THOSE WHO CAN TELL NO TALES

Bosnia and Herzegovina 2013 | 82 min

Wed., 6.11., 19:30 Stadthalle Feature

Film Competition

Thu., 7.11., 12:00 Weltspiegel Feature

Film Competition

Ioana Draghici, Hi-Film (Producer),
pitched at connecting cottbus 2009

ROXANNE

Romania, Hungary 2013 | 98 min
Thu, 7.11., 17:00 Stadthalle
Fri, 8.11., 14:00 Weltspiegel

Xenia Maingot,

Eaux Vives Productions (Producer)

HUNGRY MAN

France 2013 | 80 min
Thu, 7.11., 19:30 Weltspiegel
Sun, 10.11., 19:00 Kammerbühne

Sasha Wieser, East West Film
Distribution (World sales)

THE CLOSED CIRCUIT

Ryszard Bugajski | Poland 2013
110 min
Thu, 7.11., 22:00 Weltspiegel
Sat, 9.11., 19:00 Kammerbühne

Lilia Braila, Alte Arte (Producer)

TALKING LETTERS

Romania, Moldova, 2013 | 53 min
Fri, 8.11., 12:00 Kammerbühne

Srdan Golubovic, Bas Celik (Producer),

Alexander Ris, Neue Mediapolis
(Co-producer)

pitched at connecting cottbus 2004

THE TRAP

Serbia, Hungary, Germany 2007
106 min
Fri, 8.11., 16:00 Glad-House-Saal

Sasha Wieser, East West Film
Distribution (World sales),

Eduard Barnsteiner, Barnsteiner

Film-Verleih (German distributor)

GYPSY SPIRIT: HARRI STOJKA,

A JOURNEY

Austria, India 2010 | 91 min
Fri, 8.11., 17:00 Weltspiegel
Sat, 9.11., 13:00 Obenkino

pitched at connecting cottbus 2011

THE PRIEST'S CHILDREN

Croatia Serbia | 91 min
Fri, 8.11., 19:30 Stadthalle
Sat, 9.11., 15:00 Weltspiegel

Ivo Felt, allfilm (Producer), pitched at
connecting cottbus 2010

TANGERINES

Georgia, Estonia 2013 | 89 min
Fri, 8.11., 19:30 Kammerbühne

Ales Pavlin, perfo (Producer),

Luc Ntonga, Insomnia films
(World sales)

A TRIP

Slovenia 2011 | 85 min
Sat, 9.11., 12:00 Glad-House-Saal
Sun, 10.11., 13:30 Weltspiegel

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

VIDEO SCREENINGS

This year will also see us offering the participants of connecting cottbus the chance to use the video screening facilities in the conference hotel. Completed films or work in progress can be presented to interested co-production partners and participants here as a backup to the One2One Meetings. For reservations, please contact a member of the connecting cottbus team.

WLAN, INTERNET & CO

We will again have computers with internet access provided for our guests on the Conference Floor of the Lindner Congress Hotel. A password-protected wireless network can be used free of charge on the Conference Floor, in the hotel lobby and at the festival's Guest Centre.

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

Participants of connecting cottbus have free entrance to the festival screenings for the duration of connecting cottbus. Please take note of the ticket distribution regulations of the FilmFestival Cottbus.

FESTIVALCLUB SCANDALE

The cool and alternative ambience makes our FestivalClub Scandale a trendy place for the in crowd to meet. Recommended are the opening party of the festival on Tuesday (live: Las Balkanieras/ Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Poland), a relaxed evening with chanson singers on Wednesday (live: Querfeld1/ Germany) and a fiery gypsy-party on Friday (live: GitanCoeur d'Europe/ Austria).



connecting cottbus wishes to thank all of its partners and supporters who have greatly contributed to the success of our east west co-production market.

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