

55. Internationales Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg

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The 10th MANNHEIM MEETINGS to begin next week

Mannheim-Heidelberg, 7th of November 2006 --- The preparations for the 10th MANNHEIM MEETINGS run at top gear in order to make the business event again one of the most important markets for international coproduction, sales and distribution in the arthouse film arena.

The 63 projects, from experienced as well as from first time producers and directors who are looking for cofinancing partners at the MANNHEIM MEETINGS, come from 39 countries. The Mannheim marketplace also encompasses sales opportunities for arthouse films: 25 world sales and producers from 8 countries gather at the MANNHEIM MEETINGS in order to sell their films. They meet with roundabout 25 distributors and broadcasting corporations from 11 European countries. „We are very happy about the strong presence of buyers and sellers from Spain and Turkey“, says Gudula Meinzolt, Manager of the MANNHEIM MEETINGS.

Another focus of the Mannheim business platform lies on a training and support programme that offers exchanges and training opportunities for producers, world sales and distributors. „We are very lucky to have some of the most important professionals from various European countries, like Spain, Poland, Denmark, the US and Germany to provide the training“, says Meinzolt.

The programme will focus on post-production in particular. Luis Ángel Ramirez, producer from Spain, will introduce the participants to new challenges and opportunities of digital post-production. The most important topic is the financing of European arthouse films, however. The crisis of European arthouse films, but also the search for new resources and opportunities for cooperation among the different players shall be discussed at a roundtable with representatives from public and private funds, broadcasting corporations and world sales.

For young producers in particular, ideas on how to present a project are important. They will be presented by Uta Ganschow, the head of the Nipkow programme in Berlin since many years.

A workshop held by Dr. Martin Blaney, Screen International correspondent in Germany, will focus on enhancing the cooperation with the media in order to draw attention to a project. Further trainings will cover topics like project marketing (workshop with Rikke Ennis from Trust Films Sales, Denmark), sales opportunities of European arthouse films in the USA (Peter Belsito, „Filmfinders“), strategies to avoid conflicts when elaborating coproduction (lecture by media lawyer Wolfgang Brehm) and film consumption of the future (Cay Wesnigk).

The MANNHEIM MEETINGS take place from 20 to 24 November. They are substantially supported by the European MEDIA Programme.

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