

 **AFI FEST 2005**

**NOV 3-13**

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For Immediate Release

**AFI FEST 2005 AND GERMAN FILMS SERVICE + MARKETING  
UNITE AGAIN TO PRESENT "MADE IN GERMANY"  
THE 6th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF GERMAN FILMS LOS ANGELES**

**EUROPEAN FILM PROMOTION ANNOUNCES 2ND ANNUAL  
"NEW FACES IN EUROPEAN CINEMA" AT AFI FEST 2005**

Los Angeles, October 11, 2005—For the fourth year running, German Films Service + Marketing GmbH joins forces with AFI FEST 2005 presented by Audi to present MADE IN GERMANY—the 6th Annual Festival of German Films Los Angeles. In addition, European Film Promotion announces its honorees for the 2nd Annual NEW FACES IN EUROPEAN CINEMA in collaboration with AFI FEST 2005.

As part of AFI FEST 2005, MADE IN GERMANY showcases contemporary German cinema with six selections—five new feature films and one documentary feature film. This year's lineup represents an exciting cross-section of new voices and visions offering challenging, provocative stories including SOPHIE SCHOLL—THE FINAL DAYS, directed by Marc Rothemund, which is MADE IN GERMANY's opening film on Friday, November 4.

"We are thrilled to debut another strong feature film lineup of new German films here, and that multi award-winner SOPHIE SCHOLL—THE FINAL DAYS is our opening night feature. In 2003, NOWHERE IN AFRICA was our choice for this occasion and it went on to win the Oscar®," says Corina Danckwerts, the US Representative of German Films Service + Marketing GmbH and Co-President of Capture Film International.

SOPHIE SCHOLL—THE FINAL DAYS is Germany's official submission for the Oscars®. It also won the Silver Bear at the 2005 Berlin International Film Festival and the Lola—German Film Awards winner for Best Director and Best Actress. The Lola is Germany's equivalent of the Oscar® and is bestowed by the recently founded German Film Academy. Zeitgeist Films will release SOPHIE SCHOLL—THE FINAL DAYS in February 2006.

MADE IN GERMANY audiences will be the first to see the North American Premieres of THE WEDDING PARTY, directed by Dominique Deruddere; ALMOST HEAVEN, directed by Ed Herzog; and the documentary HORST BUCHHOLZ...MY PAPA, directed by Sandra Hacker and Buchholz' son, Christopher Buchholz. All films are German productions with the exception of ALMOST HEAVEN, which is a joint

German/Jamaican production and *THE WEDDING PARTY*, which is a joint German/Belgian production. The filmmakers will attend the screenings of their films and participate in Q&As with the audience.

In addition, European Film Promotion (EFP) is announcing this year's **NEW FACES IN EUROPEAN CINEMA** honorees. The **NEW FACES** candidates are chosen by EFP member organizations in collaboration with the Festival from one of each of the European countries participating in the venture to showcase Europe's emerging filmmakers. With financial support from the Media Programme of the European Union, EFP is partnering on this 2005 initiative with the Consulates of the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.K. Film Council US.

"We had a very successful inaugural year in 2004 with AFI FEST, which has always supported and promoted European film. This year we are again delighted to introduce a selection of European films that highlight the unique distinctiveness and originality of each of the countries represented and help bring them to as wide an audience as possible," says Claudia Landsberger, President of EFP.

**NEW FACES IN EUROPEAN CINEMA** is presented in partnership with European Film Promotion (EFP) with support from the **MEDIA** Programme of the European Union, and by the participating European Consulates in Los Angeles, and was launched at AFI FEST 2004 to showcase Europe's emerging directing talent and up-and-coming new stars.

One of last year's "New Faces" director Mennan Yapo—whose feature film *SOUNDLESS* was part of the **MADE IN GERMANY** lineup—will next direct *PREMONITION*, starring Sandra Bullock, for TriStar Pictures.

**The 2005 "New Faces of European Cinema" are:**

Paul Strnad, Czech Republic, producer of *WRONG SIDE UP*

Markus Selin, Finland, producer of *ADDICTION*

Christian Alvar, Germany, director of *ANTIBODIES*

Ari Alexander Magnusson, Iceland, director of *SCREAMING MASTERPIECE*

Gijs Van De Westelaken, Netherlands, producer of *06/05 THE SIXTH OF MAY*

Josef Fares, Sweden, director and screenwriter of *ZOZO*

Ruxandra Zenide, Switzerland, director of *RYNA*

Richard Bracewell, U.K., director of *THE GIGOLOS*

EFP and its partners will host an evening reception at AFI FEST on Saturday, November 5, where the **NEW FACES IN EUROPEAN CINEMA** will officially be introduced to the press and industry.

**2005 MADE IN GERMANY Lineup:**

**ALMOST HEAVEN** - Director, Ed Herzog. *North American Premiere.* Helen dreams of traveling to Nashville to play country music. When her life takes a dramatic turn, she leaves her husband behind and gets on a plane. Unfortunately, that plane lands in Jamaica, not Tennessee. Unable to find her way back on track, Helen might be

forced to live out her dreams of playing country music with the backing of steel drums. *Screenings – Tuesday, November 8, 9:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 9, 3:30 p.m.*

**ANTIBODIES** – Director, Christian Alvart. The symbiotic relationship between police and criminals is illustrated in a remarkable creepy tale. A German serial killer has been captured by the police, but he still holds secrets they desperately need. After a series of disturbing interrogations, a story is revealed that will leave one police officer and his family changed forever. *Screenings – Saturday, November 5, 8:45 p.m., Monday, November 7, 12:30 p.m.*

**HORST BUCHHOLZ...MY PAPA** - Directors, Sandra Hacker, Christopher Buchholz. *North American Premiere.* A film portrait that takes us inside the life of a family that revolved for many years around the endearing but difficult international screen star Horst Buchholz. Four years ago, son Christopher began to film conversations with his father, feeling his way slowly towards a dialogue: Buchholz' father was a man full of contradictions but, above all, a man who didn't like to talk about himself. What emerges is at once a sincere documentary and a tragicomic film portrait providing unusual insight into the life of a world-class star and his family. *Screenings – Monday, November 7, 10:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 8, 3:30 p.m.*

**SOPHIE SCHOLL - THE FINAL DAYS** – Director, Marc Rothemund. In the spring of 1943, Sophie and her brother are distributing anti-Hitler flyers in Munich. Caught, arrested and interrogated, we get a bold depiction—told through Sophie's perspective—of one woman's defiance in the face of a potentially fatal situation. *Screenings – Friday, November 4, 7:00 p.m., Saturday, November 5, 3:15 p.m.*

**SUMMER IN BERLIN** - Director, Andreas Dresen. Andreas Dresen's SUMMER IN BERLIN captures a short period in the lives of two women, best friends living in contemporary Berlin. Nike is in a doomed relationship with a trucker, and Katrin is suffering a breakdown after a thwarted rape. But it's Katrin's adolescent son Max who acts as both the glue between them and the narrative's driving force, with his failed seduction of a school friend setting this moment in motion for both the women. *Screenings – Friday, November 11, 6:45 p.m., Sunday, November 13, 2:00 p.m.*

**THE WEDDING PARTY** – Director, Dominique Deruddere. *North American Premiere.* Based on the cult comic book *Lune de Guerre* by Hermann and Van Hamme, THE WEDDING PARTY tells the story of Hermann and his family. It's Hermann's son's wedding and he is determined to get his money's worth. A beautiful countryside restaurant on the German-Belgian border is the setting for the wedding banquet—only the best is good enough for the short-tempered Hermann and his clan. He insults the star chef Franz Berger, after which Franz promptly seals off the inn, holding the bride and mother-in-law ransom. The quiet inn becomes a battlefield. *Screenings – Sunday, November 6, 9:00 p.m., Monday, November 7, 3:45 p.m.*

Other German and German co-productions featured at AFI FEST 2005 presented by Audi are three shorts in competition—ARIE, DETAIL, DELIVERY—as well as the feature films FATELESS, directed by Lajos Koltai; HIDDEN, directed by Michael Haneke; the US Premiere of MERRY CHRISTMAS (France's Official Academy

Award® Foreign Language entry), directed by Christian Carion; the North American Premiere of IN BED, directed by Matias Bize; and THE DEVIL'S MINER, directed by Kief Davidson and Richard Ladkani.

Robert Schwentke, director of the recent box-office hit FLIGHTPLAN, starring Jodie Foster, debuted his film TATTOO at MADE IN GERMANY in 2002.

AFI FEST 2005 presented by Audi will run November 3-13, 2005. Passes are on sale now and individual event tickets go on sale to the public on Friday, October 14, 2005. To order passes and tickets and to get more information, visit [www.AFI.com](http://www.AFI.com) or call 1.866.AFI.FEST.

### **About MADE IN GERMANY**

German Films Service + Marketing GmbH was founded in 1954 and is the information and advisory center for the promotion of German films worldwide with its headquarters in Munich, Germany. The mission and responsibility of furthering the visibility of German films abroad is enhanced through 10 representatives in key territories of the film industry worldwide – Los Angeles, New York, Buenos Aires, Montreal, London, Paris, Madrid, Rome, Tokyo, and Hong Kong.

German Films Service + Marketing is funded by film export levies, the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media and the German Federal Film Board, as well as the regional film funders Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, FilmFernsehFonds Bayern, FilmFoerderung Hamburg, Filmstiftung NRW, MFG Baden-Wuerttemberg, Mitteldeutsche Medienfoerderung, and Nordmedia.

MADE IN GERMANY is celebrating its 6th anniversary this year and was launched by German Films in 2000 as an independent showcase. Now in its fourth year collaboration with AFI FEST, the 6th Annual Festival of German Films Los Angeles was made possible through the cooperation of the AFI FEST team, through the producers, filmmakers, world sales companies and distributors of the programmed films, the MADE IN GERMANY team at Capture Film International, Lufthansa, and with the kind support of the German Consulate General Los Angeles.

For further information and detailed programming information, please visit [www.germanfilmfestival.com](http://www.germanfilmfestival.com). The MADE IN GERMANY Hotline is 323.692.5533.

### **About European Film Promotion**

EFP, founded in 1997, is a network of 24 promotion and export agencies from 25 European countries with its home base in Hamburg. EFP collaborates on an annual basis with festivals in Berlin, Buenos Aires, Cannes, Karlovy Vary, Pusan, Rotterdam, and Toronto with the aim of bringing European cinema, and the talent behind it, to the wider attention of the international press, industry and public. The EFP has an umbrella office at the AFM representing over 20 European countries.

In November, EFP will launch a brand new project in the U.S. – a series of Industry Screenings in N.Y. introducing new European Films to North American buyers. Screenings will take place on November 14 and 15<sup>th</sup> at the Tribeca Film Center.

For further information about the NEW FACES IN EUROPEAN CINEMA program at AFI FEST go to [www.efp-online.com](http://www.efp-online.com).

### **About AFI FEST**

AFI is a national institute providing leadership in screen education and the recognition and celebration of excellence in the art of film, television and digital media. Now in its 19th year, AFI FEST presented by Audi: AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival is the longest-running film festival in Los Angeles and one of the most influential film festivals in North America. The Festival spans 10 days each November, featuring international competitions of brand new films from emerging filmmakers, global showcases of the latest work from the great film masters and nightly red-carpet gala premieres.

In 2004, AFI FEST and the American Film Market established a strategic alliance, creating the only festival/market combination in North America. This alliance has successfully resulted in a unique combination of commerce and culture. The AFM runs November 2-9, 2005. For more information, visit [www.americanfilmmarket.com](http://www.americanfilmmarket.com).

AFI FEST 2005 presented by Audi is supported in part by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, the Cultural Affairs Department of the City of Los Angeles and the Hollywood Sign Trust. Special support is provided by the Academy Foundation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. AFI FEST is proud to continue its collaborative partnership with the Skirball Cultural Center. Made in Germany is made possible through the cooperation and support of the German Film Services + Marketing GMBH. NEW FACES IN EUROPEAN CINEMA is made possible through the cooperation and support of European Film Promotion.

AFI FEST 2005 presented by Audi is sponsored in part by American Airlines, ArcLight Hollywood, Absolut Vodka, Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Best Buy, Eastman Kodak Company, Midway Car Rental, Aquafina and Stella Artois. The New York Times is the Festival's Presenting Media Partner. Additional partners include Indie 103.1, LA Weekly and Univision.

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