

CO|CO

connecting
cottbus

east west

co-production

market at the

FilmFestival

Cottbus

6.–7. November 2014

PROGRAMME

www.connecting-cottbus.de



NEW CHALLENGES AND NEW SUPPORT FOR EAST EUROPEAN CINEMA

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

This year saw submissions of 92 projects from 29 countries for connecting cottbus. Our jury selected 12 of them, one will be presented as "coco Special Pitch Award": exciting stories that are likely to mature in Cottbus into competitive films. Let's come together for the 16th time in Cottbus and kick off some more beautiful films for our audiences.

Touring around the international festivals over the past year, the Polish *IDA* and the Croatian-Serbian *THE PRIEST'S CHILDREN* (coco 2011) are two really different films from Eastern Europe that have succeeded in appealing to a large international audience. Both productions show that it is possible to overcome the divide between the commercial and arthouse cinema and, above all, that Eastern European cinema really doesn't have to only be "niche cinema".

At the same time, the current political developments have resulted in a loss of image for Eastern Europe as a region: the armed conflict in the east of Ukraine and repressive measures in Russia – including the arrest of the Ukrainian director Oleg

Sentsov and the ban on the use of swearwords in films – confirm unpleasant clichés about the stagnation of progress in civil society within Eastern Europe.

These uncertainties are contrasted by developments in other East European countries, which have a positive effect on East-West co-productions. Production incentives offer financial stimuli for co-productions. Two important regional film funding instruments were established with the creation of the Sarajevo City of Film Fund and the Italian-Slovenian-Croatian "Re-Act" Fund. The Sarajevo City of Film Fund and the World Cinema Fund are among the five European funds that have received financial support from Creative Europe MEDIA for funding schemes that aim at enabling more European producers to step into international co-productions. Initiatives such as the St Petersburg-based "Point of View" Fund are further encouraging developments providing East European producers with new, additional funding opportunities which can help them to work in the market in a freer and more versatile way.

This year will see connecting cottbus organising a forum for the 16th time to discuss these and other important issues. Workshops and case studies on audience design, the further development of the Polish-German Co-Development Fund, and on the production and market careers of former coco projects offer the concrete basis for exploring ways of working together to tap new audiences and find financing models.

Last but not least, it is our main objective again to help launch interesting feature film projects. The Latvian-Greek-German co-production MODRIS and the Kosovar-German THREE WINDOWS AND A HANGING are two recently completed coco projects screening in the past few months in the competitions at Sarajevo, Toronto and San Sebastian. Together with the Czech-Polish coco-project BELLA MIA, they will now be returning to Cottbus as part of the official festival programme.

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to our long-standing and new supporters and partners who have backed connecting cottbus financially as well as with advice and who have particularly enhanced our work for this year's edition with new aspects. We are looking forward to two days full of interesting projects, intensive discussions and new contacts.

The connecting cottbus team

TUESDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER 2014

- 12:00 **Individual Pitching Preparation**
with Martina Bleis and Marjorie Bendeck
>>> ROOM FONTANE (by appointment)
- 19:00 Opening of the 24th FilmFestival Cottbus
(by invitation only)



WEDNESDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER 2014

- 9:15 **Individual Pitching Preparation**
with Martina Bleis and Marjorie Bendeck
>>> ROOM FONTANE (by appointment)
- 10:00 **Audience Design – Closed Workshop with two Selected Projects**
with Nicolò Gallio and Juan Morali – in cooperation with TorinoFilmLab,
supported by Creative Europe Desk Berlin-Brandenburg
>>> ROOM SCHILLER
- 13:30 **Introduction and Lunch for Participants with Projects**
>>> ROOM GOETHE (by invitation only)
- 14:30 **Workshop: Talking About Films – from an Audience Perspective I**
Pitching – to an audience. Why connecting with the right people can be an
advantage in creating and financing your film. A workshop about humans.
with Peter Buckingham, SampoMedia – presented by Maia Workshops
>>> ROOM FONTANE
- 16:00 **Workshop: Talking About Films – from an Audience Perspective II**
>>> ROOM FONTANE
- 17:00 **Workshop: Budgeting and Workflow of Digital Post-Production**
with Michael Reuter – presented by The Post Republic
>>> ROOM FONTANE

- 17:30 **Audience Design – closed follow-up meeting for two selected projects**
 >>> ROOM SCHILLER
- 17:00 **closed meeting: Polish-German Co-Production**
 Roundtable – in cooperation with the Polish Film Institute
 (by invitation only)
- 21:00 **Get-Together** – hosted by the Polish Film Institute
 (by invitation only)

THURSDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER 2014

- 09:00 Accreditation
- 10:30 **Official Opening**
 >>> ROOM COSIEBUS
- 10:45 **Panel: Funding News**
 >>> ROOM COSIEBUS
 guests:
 Alessandro Gropplero (*Friuli Venezia Giulia Audiovisual Fund*)
 Sonja Heinen (*World Cinema Fund*)
 Brigitta Manthey (*Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg*)
 Mirsad Purivatra (*Sarajevo Film Festival, tbc*)
 Nathalie Streiff (*Institut français*)
 moderation: Simone Baumann
- 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 **Arrange Your Dates for the One2One Meetings**
Voting for the coco Best Pitch Award 2014
 >>> ROOM GOETHE
- 20:00 **Networking Reception**
 hosted by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg and MDM
 Presentation of the winners: coco Best Pitch Award and coco Post Pitch Award
 (by invitation only)

FRIDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER 2014

09:00 **One2One-Meetings I**

>>> ROOM GOETHE

09:45 **Open Workshop: Audience Design – Two Strategy Sketches**

How to get to the audience? Two practical examples of selected coco projects for which the two audience designers have developed strategic ideas.

Presentation and Q&A

with Nicolò Gallio and Juan Morali – in cooperation with TorinoFilmLab, supported by Creative Europe Desk Berlin-Brandenburg

>>> ROOM COSIEBUS

11:00 **One2One-Meetings II**

>>> ROOM GOETHE

12:00 **Open Workshop: Ideas towards Wants and Needs – Discussing Chances and Prospects of the Polish-German Co-Development Fund**

with Robert Balinski (*Polish Film Institute*), Brigitta Manthey (*Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg*) and Oliver Rittweger (*MDM*)

moderated by Martin Blaney – in cooperation with the Polish Film Institute

>>> ROOM COSIEBUS

13:00 **Networking Lunch**

(by invitation only)

14:00 **One2One-Meetings III**

>>> ROOM GOETHE

14:30 **Focus coco: Previous coco Projects in Progress**

guests: Torsten Frehse (*Neue Visionen Filmverleih*), Nicole Gerhards (*NiKo Films*), Ingmar Trost (*Sutor Kolonko*) et.al.

moderation: Martin Blaney

>>> ROOM COSIEBUS



»»» THREE PITCH AWARDS

COCO BEST PITCH AWARD

This year will see 13 creative teams from 12 countries vying with one another at the annual project pitching forum to attract the interest of potential co-producers, financiers and 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. 2014 will be the second time that the award includes an accreditation for the award-winning producer to the "Producers Network" at the next Cannes Film Festival, sponsored by Producers Network Cannes.

COCO SPECIAL PITCH AWARD

Winning one of the main awards of the FilmFestival Cottbus is linked each year with the connecting cottbus Special Pitch Award. In 2013, the German director Thomas Sieben won the main prize of the German-Polish Youth Film competition with his film THE DAM. This year, we welcome his producer Jamila Wenske and him to pitch their new project.

COCO POST PITCH AWARD

For the fourth time, the post production 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 Danijel Hocevar Vertigo/Emotion-film, Jörg Schneider, commissioning editor at ZDF/Das Kleine Fernsehspiel, and Michael Reuter (The Post Republic) have agreed to serve on the jury.

COTTBUS CONNECTING DIVERSITY THE 24TH FILMFESTIVAL COTTBUS EXPLORES EASTERN EUROPEAN FILMS BETWEEN NA- TIONAL HITS AND INDEPENDENT CINEMA

From November 4-9, the FilmFestival Cottbus is showing the whole variety of East European film-making for the 24th time. Three competitions and ten programme sections with 164 films from 35 countries invite viewers to a journey through Eastern Europe and beyond.

While the main competition mixes commercial and strict art-house approaches, featuring a variety of styles from direct cinema and romantic dramas to war action movies, the 'Spectrum' section focuses on independent films which show artistic styles beyond any classification, and the "National Hits" section presents box-office hits from several Eastern European countries. The 'Focus' section sees the FilmFestival Cottbus continuing its cinematic exploration of East European diversity under the title of "queerEAST". Focusing on films about LGBTIQ issues in Eastern Europe, it explores a crucial issue when it comes to civil rights in this region. A special section will cast a spotlight on Ukraine as a film region, while the 'globalEAST' section looks for evidence of links in film-making between Eastern Europe and Italy.

The programme of the 24th FilmFestival Cottbus also features three films which were previously pitched at connecting cottbus and have been premiered at international film festivals this year. Participants of connecting cottbus have free entrance to the festival screenings during the duration of connecting cottbus. Please note the ticket distribution regulations of the FilmFestival Cottbus.

>>> www.filmfestivalcottbus.de

SELECTED FILMS IN THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

The programme of the FilmFestival Cottbus 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 at the festival website www.filmfestivalcottbus.de

Jelena Angelovski, Monja Jovic
(Producers)

>>> THE HEALING

Serbia 2014 | 88 min

Fri., 7.11., 19:30 Obenkino

Sun., 9.11., 12:00 Kammerbühne

Mina Djukic (Producer, director)

>>> THE DISOBEDIENT

Serbia 2014 | 112 min.

Fri., 7.11., 16:30 Stadthalle

Sat., 8.11., 14:00 Weltspiegel

Svetoslav Draganov

(Producer, director)

>>> LIFE ALMOST WONDERFUL

Bulgaria, Belgium 2013 | 82 min

Fri., 7.11., 19:00 Kammerbühne

Volodymyr Filippov (Producer)

>>> IVAN THE POWERFUL

Ukraine 2013 | 90 min

Wed., 5.11., 21:00 Kammerbühne

Sun., 9.11., 12:30 Weltspiegel

Keiko Funato (Sales Agent)

>>> FOR SOME INEXPLICABLE REASON

Hungary 2014 | 96 min

Thur., 6.11., 21:30 Weltspiegel

Robert Hofferer (Producer)

>>> THE WOODS ARE STILL GREEN

Austria, Slovenia 2014 | 107 min

Thur., 6.11., 15:00 Stadthalle

Fri., 7.11., 12:30 Weltspiegel

Nicole Gerhards (Co-Producer)

pitched at connecting cottbus 2012:

>>> THREE WINDOWS AND A HANGING

Kosovo, Germany 2014 | 93 min

Wed., 5.11., 17:30 Stadthalle

Thur., 6.11., 10:00 Weltspiegel

Michael Kaczmarek (Co-Producer)

>>> CORRECTIONS CLASS

Russia, Germany 2014 | 89 min

Fri., 7.11., 22:00 Stadthalle

Sat., 8.11., 10:00 Weltspiegel

Kirill Krasovskij (Producer)

>>> SHOES FROM TRIESTE

Germany 2014 | 11 min

Sat., 8.11., 14:30 Kammerbühne



Zaza Rusadze (Producer, director)

»»» **A FOLD IN MY BLANKET**

Georgia 2013 | 75 min

Wed., 5.11., 19:00 Kammerbühne

Guillaume de Seille, Eike Goreczka
(Co-producers)

»»» **CORN ISLAND**

Georgia, Germany, France, Czech
Republic, Kazakhstan 2014 | 100 min

Wed., 5.11., 19:30 Stadthalle

Thur., 6.11., 14:00 Weltspiegel

Alex Traila (Co-producer)

»»» **LATE SEASON**

Italy, Romania, Greece 2014 | 81 min

Fri., 7.11., 15:00 Kammerbühne

Jörg Trentmann (Producer)

»»» **THE EAST GERMANS**

Germany 2014 | 90 min

Wed., 5.11., 19:00 Glad-House-Saal

Ingmar Trost (Co-Producer)

pitched at connecting cottbus 2011:

»»» **MODRIS**

Latvia, Greece, Germany 2014 | 98 min

Thur., 6.11., 17:30 Stadthalle

Fri., 7.11., 10:00 Weltspiegel

Maya Vitkova (Producer, director)

»»» **VIKTORIA**

Bulgaria, Romania 2014 | 155 min

Thur., 6.11., 18:30 Weltspiegel

Olga Zhurzhenko (Producer)

»»» **GAMER**

Ukraine 2011 | 92 min

Sat., 8.11., 12:00 Kammerbühne

Olga Zhurzhenko (Producer)

»»» **THE TRUMPETER**

Ukraine 2014 | 80 min

Sat., 8.11., 14:00 Stadthalle

pitched at connecting cottbus in 2009:

»»» **BELLA MIA**

Czech Republic, Poland 2013 | 92 min

Sat., 8.11., 12:00 Stadthalle

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

VIDEO SCREENINGS

Participants of connecting cottbus are welcome 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 the connecting cottbus team.

WIFI, 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.



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

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>>> funding partners

medienboard
Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH



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Medienförderung

>>> coco post pitch award sponsor



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>>> organizer

**FilmFestival
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