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**MANNHEIM MEETINGS project “DRUM” in Semaine de la Critique programme
Mannheim Newcomers in Cannes’ Competition**

May 16, 2005 --- A remarkably high number of directors discovered at the International Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg and projects supported by the MANNHEIM MEETINGS have been selected for this year’s Cannes programme.

Korean director Hong Sangsoo, whose “CONTE DE CINEMA” is screened in Cannes Competition, showed one of his first films, “THE TURNING GATE”, in Mannheim-Heidelberg in 2002.

Cannes Competition also includes “KILOMETRE ZERO” by Iraqi Kurdish director Hiner Saleem who presented his very first feature film “VIVE LA MARIEE” in Mannheim-Heidelberg and received the Audience Award in 1998.

“DRUM” by South African director Zola Maseko has found its way to Cannes’ Semaine de la Critique after presenting the project at the Mannheim Meetings where he found a UK-based co-production partner for “DRUM”.

“We are happy to be the starting point for so many brilliant careers”, says festival director Dr. Michael Koetz. “We feel encouraged to continue the successful support of arthouse film through our Newcomers’ festival and the MANNHEIM MEETINGS.”

Each year the International Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg attracts more than 1.100 professional guests and 60.000 visitors from all over the world.
Roundabout 200 producers attend the MANNHEIM MEETINGS.
The MANNHEIM MEETINGS are substantially subsidized by MEDIA plus.

Mannheim Meetings for Coproduction 2005 take place from November 21 to 25, 2005 during the 54th International Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg (November 17 to 26, 2005).
Deadline for Product submissions for the Coproduction Meetings 2005: August 15, 2005.
Website: <http://www.mannheim-filmfestival.com>

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