Pressrelease 06/2017 | CONNECTING COTTBUS

connecting cottbus 2017 awards THE FLOOR IS LAVA by Katerina Gornostai, CAT IN THE WALL by Mina Mileva & Vesela Kazakova and in its new Work in Progress competition VOROSHILOVGRAD by Yaroslav Lodygin

Cottbus, November 9, 2017 – This year’s awards at connecting cottbus go to the Floor Is Lava, Cat In The Wall and Voroshilovgrad. Eleven selected pitch projects and four Work in Progress (WiP) presented themselves in search for European coproduction partners, organized in parallel with FilmFestival Cottbus. At its 19th edition, the international projects competed for five coco awards and were granted in Cottbus tonight.

The coco Post Pitch Award 2017 of EUR 25.000 in postproduction services sponsored by The Post Republic went to the project Cat In The Wall from Bulgaria/UK by producers/directors Mina Mileva & Vesela Kazakova. A Bulgarian single mother living on social housing estate provides home for a lost cat. This simple act provokes an avalanche of problems portraying current British society. Cat In The Wall was selected by an expert jury consisting of Elena Manrique (Indie Sales), Sasha Wieser (EastWest Filmdistribution) and Stefan Kirchhof (The Post Republic).

The coco Best Pitch Award 2017 was selected by all coco participants and went to The Floor Is Lava by Katerina Gornostai from Ukraine. At a school with ruthless discipline, "wild" things – love and sensuality – are growing giving 16-year-old Masha a difficult time. The Floor Is Lava’s producers Victoria Khomenko and Natalia Libet receive a cash prize of €1,500 sponsored by Berliner Synchron & No Limits Media and, in addition, the coco Producers Network Award: an accreditation to the Producers Network at the Marché du Film in Cannes.

The new coco WiP Award 2017, of EUR 35.000 in postproduction services sponsored by D-Facto Motion went to the project Voroshilovgrad by Yaroslav Lodygin from Ukraine. A sunny, humourous adventure through the Wild Plains of Eastern Ukraine. Herman Korolyov comes back to his hometown finding himself fighting against the local mafia and in love with Olga. Voroshilovgrad was selected by an expert jury consisting of Laurent Danilou (Loco Films), Julia Sinkevych (Odesa International Film Festival) and Colin Ullmann (D-Facto Motion).

The Midpoint Scholarship Award, which arises from the cooperation between cocoLab and Midpoint that this year included a presentation of a Midpoint
Selection, went to **Leave No Traces** by Jan P. Matuszyński. The award enables this film project to participate in the Midpoint Feature Launch, a professional script and development program for emerging film professionals.

**coco supporters and partners**
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Supporting partners of connecting cottbus are EWA, ProPro, Pro Quote Regie, Odesa International Film Festival, CineLink Sarajevo, EAVE, TIFF Transilvania International Film Festival and *Meetings on the Bridge*.

The coco Post Pitch Award 2017 is sponsored by The Post Republic
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The coco Producers Network Award 2017 is sponsored by Producers Network
The coco WiP Award 2017 is sponsored by D-Facto Motion
The Midpoint Scholarship Award 2017 is sponsored by Midpoint


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