

→ PROGRAMM INFORMATION

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i Competition feature and short feature

Ten feature films and eleven short features are competing at the 19th FilmFestival Cottbus (Nov. 10th-15th, 2009) for the main award LUBINA. All of them are very recent productions: Eligible for the feature film competition are only productions from Eastern Europe with a length of 60 Minutes or more which have been completed after Jan. 1st, 2008. The short feature competition gives a forum to the talent of young film makers. An international festival jury consisting of Kira Saksaganskaya, Roman Gutek, Robert Stadlober, Srđan Golubovic and Pinar Erincin will choose the winner of the feature film awards.

The geographical range of the feature competition films reaches from the Balkans to the Caucasus area: ALIVE (Albania, Austria, France 2008) tells the story of 22-year-old student Koli, who suddenly finds himself trapped in an old blood feud. THE 40th DOOR (Azerbaijan 2009) presents a poetic and at the same time realistic view of everyday life in Azerbaijan. THE CONFLICT ZONE (Georgia 2009) around Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia is the topic of the equally named film. Croatian task force THE BLACKS (Croatia 2009) have to learn that their true enemy lies within themselves. A co-production from Serbia, ORDINARY PEOPLE (France, Serbia, Switzerland 2008), centers around an (unnamed) war zone where a young soldier has to follow an order which will change his life.

Films from Central Eastern Europe have the topics of yearning for a better life (FOXES, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ireland 2009), coming of age in a shallow world of consumption (MALL GIRLS, Poland 2009) and relationships without love (I AM NOT YOUR FRIEND, Hungary 2009). The Russian production scene has regained strength and is present in the feature competition with two productions: BUBEN BARABAN (Russia 2009), telling of hidden cruelty in relationship and society, and FIRST SQUAD (Russia, Japan, Canada 2009), a Russian documentary anime-fairy tale in the style of Japanese Manga.

Long Nights for Short Films

The short feature competition presents recent productions from Eastern Europe with a length of less than 30 minutes. The eleven nominees from ten Eastern European countries will be shown during the "Long Night of Short Film", which has always been a crowd puller at the festival. The films cover a broad variety of themes and styles. Regionally, they span from the Baltics to Central Asia, whereby Croatia is the only cinematography present with two productions. Themes are a rude awakening on a war graveyard (THE PARTY, Croatia 2009), an early retired lady who ponders her life (THE PALM LINES, Romania 2009), a Bulgarian peasant who meets an eccentric American tourist (BIRDS OF HEAVEN, Bulgaria 2008), a teenager who has to "babysit" her grandmother (BABA, Czech Republic 2008), and two boys who are confronted with a recently committed murder (ECHO, Poland 2009).

At "Long Night of Short Film 2" a girl makes a shocking discovery while AT SEREZHA'S (Russia 2009), the people on a deserted Earth wait for the end of the world in 2147 (CLOUD CATCHER, Slovenia 2009), a model drunkenly falls asleep on the beach and is roused by a young fan (THE BREAKWATER, Latvia 2009). A traditional wooden bridge is being replaced by a more modern construction in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan (THE BRIDGE, Kyrgyzstan 2009), a couple is looking for their past love (INTERIOR, APARTMENT, NIGHT, Croatia 2008), and a father bonds with his daughter (COMING OUT, Hungary 2008).

Eight of the competing productions will have their International or German premiere at the "Long Night of Short Films". The award is being decided upon by an international jury consisting of Milena Gregor, Robert Gwisdek and Jan Naszewski.

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