

The Newcomers' Festival**18.-27. November 2004**

“Worlds of Experiences” at the 53rd International Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg 2004

Upbeat with “Tideline” by Wajdi Mouawad - Arrival of star guests Wim Wenders and Edgar Reitz awaited

Mannheim-Heidelberg, 19 November 2004 (IFMH)---Starting with a powerful opening film from Canada the 53rd International Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg will be officially opened tonight: “Tideline” by Lebanese director Wajdi Mouawad is the upbeat of this year’s festival and impressively demonstrates the keynote of this year’s programme: young, wild cinema which reflects the directors’ worlds of experiences and dares a new cinematographic approach on our societies at the same time.

Master of Cinema Award to Wim Wenders and Edgar Reitz

Edgar Reitz and Wim Wenders will be honoured Master of Cinema and receive the prestigious award of the festival. Edgar Reitz will present all 30 parts of his trilogy “Heimat”. The German filmmaker is expected to arrive on 21 November to a gala night and the award ceremony.

Wim Wenders is the festival’s second guest of honour, he will present his most recent film “Land of Plenty” on 24 November. Yet more importantly his 5-hours-long director’s cut version of “Until the end of the World” will be screened the following day, a hard-to-sell, magnificent masterpiece which is to be screened for the third time worldwide only.

Programme 2004

40 films from 28 countries are in the two main categories “International Competition” and “International Discoveries”. Among them are films from countries that are often under-represented in cinemas, like Taiwan, Macedonia, Bulgaria. There are 6 world premieres and 34 German, European and International premieres. In the shortfilm competition there are seven films, and nine films in the shortfilm discoveries. Only directors who are not yet discovered internationally have been selected for the programme. In a side programme the festival will screen a selection of films from the London Film School.

Facts and Figures

The festival expects more than 60.000 guests in total. The roundabout 1000 professional visitors mostly come from abroad (Europe, Canada and Latin America). More than 50 directors, 140 journalists, 60 film buyers, 150 producers and 90 sales agents and distributors are on the guest list.

The International Jury

Don Boyd (London Film School), Henry Arnold (main protagonist in “Heimat”), L.M. Kit Carson (author, producer, director), Lissy Bellaiche (Consultant) and Tiziana Soudani (producer) are this year’s International Jury.

Mannheim Meetings

The new Africa section of the Mannheim Meetings for Coproduction is represented with seven projects and completes the already established Western European, Eastern European, Canadian and Latin American sections. 65 projects from 28 countries want to find cofinancing partners this year. In total 400 prearranged one-on-one meetings will take place, 200 more take place on an informal basis. The projects’ financial volume is roundabout 120 million Euro.

Roundabout 20 distributors, 30 sales agents and four TV channels meet at the Mannheim Meetings for Sales&Distribution. This industry platform - unique in Europe - takes place for the third time already. It completes the film production chain from the script to the audience. 500 one-on-one meetings will be arranged here, among the participants are renowned companies like Trust Fims (Dogma). The Mannheim Meetings take place from Sunday to Thursday.

Mannheim Market Service

Roundabout 100 film buyers will watch and buy films, among them are well known companies like Kirch Media and ZDF Spielfilm/arte from Germany, TVP (TV channel) from Poland, YLE (TV channel) from Finland.

Film stills from the programme can be downloaded from http://www.mannheim-filmfestival.com/de/Presse/Download_Area/