

Communiqué de presse, Cannes, May 2017 #1

36 films selected for Cannes backed by Cine-Regio members; 8 in Main Competition; 9 in Uncertain Regard – but regional investment threatened by continuing obsession with Digital Single Market

Members of the Cine-Regio network of regional film funds have backed 32 feature films and 4 shorts, which have been selected for the 70th edition of the Cannes Film Festival - but the network has issued a strong warning that the continuing threat of EU policy on the Digital Single Market puts these vital contributions in jeopardy.

The contribution of the regional film funds to this year's Cannes competitions has been extraordinary.

They have backed 8 of the 19 feature films in this year's Main Competition (out of 19), as well as the Opening film and 4 Special Screenings; and HALF of the 18 films in Un Certain Regard.

The Kids-Screening of the **ZOMBILLENIUM** by Arthur DE PINTS & Alexis DUCORD - is supported by no less than three of the film funds in the network: Région Grand Est (FR), Nouvelle-Aquitaine (FR) & Wallimage (BE).

The network's commitment to discovering new talent is also reflected in the Directors' Fortnight selection where 5 features & 2 short films have received funding, - two being feature film debuts!

"Having so many films screening in Cannes 2017 reflects the importance of regional film funds for the European audiovisual sector and highlights the significant financial contribution & role of the regional film agencies in creating and defending European cultural diversity. I am very proud of the members' wealth of expertise and knowledge in selecting and supporting the directors, producers and films that enrich Europe's film sector," say General-Secretary of Cine-Regio, Charlotte Appelgren and continues:

"CineRegio is a strong advocate of a Europe where Cultural Diversity is considered an opportunity and a driving force for growth, employment and creativity, - a creative eco-system that should be celebrated and defended - also by the European Institutions in Brussels".

But she warned that all these achievements are under threat because of the long-running push in some European institutions, for a Digital Single Market.

"Some European Institutions are obsessed by an ill-considered and dangerous push towards a full Digital Single Market."

She said Cine-Regio, along with many leading film industry bodies have explained over the years how a ban on geo-blocking would undermine the territorial sales of films, on which large amounts of European film production depends. The network want a cultural exception for the audiovisual sector but instead, the European Parliament Committee has agreed (May 18) to a temporary exclusion with a review "within three years" to decide whether to impose a geo-blocking ban.

"This is extremely worrying," said Appelgren. "It highlights the sad fact that the European Institutions do not understand the film financing eco-system."

"Multi-territory licensing is already possible - we do not need to change the legislation to achieve that - you can already buy "all Europe"! But nobody is doing it, because the European independent sector cannot afford it - and in any case for the majority of the films being made in the EU member states it doesn't make sense to "buy all Europe" looking from a business/market perspective.

"It is bizarre that the European Commission, the Council and many MEPs do not seem to want to accept the reality - nor leave it to the market to decide what is the best strategy for the selling and distribution of film product. Why choose to ban geo-blocking when it has proven to create cultural diversity?"

She warned that a temporary ban also created a damaging level of instability and doubt in the market, which in itself is damaging.

"Indeed digital technologies have enabled and supported changed consumer patterns regarding film. Digital technologies have created a demand culture. However, the European legislators seem to have missed the point: demand and new business opportunities are not going to be created by a decision to ban geo-blocking. A ban on geo-blocking will destabilize the fragile European film production ecosystem.

Bottom line is that soon we will stand at a cross-road where the European legislators - the Commission and MEPs - will have to choose between cultural diversity - as agreed upon via the UNESCO convention for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions (ratified by the EU - but not the US!) - or achieving their dream of Digital Single Market for film product. MEPs and the European Commission have to understand that they cannot have both."

All in all the 36 titles are backed by Cine-Regio members.

OFFICIAL SECTION

Official Competition

AUS DEM NICHTS (IN THE FADE) by Fatih AKIN; Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein (DE)
120 BATTEMETNS PAR MINUTE by Robin CAMPILLO; Île-de-France Film Fund (FR), CICLIC (FR)
RODIN by Jacques DOILLON; Île-de-France Film Fund (FR)
HAPPY END by Michael HANEKE; Pictanovo (FR), Vienna Film Fund (AU)
LE REDOUTABLE by Michel HAZANAVICIUS; Île-de-France Film Fund (FR)
KROTKAYA by Sergei LOZNITSA; Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung (DE), Riga Film Fund (LV)
JUPITER'S MOON by Kornél MUNDRUCZO; Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung (DE)
THE SQUARE by Ruben OSTLUND; Film Väst (SE)

Opening Film

LES FANTÔMES D'ISMAËL by Arnaud DESPLECHIN; Île-de-France (FR), Pictanovo (FR)

Special Screenings

CARRE 35 by Eric CARAVACA (documentary); Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Cinema (FR)
12 JOURS by Raymond DEPARDON; Île-de-France (FR), Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Cinema (FR)
NAPALM by Claude LANZMANN; Île-de-France (FR)
LE VENERABLE W by Barbet SCHROEDER (documentary); Cinéforum (CH)

Kids Screening

ZOMBILLENIUUM by Arthur DE PINTS & Alexis DUCORD; Grand Est (FR), Nouvelle-Aquitaine (FR), Wallimage (BE)

Uncertain Regard

BARBARA by Mathieu AMALRIC; Île-de-France Film Fund (FR)
AALA KAF IFRIT (LA BELLE ET LA MEUTE) by Kaouther BEN HANIA; Film Väst (SE)
L'ATELIER by Laurent CANTET; PACA (FR)
FORTUNATA by Sergio CASTELLITTO; Lazio Region (IT)
WESTERN by Valeska GRISEBACH; Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung (DE)
POSOKI (DIRECTIONS) by Stephan KOMANDAREV; Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung (DE)
EN ATTENDANT LES HIRONDELLES by Karim MOUSSAOUI (1st); Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein (DE)
JEUNE FEMME by Léonor SERRAILLE (1st); Île-de-France Film Fund (FR)
APRÈS LA GUERRE by Annarita ZAMBRANO; Lazio Region (IT), CICLIC (FR), Region Nouvelle Aquitaine

Short Films Competition

PÉPÉ LE MORSE by Lucrèce ANDREAE (animation); CICLIC (FR), Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Cinema

PARALLEL SECTIONS

Directors' Fortnight // Feature Films

A CIAMBRA by Jonas Carpignano; Film Väst (SE)
CUORI PURI by Roberto De Paolis (1st film); Region Lazio Audiovisual Fund (IT)
I AM NOT A WITCH by Rungano Nyoni (1st film); Film Agency Wales (UK)
JEANNETTE L'ENFANCE DE JEANNE D'ARC by Bruno Dumont; Pictanovo (FR)
L'INTRUSA by Leonardo Di Costanzo; Region Lazio Audiovisual Fund (IT)

Directors' Fortnight // Short Films

MIN BÖRDA by Niki Lindroth von Bahr; Film Väst (SE)
RETOUR À GENOA CITY by Benoit Grimalt; PACA (FR)

Critics' Week // Feature Films Competition

TEHRAN TABOO (Téhéran tabou) by 'Ali Soozandeh (animation, 1st film); Vienna Film Fund (AU), Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein (DE)

Critics' Week // Shorts Competition

LOS DESHERRADOS (Les déshérités) by Laura Ferrés; ICEC - Catalonia (ES)

Critics' Week // Feature Films Special Screenings

SICILIAN GHOST STORY by Fabio Grassadonia & Antonio Piazza; Region Lazio Audiovisual Fund (IT)
PETIT PAYSAN by Hubert Charuel (1st film); Région Grand Est

L'ACID – Feature Films

AVANT LA FIN DE L'été by Maryam Goormaghtigh (documentary, 1st film); CICLIC (FR), Cinéforum (CH)

CineRegio is a non-profit association of regional film funds in Europe. Cine-Regio acts as a lobby and network organisation encouraging cross-border and interregional co-operation and co-productions. The network counts 44 regional film funds from 12 European countries, and together the members represent a total funding capital of €170M per year to support film culture.



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