

# LUX PRIZE 09

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FILM PRIZE

The European Parliament unveils  
the three contending films  
for the LUX Prize 2009  
under the auspices of the  
66<sup>th</sup> Venice International Film Festival.

*"We think the LUX Prize is the most innovative award for European cinema. The sponsored subtitles enabling the laureate to present her/his film all around Europe is a great idea, and the election process draws attention to foreign productions from babylonian Europe which otherwise would have remained unknown. Hopefully the European Parliament will continue to promote our diverse and rich cinematographic culture through the LUX Prize. Bravo!"*

**Fatih Akin** and **Klaus Maeck**,  
respectively director and co-producer of  
*Auf der anderen Seite*, LUX Prize 2007 laureate.

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#### PRESS CONFERENCE

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## **THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: A STRONG COMMITMENT TO CULTURE AND, WITH THE LUX PRIZE, TO CINEMA**

European cinema is rich. Its wealth is multidimensional: diversity, talents and a long history which sheds light on the melting pot of our individual and collective identities.

Since 2007, the LUX Prize (in Latin, *lux* means *light*) is a tangible symbol of the support brought by the European Parliament to the European film industry and its great, relentless creativity.

The aim of the LUX Prize is to spotlight the wealth and the diversity that characterize European cinema, by selecting films which deal, in different ways, with European questions –especially what makes us think, divides us or brings us closer to each other.

Each film bears witness to the European construction process. Based on our common History or on individual intimate stories, all films that are part of the Official Selection bring a new and unique contribution to the public debate on the European Union.

### **Supporting Cultural and Linguistic Diversity, Encouraging the Circulation of European Films**

As dynamic as they can be, the arts of sculpture, painting, poetry, dance or literature experience difficulties exporting themselves outside their place of creation. There are only a few artists and works of art that manage to cross borders and find a public beyond their cradle of origin.

Cinema is no exception. Of course, it draws its strength and wealth from Europe's kaleidoscope of cultures and languages. But there is a flipside to this diversity.

### **23 languages, 27 prints**

For the European Parliament, the LUX Prize is a way to break down the language barriers that prevent films from circulating in Europe. Much like *Auf der Anderen Seite* (2007) or *Le Silence de Lorna* (2008), the LUX Prize 2009 winning film will benefit from the financial support of the European Parliament, consisting in:

- subtitling in the European Union's 23 official languages, including the adaptation of the original version for visually- or hearing-impaired people;
- producing, per member state, a 35-mm print or supporting the DVD release.

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## THREE CONTENDING FILMS AT THE HEART OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC DEBATE

*Eastern Plays*, *Sturm* and *Welcome* shed light on issues that are at the very heart of the European public debate: fundamental rights, public freedoms, justice, solidarity, immigration.



### **EASTERN PLAYS**

Director: Kamen Kalev  
Country: Bulgaria, Sweden  
Year: 2009  
Running time: 89 min.  
Original languages: Bulgarian, Turkish, English

#### Synopsis

Two brothers who have lost all contact are suddenly brought together when they have opposite roles in a racist beating: while Georgi who's recently joined a neonazi group participates in the violence, Itso witnesses and rescues the Turkish family. Georgi, now being asked to participate in larger events, starts to question his implication in the movement and Itso wonders if the beautiful Turkish girl he saved could be his ticket out from his sad life in Sofia. Only by reuniting will the two brothers be able to assess what they really want from life.



### **STURM**

Director : Hans-Christian Schmid  
Country: Germany, Denmark, Netherlands  
Year: 2009  
Running time: 110 min.  
Original languages: English, German, Bosnian, Serbian

#### Synopsis

Hannah Maynard, a prosecutor at The Tribunal in The Hague manages to convince a young Bosnian woman to testify against an alleged war criminal. Amidst the inconsistency of political interests and threats coming from Bosnian Serb nationalists, she realizes that her opponents not only sit on the dock across from her, but are also found in her own ranks. Hannah faces the trial of her life, all of a sudden torn between her strong beliefs in the system and her loyalty towards the witness.



### **WELCOME**

Director: Philippe Lioret  
Country: France  
Year: 2009  
Running time: 110 min.  
Original languages: French, Kurdish, English

#### Synopsis

Simon works as an instructor and lifeguard at the Calais swimming pool. To impress his wife and win her back, he decides to take a big risk, when he secretly helps out a young Kurdish refugee who wants to swim across the English channel.

## Quotes on the Films in Competition for the LUX Prize 2009

For **Doris Pack**, President of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education, *«there is no European conscience neither emotion nor European identity, if we don't keep in mind the specific histories of each country, that is to say if we don't watch European films in order to discover the soul of Europe».*

According to **Kamen Kalev**, director of **Eastern Plays**, *«Neonazi movements are not more present in Bulgaria than in other European countries. Intolerance is not exclusive to a single country, nor does it belong only to right-wing political forces. All politicians have the same responsibility –to help people outgrow their prejudices and learn to live together.»*

**Hans-Christian Schmid**, director of **Sturm**, told that *«one of the main reasons for me for making and also watching films in cinema is that they can tell an audience how diverse our lives in different countries and circumstances can be. I am very interested in seeing how individuals get along in diverging societies, when they are confronted with all kinds of social and economic changes. I like to be part of their - sometimes poetic and sometimes very real - lives and fates, and how they are told by filmmakers all over the world. Films need to travel and the LUX Prize can help a great deal to make these films be seen and understood all over Europe. What more could one ask for?»*

**Emmanuel Courcol**, co-scriptwriter, with Philippe Lioret, of **Welcome**, reminded us *«when a love story bumps into geography, human law and the absurd world order. The Amsterdam Treaty aimed at establishing an “area of freedom, security and justice” for Europeans. The selection of Welcome by the LUX Prize is an encouraging sign. We see this as a sign of support for the values which the film defends – commitment, solidarity and open-mindedness – against all attempts to go backwards.»*

At last **Fatih Akin** and **Klaus Maeck**, respectively director and co-producer of *Auf der anderen Seite*, winner of the LUX Prize 2007, stated that *“the LUX Prize is the most innovative award for European cinema. The sponsored subtitles enabling the laureate to present his film all around Europe is a great idea, and the election process draws attention to foreign productions from babylonian Europe which otherwise would have remained unknown. Hopefully the European Parliament will continue to promote our diverse and rich cinematographic culture through the LUX Prize».*

## LUX Prize 2009: Key Dates of the Competition

The LUX Prize 2009 laureate will be designated after the screening of the competing films at the European Parliament in Brussels (Nov. 3-20) and the vote cast by all 736 Members of the European Parliament (Nov. 24).

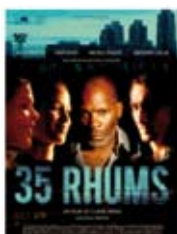
On November 25, the LUX Prize 2009 will be awarded in the European Parliament's hemicycle in Strasbourg by Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament.

## THE THREE CONTENDING FILMS ARE PART OF THE LUX PRIZE 2009 OFFICIAL SELECTION

The LUX Prize 2009 Official Selection was unveiled on June 12 in partnership with the Brussels European Film Festival.

In 2009 again\*, the LUX Prize Official Selection spotlights ten films. These films have been selected because of their quality and their contribution to the European public debate, with topics such as fundamental rights, public freedoms, justice, solidarity, immigration...

Beyond the social issues it illustrates, every film becomes a window which opens up on European citizens' questions, daily lives and quest for identity.



### 35 RHUMS

Director: Claire Denis  
Country: France, Germany  
Year: 2008  
Running time: 100 min.  
Original language: French



### ANDER

Director: Roberto Castón  
Country: Spain  
Year: 2009  
Running time: 128 min.  
Original languages: Basque, Spanish



### EASTERN PLAYS

Director: Kamen Kalev  
Country: Bulgaria, Sweden  
Year: 2009  
Running time: 89 min.  
Original languages: Bulgarian, Turkish, English



### FÜR EIN AUGENBLICK FREIHEIT

Director: Arash T. Riahi  
Country: Austria, France  
Year: 2008  
Running time: 110 min.  
Original languages: Turkish, English, Persian/Farsi

\* See appendix for 2007 and 2008 LUX Prize Official Selections.



**KATALIN VARGA**

Director: Peter Strickland  
Country: Romania, UK, Hungary  
Year: 2009  
Running time: 82 min.  
Original languages: Hungarian, Romanian



**LOST PERSONS AREA**

Director: Caroline Strubbe  
Country: Belgium, Hungary, Netherlands, Germany, France  
Year: 2009  
Running time: 109 min.  
Original languages: English, Dutch, Hungarian



**NORD**

Director: Rune Denstad Langlo  
Country: Norway  
Year: 2009  
Running time: 78 min.  
Original language: Norwegian



**PANDORA'S BOX**

Director: Yesim Ustaoglu  
Country: Turkey, France, Germany, Belgium  
Year: 2008  
Running time: 112 min.  
Original language: Turkish



**STURM**

Director: Hans-Christian Schmid  
Country: Germany, Denmark, Netherlands  
Year: 2009  
Running time: 110 min.  
Original languages: English, German, Bosnian, Serbian



**WELCOME**

Director: Philippe Lioret  
Country: France  
Year: 2009  
Running time: 110 min.  
Original languages: French, Kurdish, English

## Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to the LUX Prize Official Selection, films must meet the following requirements:

- Fiction or animation films;
- Minimum running time of 60 minutes;
- Illustrating or questioning the founding values of our European identity, Europe's cultural diversity and/or bringing insights into the debate on the EU integration process;
- Produced or co-produced in countries eligible under the MEDIA 2007 programme (European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland);
- First theatre release between 1 June 2008 and 31 May 2009.

## 2009 Selection Panel Members

Every year, a jury determines the Official Selection for the LUX Prize. This panel includes: producers, distributors, exhibitors, festival directors or film critics. One third of the selection jury is renewed yearly, and its members are appointed by the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education. The jury includes the previous LUX Prize winner. The European Commission sits on this jury as an observer (MEDIA programme).

**Mr György BÁRON**, Hungary  
Film critic

**Mr Anthony BOBEAU**, France  
Journalist, Le Film Français

**Mrs Sonora BROKA**, Latvia  
Director and programmer,  
International Centre for Cinema

**Mrs Kirsten DALGAARD**, Denmark  
Co-president of the Natfilm International  
Film Festival; exhibitor and distributor

**Mr Stephan DE POTTER**, Belgium  
Distributor, Cinéart-Cinélibre

**Mr Michel DEMOPOULOS**, Greece  
Special advisor for fiction at ERT,  
public television

**Mrs Fatima DJOUMER**, European Union  
Administrator for International relations and  
events, Europa Cinéma

**Mr Michal DROBNY**, Slovakia  
Exhibitor and distributor, Continental Films

**Mr Jakub DUSZYŃSKI**, Poland  
Distributor, Gutek Films

**Mrs Mercedes ECHERER**, Austria  
Director, Krems European Film Festival  
(EU XXL Film)

**Mr Denis FREYD**, winner of the LUX Prize 2008  
(«Le silence de Lorna») Producer, Archipel 35

**Mrs Eve GABEREAU**, United Kingdom  
Co-managing director, Soda Pictures  
(distribution)

**Mrs Susanne HOFFMANN**, Germany  
Secretary-General, Prix Europa

**Mrs Georgette RANUCCI**, Italy  
Exhibitor and distributor, Lucky Red

**Mrs Mira STALEVA**, Bulgaria  
Programmer, Sofia International Film Festival

**Mr Yvon THIEC**, European Union  
Delegate-General, Eurocinema

**Mrs Nuria VIDAL**, Spain  
Film critic

**Mrs Elena BRAUN**, Observer  
European Commission, MEDIA Programme  
and Education to Media Unit



## LUX PRIZE VISUAL IDENTITY AND LABELS



In Latin, LUX means *light*.

The concept underlying the LUX Prize visual identity is the Tower of Babel.

Beyond the aesthetics of the place painted (among others) by Pieter Brueghel the Elder, this myth benefits herein from a positive interpretation.

Much like cinema and European integration, the Tower of Babel is a symbol of History being written, where linguistic and cultural diversity serves a common ambition: to make a common European culture emerge.

### Three Labels



## LUX PRIZE 2009 OFFICIAL POSTER



**Teresa Sdravleivich** has designed many cultural and political placards. She was born in Milan in 1969 and has been living in Brussels since 1994. Culturally and ethically committed, she favors creations with an effective and clear message. Her work has a meaningful, not illustrative, purpose. Sometimes her texts become images or words merge with images.

## APPENDIX

### *LUX Prize 2008 Official Selection*

- *Le silence de Lorna* –**Laureate**, Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne
- *Delta* –**Competition**, Kornél Mundruczó
- *Občan Havel* (Citizen Havel) –**Competition**, Miroslav Janek and Pavel Koutecký
- *Il resto de la notte*, Francesco Munzi
- *Revanche*, Götz Spielmann
- *Sügisball*, Veiko Õunpuu
- *Svetat e golyam i spasenie debne otvsyakade* (The World is Big and Salvation lurks around the Corner), Stephan Komandarev
- *Sztuczki* (Tricks), Andrzej Jakimowski
- *To Verdener* (Worlds Apart), Niels Arden Oplev
- *Wolke 9*, Andreas Dresen

### *LUX Prize 2007 Official Selection*

- *Auf der anderen Seite* (The Edge of Heaven) –**Laureate**, Fatih Akin
- *4 luni, 3 saptamini si 2 zile* (4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days) –**Competition**, Cristian Mungiu
- *Belle toujours* –**Competition**, Manoel de Oliveira
- *California dreamin'*, Cristian Nemescu
- *Exile family movie*, Arash T. Riahi
- *Fraülein*, Andrea Stacka
- *Import-Export*, Ulrich Seidl
- *Izska utazása* (Iska's Journey), Csaba Bollók
- *Kalinovski Square*, Yuri Khashchavatski
- *Kurz davor ist es passiert* (It Happened Just Before), Anja Salomonowitz