

Braunschweig, 12. November 2006

## **FOUR MINUTES wins the “Heinrich”**

### **The 20th International Braunschweig Film Festival Award Ceremony – Short Film-Music Award “Leo” for “These Chairs”**

The 20th International Film Festival Braunschweig audience award the “Heinrich“ goes to German director Chris Kraus’ film FOUR MINUTES. In the directors second feature film feverish pictures tell the story of an impossible relationship between two women in prison: the elderly piano teacher Traude Krüger who makes it her goal to re-transform the young murderess Jenny into the pianistic talent she once was..

The cast of FOUR MINUTES includes Monica Bleibtreu, Richy Müller, Jasmin Tabatabai, Vadim Glowna and Nadja Uhl. The big discovery of the film however is the until-now unknown Hannah Herzsprung who performs in her debut film role, convincingly playing the aggressive and problematic Jenny.

Director Chris Kraus was born in 1963 in Göttingen and has worked as a Journalist and Illustrator. Between 1991 and 1998 he studied at the German Film and Television Academy in Berlin. His debut film SCHERBENTANZ was the big discovery of 2002 and received many awards. He has worked as scriptwriter for directors like Detlev Buck or Oscar-award winner Pepe Danquart and Volker Schlöndorff. His books have been awarded with many prizes. In 2004 the then unfinished FOUR MINUTES was awarded the State Award of the Baden-Württemberg for Best Script.

The 10,000 Euro endowed “Heinrich“ award for the best debut or second feature film was presented at the Braunschweig Film Festival for the 8th time. The prize money, donated by the main festival sponsor Volkswagen Bank, is awarded to both the director and the distributor.

Director Chris Kraus and his main actress Hannah Herzsprung will both be present at today's awards ceremony at 6.30 pm in CinemaxX.

The second and third places are taken up by two German premieres:

The Venezuelan director Franco de Peña took second place with his polish-luxembourgian co-production YOUR NAME IS JUSTINE. The family drama FAMILY NAME from Russian director Stanislav Mitin received the third highest result.

## **Short-Film Music Award “The Leo” for THESE CHAIRS – DOM DÄR STOLARNA by Daniel Westlund**

The 3D animated dance film „These Chairs – Dom Där Stolarna“, by Daniel Westlund from Sweden, sets six chairs into motion accompanied by a drum-solo while subtly bypassing the laws of gravity and the viewer’s perception.

An unobtrusive room reduced to its essential elements enables a more concentrated observation. Despite the clarity of the room and its enclosed nature the film allows for very individual interpretations.

The modern-dance choreography is not only in unison with the rhythm of the drums, but also with the apparent convergence of subjects, artistic realisation and above all with the use of practical film elements in which image and sound open up a new, third level.

The jury were impressed by the unpretentious yet intelligent and pointed use of the two key elements of the film and felt finally able to see with their ears.

### **Special Commendation for LATENT SORROW**

The experimental film „Latent Sorrow“ by Shon Kim from the USA tried to find the point at which both the abstract and the figurative co-exist in both picture and sound. The film picture disintegrates and a rhythmical form develops out of movement, colours and sounds which is unique and in which a completely individual energy becomes noticeable. The Jury would like to acknowledge the disturbing, suggestive and thrilling work and present the film with a Special Commendation.

The two films were chosen from a selection of 25 films, which had been selected from around 1000 entries.

The jury, consisting of the composer **Jochen Schmidt-Hambrock**, director **Julian Benedikt**, **Birgit Kahle-Hanusa**, presenter of the German radio programme Soundstage and **Juliane Fuchs** from the backup\_festival in Weimar, viewed a total of 25 films from 8 different countries.

#### **DOM DÄR STOLARNA** (These Chairs)

Schweden 2006

Regie, Buch, Kamera & Schnitt: Daniel Westlund

Musik: Daniel Westlund

Produktion & Verleih: Daniel Westlund

3:02 Min., DVD, Farbe, o. Dialog

#### **LATENT SORROW**

USA 2005

Regie, Schnitt, Kamera & Schnitt: Shon Kim

Sound Design: Shon Kim

Produktion & Verleih: Shon Kim

3:30 Min., Beta SP, Farbe, o. Dialog

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