

Connecting Cottbus

12.-13.11.2009

East West Co-production Market
at the FilmFestival Cottbus

pool production GmbH
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Press release
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Connecting Cottbus presents 14 new feature film ideas

The East-West co-production market **Connecting Cottbus** will be held for the 11th time from **12-13 November, 2009** during the FilmFestival Cottbus.

As a meeting place for an active producers' network from more than 22 countries, **Connecting Cottbus** has concentrated on the initiation of co-productions between Eastern and Western Europe. 13 promising projects were selected in September out of more than 50 submissions from 21 countries to be presented in November to an audience of European professionals in order to find partners for a successful realisation. A 14th project will be presented as a **Special Pitch**.

The jury is composed of representatives from Medienboard Berlin Brandenburg, Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung (MDM), Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk (MDR), Rundfunk Berlin Brandenburg (RBB), the Nipkow Programme, MEDIA Antenna Berlin Brandenburg and German Films.

The selected projects offer a rich diversity of small, personal stories through to historical or political subjects. There are tragic and comic-satirical moments, big emotions, cold observations - and cows that are more human than humans! The selected directors not only have their own particular style, but can also furnish evidence of their first successes at international festivals, while the co-production market can also benefit from the production companies' experiences in their respective countries (all projects at www.connecting-cottbus.de).

Gabriele Brunnenmeyer, artistic director of **Connecting Cottbus**: *Many interesting projects were submitted this year and it wasn't easy to make the selection. However, we have a winning mixture and we are really looking forward to the reactions of the participating producers and financiers.*

The pitching session will be opened on November 12, 2009 by the winner of the **CoCo Special Pitch Award 2008**, a prize underscoring the synergies between the film festival and the co-production market by enabling the main prize-winner of the FilmFestival Cottbus to pitch their next project at **Connecting Cottbus** the following year. This year will see the Kira Saksaganskaya (producer) and Alexey Uchitel (director) presenting the idea for a lyrical comedy with "Lilliputians".

2009 will once again see the participants of Connecting Cottbus competing for the **CoCo Best Pitch Award**. The Development Award has a cash prize of 3,000 Euro and is donated by *EastWest FilmDistribution* from Vienna. All of the 14 projects presented in Cottbus are automatically in the running for this prize. The best pitch is voted on by the professional audience following the event, and the winner of the Award is announced during an evening reception by Medienboard and MDM.

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Connecting Cottbus is supported by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, the MEDIA Programme of the European Union and Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung. **Connecting Cottbus** is organised by pool production GmbH.

The partners of **Connecting Cottbus** are Robert Bosch Stiftung, MEDIA Antenna Berlin Brandenburg, CineLink, EAVE - European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs, the Moscow Co-production Forum, and the Nipkow Programme in Berlin.

Interested film professionals can still register up to **9 October, 2009**. Further information at www.connecting-cottbus.de

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