



highlighting connecting cottbus 4-6 November 2020

East-West co-production market connecting cottbus (coco) has assembled a diverse range of networking events and discussions tackling the current challenges in the industry, and will present a new award.

The FilmFestival Cottbus, following the decision announced by the Federal Government of Germany to contain the coronavirus pandemic, which includes the four-week closure of all cinemas, was postponed and will now take place in December 8-13. connecting cottbus will take place on its original dates in the announced online format.

The process of receiving and selecting the projects has been exciting: a valuable journey exploring the filmmakers' motivation, what intrigues and fascinates them. We look forward to providing a warm atmosphere, continuing to foster co-production and presenting new voices of Eastern European cinema.

During these especially uncertain and rapidly changing times, our framework programme aims to provide input and tools for enduring in the film business, while giving ample networking possibilities. Our **connectingPOINT** introduces innovations within the film tech community and creates synergies with the filmmakers featured at the FilmFestival Cottbus. The **Polish-Czech-German Producers Round Table** will explore how to continue collaboration in times when the closest of neighbours cannot visit each other. The **Focus coco** panel will look at this year's progress and success of coco alumni projects, which despite the pandemic has seen the completion and premiere of 12 coco projects, while 13 more have gone into production or post-production.

Rounding up the programme are two lectures: established Irish producer **Larry Bass** will share his ten commandments of business in his talk *'During a Global Pandemic, There's No Business like Show Business'*, in collaboration with EAVE. Additionally, San Francisco and Berlin based producer, designer and curator **Katy Kavanaugh** founder of screen360.tv, will share new approaches to deal with ambiguous times and achieve deeper understanding through innovative learning.

Last, but not least, we are thrilled to introduce a new award this year: The **HAVC Project Development Award**, a €5,000 cash award presented by the Croatian Audiovisual Centre towards the further development of one coco PITCH project.

By holding coco online, not only do we insist on our effort to promote and highlight Eastern European filmmaking, we also firmly support the regional economy. The ultimate objective is to stay connected, continue in dialogue and work together united by the power of cinema.

See you next week in Cottbus!

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