



Interesting personalities in Special Events section

PRESS RELEASE

Bratislava, November 14, 2008 – **This year's International Film Festival Bratislava will not miss out Special Events section either.** The anniversary 10th year's selection is exceptional in many ways and the audience can expect many remarkable guests. Selected movies will offer a possibility to acquaint with lives of a fashion icon, unconventional photographer and film directors, but also less known people depicted in their everyday and at the same time exceptional world. The documentaries are also accompanied by feature films, e. g. by Madonna's directing debut, or one of the best movies with the topic of computer hacking.

Peter Nágel, Festival's program director and the section's compiler, chose 12 movies for Special Events section which are linked by one motif - personalities: „This section brings several full-length documentaries, four of which show outstanding personalities of the world culture in a different way than they are covered by tabloid media. An icon of the world fashion Valentino, always unbelievably unconventional photographer Annie Leibovitz, brilliant Russian filmmaker Andrej Tarkovskij, or world-known Hungarian director István Szabó – all in pictures and words of imaginative expressions. Also Madonna will introduce herself, although just in the background, but with adequate expectations – as a beginning director bringing her typically named movie *Filth and Wisdom*, says P.Nágel about this section. Besides these stories of world-known personalities the audience will also have the possibility to acquaint with the story of less known but talented author – recidivist René Plášil, whom important Czech documentarist Helena Třeštková watched through her camera's lens for more than 20 years. This film won European Film Academy prize Prix Arte for the best European documentary of the year.

Several personalities presented in Special Events section had substantial influence in their field of work. The photos of Hollywood celebrities as well as war conflicts by Annie Leibovitz are seen all over the world. The film *Annie Leibovitz: Life Through A Lens* by Barbara Leibovitz, the photographer's younger sister, captures Annie's ability to keep her own face also in dramatic situations. This documentary is a part of television series American Masters which won three Emmys during its broadcasting.

Similarly as Leibovitz by her photos also another of presented personalities had really legendary influence on his field of work. In the documentary of Matt Tyrnauer *Valentino: The Last Emperor*, the lens is focused on extraordinary life of the grand master of recent fashion. „Maestro dolce vita“ and one of the most extravagant fashion design icons Valentino recapitulates his life story and uncovers principal topics which determine fashion business. The relationship between the famous designer and Giancarlo Giametti, his business partner and companion who has accompanying him for more than 50 years creates the thread of the movie.

Young Russian director Dmitri Trakovsky decided to search for the heritage of his most loved filmmaker, a giant of world cinematography – Andrej Tarkovskij (1932-1986). His documentary

tries to capture Tarkovskij's philosophy, works and personal features. In the film consisting of fifteen interviews in USA, Italy, Sweden and Russia those who were closest to this ingenious director will appear. The film won IFF Sao Paolo 2008 Special Jury Prize.

Besides documentaries the Special **Events** section also brings several interesting feature films. One of the personalities largely influencing world showbusiness during last decades is indubitably Madonna – singer, dancer, model, writer, producer, and thanks to the movie *Filth and Wisdom* also director now. The topic of Madonna's directing debut which had the world première at this year's Berlinale, is an everyday life of people forced to do any work to survive. Protagonists of the film are Andrij Kristijan (A.K.) who tries to make an international breakthrough with his group, dancer in a men's club Holly dreaming about a career of prima ballerina, and Juliette who tries to help people in third world countries behind the counter of a drugstore. The role of A.K. is played by Eugene Hutz, leader of famous Gypsy punk-rock band Gogol Bordello, so their fans can look forward not only to the band's music but also all band members appearing in the movie.

Another feature film in this section is a mystical thriller 23. The story of nineteen years old hacker Karl Koch whom his hacking abilities led to the centre of political mechanisms and later to the loss of control over reality captivated juries at international festivals in Locarno, Gijon and Munich. This film is a successful work of director Hans-Christian Schmid whose films regularly appear in Bratislava festival (*Distant Lights* in 2004, *Requiem* in 2006).

Also film *Ivetka and the Mountain* by director Vít Janeček was selected to Special **Events** section. It shows an young woman who after several years assesses her spiritual experience from 1990 when Holy Mary appeared before her at East Slovakia mountain Zvir. This film won the prize for the Best Czech Documentary of 2008 at IFF Jihlava. Also the documentary *The Inheritors* explores child's world - director Eugenio Polgovsky tries to capture everyday reality of Mexican children who are forced to work hard.

**The Anniversary 10th International Film Festival Bratislava will take place from
November 28 to December 5, 2008, in Palace Cinemas multiplex in Aupark.**

Main Organizers of the Festival:

Partners Production, Co. Ltd.
Ars Nova, Civic Association
Agency Promotion, Co. Ltd.

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