

Pressrelease 06/2017 | CONNECTING COTTBUS

connecting cottbus 2017 awards **THE FLOOR IS LAVA** by Katerina Gornostai, **CAT IN THE WALL** by Mina Mileva & Vesela Kazakova and in its new Work in Progress competition **VOROSHILOVGRAD** by Yaroslav Lodygin

Cottbus, November 9, 2017 – This year's awards at connecting cottbus go to the **Floor Is Lava**, **Cat In The Wall** and **Voroshilovgrad**. Eleven selected pitch projects and four Work in Progress (WiP) presented themselves in search for European coproduction partners, organized in parallel with FilmFestival Cottbus. At its 19th edition, the international projects competed for five coco awards and were granted in Cottbus tonight.

The **coco Post Pitch Award 2017** of EUR 25.000 in postproduction services sponsored by The Post Republic went to the project **Cat In The Wall** from Bulgaria/UK by producers/directors **Mina Mileva & Vesela Kazakova**. A Bulgarian single mother living on social housing estate provides home for a lost cat. This simple act provokes an avalanche of problems portraying current British society. **Cat In The Wall** was selected by an expert jury consisting of Elena Manrique (Indie Sales), Sasha Wieser (EastWest Filmdistribution) and Stefan Kirchhof (The Post Republic).

The **coco Best Pitch Award 2017** was selected by all coco participants and went to **The Floor Is Lava** by **Katerina Gornostai** from Ukraine. At a school with ruthless discipline, "wild" things – love and sensuality – are growing giving 16-year-old Masha a difficult time. **The Floor Is Lava's** producers **Victoria Khomenko** and **Natalia Libet** receive a cash prize of €1,500 sponsored by Berliner Synchron & No Limits Media and, in addition, the **coco Producers Network Award**: an accreditation to the Producers Network at the Marché du Film in Cannes.

The new **coco WiP Award 2017**, of EUR 35.000 in postproduction services sponsored by D-Facto Motion went to the project **Voroshilovgrad** by **Yaroslav Lodygin** from Ukraine. A sunny, humourous adventure through the Wild Plains of Eastern Ukraine. Herman Korolyov comes back to his hometown finding himself fighting against the local mafia and in love with Olga. **Voroshilovgrad** was selected by an expert jury consisting of Laurent Danilou (Loco Films), Julia Sinkevych (Odessa International Film Festival) and Colin Ullmann (D-Facto Motion).

The **Midpoint Scholarship Award**, which arises from the cooperation between cocoLab and Midpoint that this year included a presentation of a Midpoint

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Selection, went to **Leave No Traces** by Jan P. Matuszyński. The award enables this film project to participate in the Midpoint Feature Launch, a professional script and development program for emerging film professionals.

coco supporters and partners

connecting cottbus is supported by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH, the Creative Europe/MEDIA Program of the European Union and MDM Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung GmbH.

Sponsoring partners are Stadt Cottbus, Creative Europe Desk Berlin-Brandenburg MEDIA, Midpoint, Serial Eyes, Film Center Serbia, Polish Film Institute, Austrian Film Institut gender *in* equality and Creative Europe Desk Austria MEDIA

Supporting partners of connecting cottbus are EWA, ProPro, Pro Quote Regie, Odesa International Film Festival, CinELink Sarajevo, EAVE, TIFF Transilvania International Film Festival and *Meetings on the Bridge*.

The coco Post Pitch Award 2017 is sponsored by The Post Republic

The coco Best Pitch Award 2017 is sponsored by Berliner Synchron & No Limits Media

The coco Producers Network Award 2017 is sponsored by Producers Network

The coco WiP Award 2017 is sponsored by D-Facto Motion

The Midpoint Scholarship Award 2017 is sponsored by Midpoint

More information about connecting cottbus can be found online at

<http://www.connecting-cottbus.de/> or on facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/connecting.cottbus>.

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