



CONNECTING COTTBUS 10.—11. NOV 2016

EAST WEST CO-PRODUCTION MARKET
AT THE FILMFESTIVAL COTTBUS

connecting cottbus presents its up to date programme providing outstanding innovations at a new festival location

18th edition of coco to feature a new main location at the historic Stadthaus, a focus on Ukraine and the new Midpoint Scholarship Award in addition to the customary roster of pitchings, presentations and events

Cottbus, November 3, 2016 – For its upcoming 18th edition, connecting cottbus, the East-West co-production market at the FilmFestival Cottbus, will introduce a mix of several new features as well as the tried-and-tested pitchings, cocoLab format, panels and networking events that have established coco as one of the main film industry events of its kind. This year's record number of more than 120 applications from 35 countries for its 10 slots for project pitches testifies to its international attractiveness, as does the record level accredited film professionals who will use the event for the latest news on the state of East-West co-productions and topics such as Video on Demand and Audience Development.

Several features are increasing coco's appeal this year. coco was able to secure the historic **Stadthaus Cottbus** as its new main hub, offering improved facilities for events as well as spaces for work and informal networking.

In another innovation, coco will present one pitch project out of competition in cooperation with Midpoint. Ten additional projects will compete for four coco awards:

An expert jury will select the winner of the **coco Post Pitch Award**, sponsored by the *The Post Republic* and consisting of post-production services to the value of € 25.000.

All *coco* participants will select the **coco Best Pitch Award**, a cash prize of €1.500 sponsored by Berliner *Synchron* as well as the **coco Producers Network Award** consisting in an accreditation to the Producers Network at the Marché du Film in Cannes.

Another first this year is the cooperation between cocoLab and Midpoint awarding the new **Midpoint Scholarship Award** that enables one cocoLab project to participate in the Midpoint Feature Launch. The professional script development program is intended for young and emerging film professionals with first and second feature film projects and professional short films.

For the second year running, coco will host the Polish-German Co-Production Roundtable, joining forces with Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Mitteldeutsche Medienstiftung, the Polish Film Institute and the Film Commission Poland to invite leading producers from Poland and Germany to discuss opportunities for co-production.

At its **Focus Ukraine** coco will present Ukrainian co-production possibilities, case studies and Ukrainian Works-in-Progress EGREGOR (Solar Media Entertainment), NIRVANA GUEST HOUSE (Pronto Film) & REPUBLIC PILGRIM (Toy Cinema) together with the Odessa International Film Festival and the Ukrainian State Film Agency.

connecting cottbus is supported by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH, the Creative Europe/MEDIA Program of the European Union and MDM Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung GmbH. The award winners will be presented on November 10th:

coco Best Pitch Award – donated by Berliner Synchron

coco Post Pitch Award – donated by The Post Republic

coco Producers Network Award – donated by Producers Network

Midpoint Scholarship Award - donated by Midpoint

Cottbus Discovery Script Doctoring Award – donated by EastWest Filmdistribution

Full list of selected pitch projects:

Berliner by Marian Crisan, produced by Anca Puiu for Mandragora (Romania)

Hornet in a bottle by Vít Zapletal, produced by Mikuláš Novotný for Background Films (Czech Republic)

SAF by Ali Vatansever, produced by Selin Vatansever Tezcan for Terminal Film (Turkey)

Sister by Dina Duma, produced by Marija Dimitrova for List Production (Macedonia)

Strawberry Jam by Sasa Peric, produced by Petar Mitric for IGNIS (Serbia) and Per Damgaard Hensen for Masterplan Pictures (Denmark)

The Heirs by Svetozar Golovlev, produced by Julia Vorobieva for ZaFilm (Germany) and Paweł Tarasiewicz for Amondo Films (Poland)

The Return by Krzysztof Rzączyński, produced by Maciej Rzączyński for East Studio and Piotr Dziecioł for Opus Film (Poland)

Voroshilovgrad by Yaroslav Lodygin, produced by Vladimir Yatsenko for Limelite (Ukraine) and Miklos Gimes for Film Brut (Switzerland)

White Widows by Tanja Brzakovic, produced by Marc Schmidheiny und Wenka von Mikulicz for DCM Pictures (Germany)

With Rules by Dover Kosashvili, produced by Marek Rozenbaum for Transfax Films (Israel)

Further information are available at www.connecting-cottbus.de

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