

# Friday 26th, 2005

## Human Rights

### 89 Millimeter

*Germany / Belarus 2004/05 Running time: 77' Director: Sebastian Heinzl Camera: Eugen Schlegel Editor: Lena Rem Production: Kloos und Co. Contact: 89mm@kloosundco.de*

**About the film:** 89 Millimeter: This distance stands for the little difference between living in Belarus and in Western Europe. In Belarus the railway tracks are 89 millimetres wider than elsewhere in Europe. Belarus is situated right beyond the border of the new European Union. A gateway to another world. Some say, Belarus is home to the last dictatorship in Europe. 89 Millimeter is a film about coming of age. A young German filmmaker wants to find out how free people of his age really are in this country. He meets a political refugee, members of the resistance, a house painter who only recently was released from jail, a Go-Go-dancer, a journalist without any prospects and a patriotic soldier devoted to his country. The result is a stunning portrait of a post-soviet generation in a young nation that is torn apart between stagnation, protest and departure.

**About the director:** Sebastian Heinzl was born 1979 in Kassel. After the school and his civil service in Philadelphia (USA) he studied film, drama and TV arts in Cologne. While studying he started shooting his own movies and moved to Berlin. He has worked for music television, newspapers and magazines and finally decided to become a documentary filmmaker. His interests are Eastern Europe, subculture, the metropolis and its people. Since 2004 Sebastian Heinzl studies film directing at the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg.

### The Short Films in Competition

#### My dear Muslim...

*Lieber Muslim..., Germany, 2005, Running time: 35' Director: Kerstin Nickig, Screenwriter: Kerstin Nickig, Camera: Alicja Pahl, Editor: Cecylja Pacura, Kerstin Nickig, Sound: Teresa Stepien, Music: Christoph Vonderau, Production: time prints Contact: info@timeprints.de*

**About the film:** "My dear Muslim..." – thus begins Sacita's diary, which she writes for her four-year-old son, Muslim, so that he will one day understand what his parents experienced in the war in Chechnya. Why they fled to Poland. And also, so that he will be able to find his way in an uncertain future, in which, as she believes, his parents may no longer be alive. Sacita, her husband Said-Selim and Muslim are sitting in their small room in the Home for Asylum Seekers in a provincial town in Eastern Poland, awaiting the decision of whether they will be granted asylum or not – in their hearts, they still haven't even "arrived": They are still deeply immersed in the past horrors of war which they have been documenting over the years with photos and video recordings. An intimate portrait of the family and their wartime experiences is created from the photos, their personal accounts and the mother's diary to her small son Muslim.

**About the director:** The film was conceived during the director's one-year study period at the State Film Academy in Łódź together with Alicja Pahl, a student of cinematography, and a German-Polish team. During filming, the director and camerawoman spent more than 6 months in close contact with the protagonists in the Home for Asylum Seekers "Zajazd Zaciszce" in the Eastern Polish town of Lomza.

## **Stella**

*Germany, 2006, Running time: 12' 46", Director: Anke Hentschel, Screenwriter: Oleg Sirotkin, Cast: Luca Steiner, Kay Bartholomäus Schulze, Karl Kranzkowski, Camera: Andreas Bergmann, Editor: Alex Beyer, Sound: David Ziegler, Music: Tilmann Dehnhard, Production: Anke Hentschel, Contact: ankefilms@aol.com*

**About the film:** One night as 7 year old Stella is leading her drunken father home, her love for him is painfully put to the test.

**About the director:** Festival participations/ prices- Filmfestival Max-Ophüls-Preis, 2006 in Saarbrücken/ Germany- KUFIFE 2006 – 7. Kurzfilmfestival der Hochschule der Medien Stuttgart, Jan. 06: 2. Price (audience award)

## **On the Road to Bagan**

*Sulla Strada Per Bagan, Italy, 2005, Running time: 7' 30", Director: Francesco Uboldi, Screenwriter: Francesco Uboldi, Camera: Francesco Uboldi, Editor: Riccardo Banfi, Music: U Ba Than, Production: Francesco Uboldi, Contact: fuboldi@libero.it*

**About the film:** This short documentary is the first part of a hopefully much longer work along the same lines. It tells the very personal but quite exemplary story of a Burmese farmer, met on the road that leads from Mount Popa to Bagan, in Myanmar. Following his everyday activities, listening to his words, watching his smiles, gradually the account throws light on the wider social and political situation in former Burma. The focus is on forced labor, in particular.

## **Punam**

*Serbia and Montenegro, 2005, Running time: 27' Director: Lucian Muntean, Screenwriter: Lucian Muntean, Natasa Stankovic, Camera: Lucian Muntean, Editor: Natasa Stankovic, Sound: Vladimir Moric, Production: Lunaris, Contact: lunaris@eunet.yu*

**About the film:** The child's voice of nine-year-old Punam Tamang transports us to the Nepal city of Bhaktapur. There we are presented with a stark description of the hard life of this young girl and the dismal social conditions in which she lives. The film captures the hard work the children are required to perform and also takes a peek into the poor five-grade school that represents Punam's symbol of hope. She believes that education ushers in progress and is the only opportunity for improving their situation – perhaps bringing about new job opportunities in better conditions. We look at the situation through the eyes of this young Asian girl, who dreams of becoming a teacher and helping other children in situations like hers.

## **Forever**

*Fur Immer, Germany, 2005, Running time: 7' 30" Director: Anna Merz, Screenwriter: Joachim Wilke, Cast: Jens Peter Gust, Anna Sophie Stiegenmann, Camera: Patrick Brucker, Editor: Anna Merz, Sound: Andreas Walter, Production: Patrick Brucker Contact: rosepat58@web.de*

## **Dungeon**

*Italy, 2006, Running time: 10' 40" Director: Lara Abrami, Screenwriter: Lara Abrami, Cast: Barbara Fabbri, Silvia Cascio, Camera: Mattia Cabrini, Editor: Lara Abrami, Sound: Federico Ragone, Music: Lara Abrami Contact: castoroaccorto@libero.it*

## **Non People**

*United Kingdom/Greece Running time: 20' Director: Elena Karathanasi, Screenwriter: Elena Karathanasi, Cast: Bitia Taghavi, Pano Masti, Camera: Steven Priovolos, Editor: Panos Raptis, Sound: Gavin Marshall, Music: Michael J C Evoy, Production: Elena Karathanasi Contact: elkaranatodo@yahoo.gr*

## **The Man With the Suitcase**

*Der Mann mit dem Koffer, Germany, 2005 Running time: 7'00" Director: Thomas Henseler Screenplay: Martin Maurer, Editor: Gregor Wille, Sound: Christian Rieger, Production: GOP 03 GmbH/HFF Konrad Wolf Contact: info@zoomundtinte.de*

**About the film:** "The Man with the Suitcase" is a short film that presents the apparently normal life of a businessman who leaves a loving wife to go to his daily job. However the profession of the main character is shocking. (Amnesty International Human Rights Film Festival)

**About the director:** Thomas Henseler, has studied design and illustration in Norwich/England and Aachen/Germany. He has worked as a storyboard artist for the TV-films "Tsunami" (2004) and "Tornado" (2005). In 2005 he completed studies in animation filmmaking at the Film school (HFF) in Potsdam. "The Man with the Suitcase" is his second work as film director.

### **Brothers**

*Hermanos, Spain 2005 Running time: 12'00" Director and Screenplay: Manu Benavente Cast: Josep Maria Domenech, Manuel Barcelo, Pere Gaspar, Marta Carrasco Camera: Alfonso Garrido, Editor: Manu Benavente, Sound: Global Scpp Music: Ovicio Vega, David Tarraso Production: Manu Benavente/Manual SCCL Contact: manu@produccionsmanual.com*

**About the film:** Twin brothers reach the end of their lives having promised to ensure one another a dignified death. A warm and deeply human film about the right to choose ones own death.

**About the director:** Manu Benavente was born 1970. He has studied fictional and documentary film directing in Spain and in Cuba, as well as cinematography. In the past years he has directed several short films, documentaries and commercials. Benavente has also frequently worked as director for theatre plays.

### **There Are Women in Russian Villages...**

*Russia, 2006, Running time: 27' 33", Director: Pavel Kostomarov/Antoin Kattin, Screenwriter: Pavel Kostomarov/Antoin Kattin, Camera: Pavel Kostomarov/Antoin Kattin, Contact: vitenberg@lfond.spb.ru*

### **Running Boy**

*Belgium, 2006, Running time: 2' 30" Director: David Bonsignore, Screenwriter: David Bonsignore, Cast: Maxime Jacoby, Alexandre Bonsignore, Camera: David Bonsignore, Editor: David Bonsignore, Sound: David Bonsignore, Production: David Bonsignore, Contact: info@octoproductions.be*

### **Theatre in Prison**

*Ukraine, 2006 Running time: 7' 20" Director: Svitlana Oleshko, Screenwriter: Svitlana Oleshko, Camera: Anatoliy Havryliako, Editor: Oleksandra Panchenko Music: Ihor Horpinin/ Dmytro Sahaydak Production: Theatre-studio Arabesques Contact: arabesque@mx.com.ua*