

## BAVARIA FILM

.....INTERNATIONAL

Department of  
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GERMANY

### Pick-Up Press Release

Munich, August 23, 2007

### Milcho Manchevski's SHADOWS leads Bavaria's boisterous Toronto Line-Up

**Bavaria Film International also premieres SILENT RESIDENT, BLIND and ENCARNACIÓN**

With three World Premieres, one International Premiere and four films from Cannes and Berlin, Bavaria Film International (BFI) is anticipating its strongest outing ever at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Toronto International Film Festival.

Award winning writer / director Milcho Manchevski's third film after Oscar-nominated "Before the Rain" and Venice Opening Film "Dust" is the flagship film of BFI's powerful Toronto line-up. Set in present day Macedonia, **SHADOWS** (aka Bones) tells the story of Lazar (Borce Narcev), a young doctor who returns to his job and city apartment after surviving a near fatal car accident. As Lazar experiences a series of eerie encounters, he falls in love with the beautiful Menka (Vesna Stanojevska). While he descends deeper into a nightmarish journey, his privileged life is invaded by the realm of the shadows and he is challenged to settle some accounts with the departed...

"**SHADOWS** is as much an American thriller as it is a modern European auteur take on what I see as Milcho's genuine themes of inherited responsibility, the nature of time and history, and ultimately guilt and redemption," states Thorsten Ritter, Head of Bavaria Film International. "You can even sense the influence of contemporary Asian filmmaking. With Fabio Cianchetti's rich camera work and the editing of Brian De Palma's David Ray, **SHADOWS** is an exciting example of inspired, original, and widely accessible cosmopolitan filmmaking".

**SHADOWS** will premiere in the prestigious Special Presentation section and is a co-production of Manchevski's own Macedonian production company, Senka Films DOOEL, Germany's Blue Eyes Fiction, Classic s.r.l. (Italy), Camera (Bulgaria) and Spain's Tornasol.

Set in a similar genre-boarding realm, Austrian avant-garde artist and maverick filmmaker Christian Frosch is featured with **SILENT RESIDENT** (WEISSE LILIEN) in a World Premiere in the Visions section. BFI has picked up all rights outside Austria and Germany to this third theatrical feature film. With his first two feature films, Frosch already garnered international recognition. "Total Therapy", his debut as a feature filmmaker, premiered in the Tigers Competition at the Rotterdam International Film Festival in 1997. His second experimental feature film „K.a.F.ka fragment“ also celebrated its world premiere in Rotterdam in 2002 and was honored with the Special Award of the Jury at the Sochi International Film Festival that year.

With **SILENT RESIDENT**, now Frosch presents an elaborate and gripping conspiracy thriller and a chilling study of social life inside a gated community. The film follows Hannah (Germany's rising theater star Brigitte Hobmeier) in her fight of an individual against the total control in this seemingly perfect world. Rarely were apartment blocks more menacing, more inhabited by mystery, fear and control than the bright, white towers of "Neustadt", the "New Town" on the outskirts of place and time... **SILENT RESIDENT** is produced by KGP Gabriele Kranzelbinder Production and Amour Fou Filmproduktion in cooperation with Mediopolis, Minotaurus Film and Eurofilm Studio. The film will be released in German Cinemas by Neue Visionen Filmverleih.

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In addition, two new acquisitions by strong and distinctive female directors have found their way into the BFI portfolio. **ENCARNACIÓN** continues the collaboration with Argentinean filmmaker Anahi Berneri and her producers Daniel Burman and Diego Dubcovsky of BD Cine. BFI launched Berneri's debut, "Un Año Sin Amor", to a very successful international life in the Panorama section of the Berlin International Film Festival 2005. **ENCARNACIÓN** is the moving story of an aging actress Erni Levier (Sylvia Pérez) trying to cope with her role and her life, a strong and touching statement about standing up for the choices you made, for who you are, and who you want to be. Anahi Berneri celebrates the World Premiere of **ENCARNACIÓN** at Toronto also in the Visions section before competing in San Sebastian's Official Competition. It was co-produced by José María Morales of Spain's Wanda Filmes.

**BLIND**, the Halina Reijn starrer ('Black Book') and directorial debut of well known Dutch actress Tamar van den Dop, is the first collaboration between Bavaria Film International and Dutch production house Phanta Vision, lead by Petra Goedings. The film is set at the turn of the century and tells the poetic story of blind young Ruben (Joren Seldeslachts) who falls in love with his reader Marie (Halina Reijn), erroneously imagining her to be as young and beautiful as the gentle voice he hears. When Ruben is diagnosed to be able to see again, fear takes over. Will Ruben reject Marie, or is true love really blind?

Director Tamar von den Dop had already made a name for herself with the short films "Lot" and "Schat", which both were selected as Dutch entries for the 2002 and 2004 Academy Awards and won several prizes at international festivals. **BLIND** will celebrate its International Premiere at Toronto in the Discovery section after a domestic release by Buena Vista International.

**BLIND** was co-produced by Belgian production MMG and Bulgarian outfit Klas Film.

Finally, four BFI films are coming to Toronto from Berlin and Cannes. Canadian independent filmmaker icon Bruce McDonald, returning to his home turf, will have his highly anticipated domestic premiere with **THE TRACEY FRAGMENTS** (Visions) after opening the Panorama in Berlin in February. **THE TRACEY FRAGMENTS** features Ellen Page ("An American Crime", "X Men – The Last Stand") and was honored with the Manfred Salzgeber Prize in Berlin. The discovery of the Berlinale Forum, award winning drama **THE TRAP** by Srđan Golubovic (Grand Prix in Sofia 2007), will premiere in the Contemporary World Cinema section.

From Un Certain Regard in Cannes come Robert Thalheim's German entry **AND ALONG COME TOURISTS** that has started to a Top-10 ranking in per-screen-average in its German release and Brazil/Uruguay audience hit **EL BAÑO DEL PAPA**, co-produced by Oscar-nominee Fernando Meirelles ("City of God", "The Constant Gardener") and co-directed by his director of photography, César Charlone (Oscar-nominated "City of God") and Enrique Fernández. Both films will have their North American premieres in the Contemporary World Cinema section.

"This is by far our strongest Toronto line-up in quality and numbers. These directors all have their vision, from personally and politically motivated, intellectually stimulating thriller style filmmaking to the affectionate art-house gem and the poetic period picture. We are proud to represent every single one of them," concludes Head of Bavaria Film International, Thorsten Schaumann.

For further information and photo download, please go to: [www.bavaria-film-international.com](http://www.bavaria-film-international.com).

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