

Connecting Cottbus

13.-14.11.2008

East West Co-production Market
at the FilmFestival Cottbus



**come and
pitch it!**

programme

East meets West in Cottbus

Welcome to this year's edition of the East West Co-production Market during the FilmFestival Cottbus! You will find many acquaintances, friends and colleagues among over 130 guests from Eastern and Western Europe as well as many new visitors who are coming to Cottbus for the first time.

There's a good reason for celebrations: this is now the tenth time that we have invited film and TV producers, financiers and funders, commissioning editors and directors to Cottbus.

For the guests from more than 20 countries, the intensive but, above all, communicative working atmosphere of our co-production market is a good reason to set off each year to get colleagues and partners in Cottbus excited about one's own ideas and projects.

We hope that you will raise your glasses with us to the past ten years of Connecting Cottbus. This time, we would like to thank in particular those partners and supporters who helped us build up the co-production market and have been there in a supporting role over the past years: Medienboard Berlin Brandenburg, MDM, the MEDIA Programme in Brussels, the Nipkow Programme from Berlin. And, last but not least, we would like to thank all of the producers, directors and writers who have put their trust in us.

We wish all guests a creative atmosphere, new ideas, amazing insights about the feasibility of stories and, not least of all, lots of potential co-production partners.

Dear Coco,

Happy Birthday for your first decade and Many Happy Returns!

I have known you personally for half of your life. And I can say that it was a very important encounter in my life. You are a star when it comes to bringing people with ideas and money together. You made Cottbus become the most important marketplace for co-productions from Eastern Europe. But it is not only the expectation of business that draws people to you every year in the rather grey season. People also come because it is a date in the calendar to meet friends and family, a date that is not to be missed. You've seen Europe changing – maybe even the weather will, and Cottbus will gleam in the November sun!



Kirsten Niehuus

Chief Executive
Medienboard
Berlin-Brandenburg

*You have become a really cool lady with a big heart, good connections and lots of friends.
Prost and Nasterowje!*

Tuesday, 11th November 2008

Pitching Preparation Day (with invitation only)

Wednesday, 12th November 2008

Pitching Preparation Day (with invitation only)

08.00 pm **Get-together** hosted by the MEDIA Antenna
Berlin-Brandenburg

Thursday, 13th November 2008

09.00 am Accreditation

10.00 am Welcome

10.15 am **FOCUS Baltic Countries**

Moderation: Martin Blaney

Presentation Baltic Event: Lili Pilt (*Baltic Event, Estonia*)

Guests: Anneli Ahven (*Exitfilm, Estonia*)

Laima Freimane (*Screen Vision, Latvia*)

Uljana Kim (*Studio Uljana Kim, Lithuania*)

Margus Öunapuu (*Film Tower Kuubis, Estonia*)

Ieva Norviliene (*UAB Tremora, Lithuania*)

12.00 am **Presentation of the Robert Bosch**

Co-Production Prize

Guests: Frank Albers and Enrico Battaglia (*Robert Bosch Stiftung, Germany*)

12.15 pm **Lunch break** hosted by the Robert Bosch Stiftung

01.30 pm **Come and pitch it!** Part 1

02.45 pm Short Coffee Break

03.15 pm **Come and pitch it!** Part 2

04.30 pm **Coffee Break** hosted by the Nipkow Programme

05.00 pm **Come and pitch it!** Part 3

06.00 pm **Voting for the CoCo Best Pitch Award 2008/
Make your dates for the One2Ones!**

08.00 pm **Time to talk!**

Networking Reception – hosted by the Medien-
board Berlin-Brandenburg and the Mitteldeutsche
Medienförderung (MDM)

Announcement of the CoCo Best Pitch Award 2008



Friday, 14th November 2008

09.00 am **One2Ones** Part 1

11.00 am **Co-production: a blessing and a curse?**

Moderation: Martin Blaney

Guests: Karl Baumgartner (*Pandora Film, Germany*)

Srdan Golubovic (*Film House Bas Celik, Serbia*)

Kirsten Niehuus (*Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany*)

Tobias Pausinger (*The Match Factory, Germany*)

Jörg Schneider (*ZDF – Das kleine Fernsehspiel, Germany*)

Katriel Schory (*Israel Film Fund, Israel*)

Pavel Strnad (*Negativ Film, Czech Republic*)

12.40 pm **One2Ones** Part 2

02.00 pm **Networking Lunch**

03.30 pm **Focus CoCo – Ten Years After**

Presentation of projects initiated by
Connecting Cottbus

04.20 pm **One2Ones** Part 3

06.00 pm **The End**

Special Tip

10.00 pm **Baltic Night with the 18th FilmFestival Cottbus**

Live: Tribes of the City, Glad-House

CoCo Best Pitch Award

Connecting Cottbus has a prize for the second time: the CoCo Best Pitch Award, donated by EastWest Filmdistribution. All 14 projects presented on 13th November are automatically in the running. The jury is the attending professional audience. It will choose the best pitch after the presentations. The project garnering the most votes will be awarded a voucher for script doctoring to the value of € 3.000. The script doctor will be chosen after consultation with EastWest Filmdistribution. During the Medienboard – MDM reception, Sasha Wieser will present the CoCo Best Pitch Award.

EastWest Filmdistribution

EastWest Filmdistribution is a feature film sales company which specialises in the promotion and sales of quality European and independent feature films. EastWest was founded in November 2004 by Sasha Wieser and Steve Walsh who each have over thirty years of experience across all aspects of international film production and distribution. With a strong global network of experienced film professionals, EastWest has a passion for world cinema and a firm belief that the films they represent deserve and will find a worldwide audience. The company is based in Vienna (Austria) with a sales office in London (UK).

EastWest Filmdistribution GmbH
Schottenfeldgasse 14 | A-1070 Vienna
www.eastwest-distribution.com



CoCo Special Pitch Award

The pitching session will be opened on November 13, 2008 by the winner of the CoCo Special Pitch Award 2007, a prize underscoring the synergies between the filmfestival and the coproduction market by enabling the main prize-winner of the FilmFestival Cottbus to pitch their next project at Connecting Cottbus the following year. This year will see the Bulgarian director Iglia Triffonova (INVESTIGATION) presenting her brand new project FALSE WITNESS together with her producer Rossitsa Valkanova (Klas Film).



18th FilmFestival Cottbus – Festival of East European Cinema

Each year in November, on the occasion of the FilmFestival Cottbus, visitors from Germany and abroad transform the city into a cosmopolitan place of encounter for friends of Eastern European cinematography. It is now already the 18th festival that will take place from November 11 to 16, 2008. The Festival of East European film, founded in 1991, has become the most significant international cultural event of the City of Cottbus as the increasing number of visitors has shown.

17,000 spectators attended the festival in 2007, among them, more than 500 professionals from Germany and abroad.

“A unique window on modern Eastern European and Central Asian film”, the leading US trade journal “Variety” testified in a list of “50 unmissable film festivals” published last year to the distinguishing characteristic that sets Cottbus Film Festival apart. In addition to the two competitions, Feature Film and Short Feature Film, in 2008 the Focus “New Cinema from the Baltics” lies on the Baltic states Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as their relations to the neighbours along the Baltic Sea. Furthermore a “Russian Day” will be introduced within the festival for the first time.

Selected films in the Festival Programme

You will find a selection of films which have been produced or directed by participants of Connecting Cottbus in this programme:

Karl Baumgartner, Pandora Film (producer)/Thanassis Karathanos, Pallas Film (producer)/Tobias Pausinger, The Match Factory (world sales)

Tuesday, 11th November 2008, 7.00 pm
Staatstheater/Feature Film Competition
Gala festival opening

TULPAN

Germany,Switzerland, Russia, Kazakhstan,
Poland 2008 | 100 min

Karsten Stöter, Anne Tetzlaff, Rohfilm (producer)

Wednesday, 12th November 2008, 12.00 noon
Weltspiegel/Russian Day

SONGS FROM THE SOUTHERN SEAS

Russia, Kazakhstan, France,
Germany 2008 | 80 min

Tudor Giurgiu, Libra Film (producer)

Wednesday, 12th November 2008, 5.00 pm
Stadthalle/Feature Film Competition

Thursday, 13th November 2008, 2.30 pm
Weltspiegel/Feature Film Competition

CROSSING DATES

Romania 2008 | 100 min

Laura Inoka, Maren Kroymann, m-appeal (world sales)

Wednesday, 12th November 2008, 7.30 pm
Stadthalle/Feature Film Competition

Thursday, 13th November 2008, 12.00 noon
Weltspiegel/Feature Film Competition

SCRATCH

Poland 2008 | 111 min

Ieva Norviliene, UAB Tremora (producer)

Thursday, 13th November 2008, 10.00 am

Kammerbühne/Focus

THE COLLECTRESS

Lithuania 2008 | 83 min

Karl Baumgartner, Pandora Film (producer)/Thanassis

Karathanos, Pallas Film (producer)/Pavel Strnad,

Negativ Film Productions (producer)

Thursday, 13th November 2008, 5.00 pm

Stadthalle/Feature Film Competition

THE COUNTRY TEACHER

Czech Republic, Germany,

France 2008 | 113 min

Olimpia Pont Schäfer, Coproduction Office (producer)

Friday, 14th November 2008, 5.00 pm

Stadthalle/Feature Film Competition

DELTA

Hungary, Germany 2008 | 92 min

Daniel Hocevar, Emotionfilm (producer)/Thanassis

Karathanos, Pallas Film (producer)

Saturday, 15th November 2008, 5.00 pm

Weltspiegel/Special

**THE WORLD IS BIG AND SALVATION LURKS AROUND
THE CORNER**

Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia 2008 | 106 min

**Alexander Hahn (director)/Sasha Wieser, EastWest
Filmdistribution (world sales)**

Saturday, 15th November 2008, 8.30 pm

Weltspiegel/Spectrum

MIDSUMMER MADNESS

Latvia, Austria, UK 2007 | 90 min



10 years Connecting Cottbus

- almost 1.000 accredited participants from 25 countries
- over 200 projects submitted for pitching from 26 countries
- 79 film projects from 17 countries were presented, of which
- 21 projects were realised
- 5 projects are currently being produced
- 24 are currently in development

Many thanks to all of our funders and companions during the first 10 years:

BALTIC EVENT · CINELINK · CZECH FILMCENTER · EAVE · BERLIN BRANDENBURG FILM COMMISSION · GWFF · KIPA · MAGYAR FILMUNIO · MEDIA ANTENNE BERLIN-BRANDENBURG · MEDIA PROGRAMME · MEDIENBOARD BERLIN-BRANDENBURG (FORMER FILMBOARD) · MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS STATE OF BRANDENBURG · MDM · MOONSTONE · NATIONAL BULGARIAN FILM CENTRE · NIPKOW PROGRAMME BERLIN · ROBERT BOSCH STIFTUNG · SOFIA MEETINGS · TIFF ROMANIA · FILM TV SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

Looking back ...

1999 An idea is born

The first “Networking meeting with the Eastern European film-and TV industry” took place during the 9th FilmFestival Cottbus. The day-long conference aimed to provide information about the situation of filmmaking in Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic as well as in Germany. Founding fathers: Ministry of Economics State of Brandenburg, and the regional film funding institution Filmboard Berlin-Brandenburg (called Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg since 2004)

2000 A name is found

One year later, not only a name, but also a tool is found: Connecting Cottbus. Approximately 50 participants from Russia, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Germany use the opportunity to improve working relationships.

2001 A step forward

In addition to the discussion about working conditions and financing possibilities in Eastern Europe, a new subject is found: the content. For the first time, 10 projects are presented to the 70 guests from 14 countries. The organisation of Connecting Cottbus is managed by pool production. A co-operation with the Nipkow Programme is begun and – along with the main funding partner Filmboard Berlin-Brandenburg (called Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg since 2004) – the Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung (MDM) is won as a partner and supporter.

2002 An attempt: CoCo Special

The Festival’s market forum for film makes a move! The new Holiday Inn Conference Hotel offers excellent conditions for the 100 accredited participants of the two-day conference. A third day focuses on building up a relationship between Germany and Poland and presenting projects for co-development: CoCo Special.

2003 Accomplished: The first years

For the fifth time, producers, distributors, financiers and commissioning editors are invited to Cottbus to exchange ideas

and experiences. Since the first Eastern and Central European countries have now become members of the MEDIA programme, Connecting Cottbus focuses on the first day on projects from Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. On the second day, the focus country of the 13th FilmFestival Cottbus – Russia – is presented in keynotes and with new projects.

2004 Finally: Come and pitch it!

The market forum for film has found its format. The pitching session becomes the heart of Connecting Cottbus. Current information about the film industry of the yearly Focus Country of the FilmFestival Cottbus has become an inherent part of the Connecting Cottbus programme ever since. This year's focus is the Czech Republic. More participants than ever come to Cottbus: altogether, 125 guests from 11 countries are accredited.

2005 Money money money

The presentation of the brand new Hungarian tax model accompanies the Focus on the Hungarian film industry. And the first cross-border funding initiative, the German-Polish Co-Development Fund, is signed during Connecting Cottbus and presented by the Polish Film Institute, the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg and the MDM.

2006 Business as usual

13 new projects from 9 countries are presented to participants at the pitching session. The new developments in the Romanian and Bulgarian cinema are the focus of Connecting Cottbus.

2007 The network is growing

For the first time, a Swedish project uses Connecting Cottbus to find partners in Eastern Europe. The audience vote for the CoCo Best Pitch Award, donated by EastWestDistribution. And the MEDIA Programme becomes a new financing partner. A new record is reached: industry people from 22 mainly European countries attend Connecting Cottbus, the East-West Co-production Market, at the FilmFestival Cottbus.



Congratulations

“THE TRAP was first presented as a project at Connecting Cottbus in 2004. After the pitch we had very successful meetings where we met our co-production partners. Also in Cottbus we had our first meeting with our sales agent Bavaria Film International. We can proudly say that THE TRAP is in every way a Cottbus BABY.”

Jelena Mitrovic, producer of THE TRAP, pitched in 2004

“Connecting Cottbus has been very helpful to me and to my project. It was a great way of meeting professionals – representatives of the world sales companies, festivals and funds.”

Darko Lungulov, director of HERE AND THERE, pitched in 2006

“Participating at Connecting Cottbus was excellent experience and it gave a real kick-start to my project.”

Andrijana Stojkovic, author and director of THE BOX, pitched in 2007

“Cottbus proved to be an efficient platform for introducing our dark comedy to European film professionals. The well-organized schedule enabled me to meet potential co-producers as well as attract attention of sales agents and distributors.”

Peter Veverka, producer of ENGLISH IS EASY, pitched in 2007

“It was very good to get to know new people and to see friends again. I thought it was very well organised.”

Ellis Driessen, Head of Holland Film Meeting

Additional information

Video Screening

This year, Connecting Cottbus is once again offering all participants and guests the opportunity to use video screening facilities to show their current production to co-production partners and colleagues. For reservations, please contact a member of the Connecting Cottbus team.

Hotspots for Everyone

Once again, all participants and guests of the FilmFestival Cottbus and Connecting Cottbus are offered free Wireless/LAN Internet access for their notebooks and PDAs at the guest centre. More information is available at the accreditation counter.

FestivalClubs

The “Escobar”, “Jimmy’s Dinner”, “Lehnertz” and the “edelweiss” offer the guests of Connecting Cottbus and FilmFestival Cottbus a pleasant atmosphere to see out the end of the day with good food and drinks accompanied by long discussions. Cocktails and East European music in a big city ambience are combined with an international festival atmosphere.

Electronic Reservation

For the first time this year, the FilmFestival Cottbus and Connecting Cottbus are making use of an electronic information and reservation system developed by the Fraunhofer ALL in Cottbus. We have stored your log-in data on the delegate badge so that you can use your personalised web-area at www.connecting-cottbus.de. Logging-in to the service area is completed by scanning your delegate badge at the terminals provided. After a successful log-in, you can reserve tickets for the Filmfestival, access information by the CoCo team, download lists of participants, or receive further information on the connected pages of Connecting Cottbus and the Filmfestival.



Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg

The Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH is the central address for everyone in the region's media industry. Under one roof, it unites film funding and the development of the media industry in the states of Berlin and Brandenburg.

Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH

August-Bebel-Straße 26-53 | D-14482 Potsdam-Babelsberg

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info@medienboard.de | www.medienboard.de

MEDIA Programme

MEDIA 2007 is a programme of the European Union for the advancement of audio-visual industry in the 32 member states. Support is channelled through it for the areas of development, distribution, sales, promotion, festivals and training. The preparatory action MEDIA International is co-financing activities with countries outside the EU – in the field of promotion, training and cinema networks.

MEDIA Programme/European Commission

Avenue de Beaulieu 33 | B-1160 Brussels

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info-media@ec.europa.eu | www.ec.europa.eu



Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung

The aim of the funding is the development, maintenance and strengthening of the film, television as well as media culture and economy in Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia. The funding intends to contribute to the strengthening of the audio-visual sector in Germany and Europe. With that it will improve and ensure the economic power in the region of these three states.

Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung GmbH

Hainstraße 17-19 | D-04109 Leipzig

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info@mdm-online.de | www.mdm-online.de

MEDIA Antenna Berlin-Brandenburg

MEDIA Antenna Berlin-Brandenburg is one of the information offices of the MEDIA programme in all member states. Responsible for Berlin-Brandenburg/Central Germany it is a significant contact point for professionals. Its networking events support the international co-operation between the MEDIA member states.

MEDIA Antenna Berlin-Brandenburg

August-Bebel-Straße 26–53 | D-14482 Potsdam-Babelsberg

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mediaantenne@medienboard.de | www.mediadesk.de

Robert Bosch Stiftung

The Co-Production Prize for Young German and Eastern/ Southeastern European Filmmakers

The Robert Bosch Stiftung issues three co-production prizes for young German and Eastern as well as Southeastern European filmmakers. The prize, worth up to 70,000 euros for each selected project, is awarded in the categories animated film, documentary, and short film. Young filmmakers in the fields of production, directing, camera, and screenwriting are given an opportunity to explore the methods and creative styles of their partner country.

www.filmfoerderpreis.com

Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH

Heidehofstraße 31 | D-70184 Stuttgart

Programme Manager: frank.albers@bosch-stiftung.de

Coordination Co-Production Prize: battaglia@filmfoerderpreis.com



EAVE

EAVE is one of the leading training and development providers for producers in Europe. Apart from our well known Producers Workshop, we offer additional courses such as the Film Finance Forum and the Film Marketing Workshop as well as other tailor made professional development programmes.

EAVE

238C rue de Luxembourg | L-8077 BERTRANGE

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eave@eave.org | www.eave.org

Baltic Event

The Baltic Event film market screens the newest feature films from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania for international film and TV professionals – among invited guests are sales agents, distributors, TV buyers and festival directors. The Baltic Event Co-production Market offers highly productive opportunities to network and discuss projects in the special film festival atmosphere of medieval Old Town, Tallinn. Participation in the Baltic Event Co-production Market gives producers an efficient possibility to create or extend their international network.

Baltic Event

Nurme 45 | EST-11616 Tallinn

Mob: +372 677 6363

balticevent@poff.ee | www.poff.ee/balticevent

Nipkow Programme

The Nipkow Programme launched in Berlin in 1992, is a fellowship programme, designed to assist film and television professionals from all over Europe to expand their contacts and working experience. By supporting a new up-and-coming generation of film and media talents, Nipkow aims at strengthening future European collaborations in the media and film sector.

Nipkow Programm e.V.

Kurfürstendamm 225 | D-10719 Berlin

fon: + 49(30)6142838 | fax: + 49(30)6142826

nipkow-programm@t-online.de | www.nipkow.de

CineLink

CineLink is the industry section of the Sarajevo Film Festival. Its activities are spread throughout the year and are designed to meet the current needs and expectations of Southeast Europe's film industry in reshaping. There are a series of workshops concentrating on script development, financing and marketing that producers and authors of selected feature fiction projects undertake before presenting their projects at the CineLink Market. The workshops take place in Sarajevo every April and June. Taking place during the last three days of Sarajevo Film Festival every August, the CineLink Co-production Market presents the best of feature fiction projects in preparation by both emerging and already acclaimed authors from Southeast Europe.

Co-Production Market CineLink

Zelenih Beretki 12/1 | BIH-71000 Sarajevo

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amra@pro.ba | www.sff.ba



pool production

pool production, an agency organising events, is organizer of the FilmFestival Cottbus and the East West Co-production Market Connecting Cottbus. pool production provides classic advertising, as well as publicity and marketing for all kinds of commercial and cultural events. pool production fuses its internal capabilities with external project-related know-how and offers a broad spectrum of services.

pool production GmbH

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**Connecting Cottbus
East West Co-production
Market at the FilmFestival
Cottbus**

Organized by
pool production GmbH

Funded by
Medienboard Berlin-
Brandenburg GmbH
MEDIA Programme
Mitteldeutsche
Medienförderung GmbH

This event was conceived
in collaboration with the
Nipkow Programm e.V.,
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for European audio-visual
media professionals.

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.

funding partners

medienboard
Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH



**Mitteldeutsche
Medienförderung**



Robert Bosch Stiftung

supporting partners

MEDIA
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 **CineLink**
Sarajevo Film Festival



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special partner for the CoCo Focus 2008

BALTIC  **EVENT**

sponsors


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FILM DISTRIBUTION GmbH

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berlin+cottbus

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