

# Film Industry Office nurtures international collaboration

Laura McGinnis

It takes a lot of people to make a movie. At KVIFF, bringing those people together is the job of the Film Industry Office.

"Our objective is to take the directors, producers, distributors, festival programmers, buyers and sellers and create an environment where they can work together," says Andrea Szczuková, head of the KVIFF Film Industry Office.

This year, KVIFF is screening over 200 new films from around the world, and industry representatives from 45 countries will be in attendance. Of those films, 65 are having their world, international or European premiere and 72 are looking for buyers.

In addition to the standard services the Industry Office provides – which include arranging press and industry film screenings, providing facilities for viewing films and networking, and distributing promotional materials – Szczuková and her colleagues arrange special events to facilitate interaction between the industry professionals that visit the festival every year.

"One of our big events is the *East of the West – Works in Progress* session," Szczuková says. This event has been a KVIFF staple for six years. As its name implies, the *Works in Progress* session focuses on films in production or post-production. At this session, producers from 15



Photo: Petr Horník

Andrea Szczuková, head of KVIFF's Film Industry Office.

Central and Eastern European countries will present eight-minute pitches to an audience of international distributors, sales agents, investors and festival programmers. The event will be held in the Grandhotel Pupp on Monday, July 6, from 1pm to 6pm.

In a related event, new this year, nine documentary producers and directors from Central and Eastern Europe will present seven-minute pitches on their ongoing projects. This event, called *Docu Talents from the East*, will be held in the Thermal's Cinema A on July 7 from 10:30am to midday.

This year, for the first time, *Works in Progress* will include five films from Russia. Russia's presence at the festival has fluctuated

over the years, and this year the Industry Office is hosting an event to promote the country's film industry. *Meet the Russians*, on July 7 from 5pm to 6:30pm at the Thermal Hotel, will provide an opportunity for foreign film professionals and Russian filmmakers to network.

The festival will also provide opportunities for filmmakers to network with professionals from the U.S. film industry and discuss international co-productions. Last year's Crystal Globe winner, *Terribly Happy*, was picked up to be remade as an English-language film, largely as a result of a panel discussion organized by the Industry Office. The film is currently in production.

The *Interfacing with Hollywood* panel featured film professionals discussing the challenges of getting a European film made in Hollywood. This year, the panel returns with a new theme: **The Internationalization of the Film Industry**. Also returning are moderator Tomas Baldýnský and panel members Danny Holman, vice president of production and development for Stilling Films, and Melinda Jason, president of the Conspiracy film management and production company. The panel will also include industry professionals from Los Angeles.

"This panel represents the best of old and new Hollywood and the best advice on how to get your films made and seen and distributed globally," Jason says. "We want to advise the very talented people who come here on how to get their products into the mainstream. When you write a script, how do you get it read? When you write a television show, how do you get it on a network? When you want to negotiate a deal, how do you get a lawyer?"

The discussion, which will focus on the state of collaborations between Hollywood and non-U.S. film industries, will discuss these and other issues pertinent to multinational creative partnerships.

The *Interfacing with Hollywood* panel will be held today from 2pm to 4pm in the Grandhotel Pupp's Chopin Lounge.

## FACES

New arrivals at KVIFF today include the directors **Patxi Amezcua** (*25 Carat*), **Goran Rušinović** (*Buick Riviera*),



Tariq Tapa

**Pieter Van Hees** (*Dirty Mind*), **Fredrik Edfeldt** (*The Girl*), **Tom Shankland** (*The Children*), **Noud Heerkens** (*Last Conversation*), **Gergely Fonyó** (*Made in Hungaria*), **Christos Georgiou** (*Small Crime*), **Jitka Rudolfová** (*World's Best Lip Singer*), **Pavel Abrahám** (*Rapublic*), **Miroslav Janek** (*The Confessions of Katerina K.*), and **Peter Liechti** (*The Sound of Insects – Record of a Mummy*). Director/producer **Darko Lungulov** is expected to arrive with actor **Branislav Trifunović** and actress **Mirjana Karanović** (*Here and There*). Directors **Tariq Tapa** (*Zero Bridge*), **Kazuyoshi Kumakiri** (*Non-Ko*), **Ryusuke Hamaguchi** (*Passion*), **Bar Hadas** (*Numb*), and **Fu Tien-Yu** (*Somewhere I Have Never Travelled*) are already at the festival. Actress **Isabelle Huppert** and sales representative **Louis Balsan** (*Villa Amalia*) will also be in town.

Other personalities expected today include actors **Payam Madjlessi** (*For a Moment Freedom*) and **Oldřich Kaiser** (*You Kiss Like God*), actress **Tereza Voříšková** (*Country*

*Teacher*), producer **Scott Franklin** (*The Wrestler*), music composer **Sune Martin**, film editor **Per Sandholt** and DOP **Jesper Toffner** (*Applause*), director/producer **Enric Miró** and producer **Lola Canut** (*Anas: An Indian Film*), director **Abdolreza Kahani** and actor **Mahtab Karamati** (*Twenty*), and director/producer **Vladimír Balko** (*Soul at Peace*). Director **Valery Todorovsky** will join sales rep. **Armen Dishdshyan** (*Hipsters*) today. Director/producer **Artan Minarolli**, actress **Luli Bitri** and actor **Kreshnik Xhelilaj** are arriving today with *Alive!*, while director **Árpád Sopsits** and DOP **Márk Győri** are in town with *The Seventh Circle*, and director **Margaret Corkery**, producer **Seamus Byrne** and actress **Amy Kirwan** are here with Irish film *Eamon*. Director **Paul Schrader** is expected to arrive today, to join producer **Ehud Bleiberg** (*Adam Resurrected*). Director **Boo Jyoung**, producer **Park Soon-**



Fu Tien-Yu

hong and actress **Mina Shin** are at the festival with *Sisters on the Road*. Actor **Jiří Suchý**, actresses **Tereza Hálová** and **Dáša Zázvůrková** (*A Walk Worthwhile*) and actor **Petr Stach** (*A Walk Worthwhile, Tobruk*) will be arriving today.

## OFFICIAL SELECTION



Photo: KVIFF

### Applause – a Nordic tale of alcoholic betrayal

Patricia Drati Rønde

A decade ago, Danish director **Martin Pieter Zandvliet** was traveling the world, surfing and filming surfer contests. Nothing seemed to suggest he would one day be presenting his own film in the main competition at KVIFF.

"I dreamt I would move to Hawaii, run a surfing gear shop, have a bunch of kids and lounge on the beach all day long," he says. Instead, Zandvliet ended up enrolling at the European Film College in Denmark and has never looked back.

Since finishing his studies, he has made the critically acclaimed documentary *Angels of Brooklyn* (2002) and worked as an editor and screenwriter on several documentaries and shorts.

*Applause*, is his feature film debut. Thea, the film's main character, is an outstanding actress but a dreadful mother and partner. She drinks to escape from reality. Being loved by her children and husband isn't enough for her; she wants to be adored by the whole world. She is addicted to the applause she receives every night after her performances. She can't live offstage and descends into alcoholism. A divorce follows and her ex-husband is given custody of the children.

*Applause* is not about alcoholism, however, even though it plays an important role in the film. The main theme is betrayal and what happens when a person betrays themselves and those closest to them. "Thea finds out that she cannot be the mother her sons need," says Zandvliet. "She cannot be the ordinary mom she in fact would like to be – even though she says in the film that she scorns ordinary people. This realization is liberating for her."

The character of Thea was tailored for Paprika Steen, who is perhaps best-known internationally for her roles in the *Dogma* films, but who is also an acclaimed stage and film star in her native Denmark – the best actress of her generation according to some. "I felt that only she would be suitable for the role," says Zandvliet. "Her face reveals that she has lived a turbulent life. She has wrinkles but at the same time she is a beautiful woman."

The film's documentary quality is further enhanced by close-ups of the actress's face, as if the camera gets right under the skin of Thea's character. "We wanted Thea to be close to the viewers, so that they would be able to feel and experience along with her," says Zandvliet. "We adjusted everything to that end."

*Applause* screens today at 8pm in the Thermal's Grand Hall and tomorrow at 10am in the Espace Dorleans Cinema.

## Segafredo Zanetti: dodavatel pro 44. Mezinárodní filmový festival Karlovy Vary



il vero espresso italiano



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