

PRESS INFORMATION

Baumi Script Development Award in Memory of Karl Baumgartner

Dusseldorf, 10. February 2015. Karl "Baumi" Baumgartner was a film producer and distributor with an extraordinary eye for high-quality art-house film. As a tribute to Baumi's work, and in order to support his vision of free, independent script development of outstanding, international, cinematic stories, **Martina** and **Sandra Baumgartner**, his co-founded **Pandora Film** and the **Film- und Medienstiftung NRW** establish the **Baumi Script Development Award**, which includes a prize money of 20,000 Euros.

German and international screenwriters can apply with a treatment written in English. To be eligible for the Award, applicants must already have had at least one of their scripts filmed. The jury will be made up of the benefactors and one alternating, renowned, international filmmaker that will select the winner. The prize money committed. The award ceremony will take place during the Berlinale. The guidelines and application deadlines for the first Baum Script Development Award will be announced in July, 2015. The first treatment will be awarded during the 2016 Berlinale.

"We'll never forget Baumi. His ideas and enthusiasm continue to inspire us as if he were still here. We want his star to go on shining in the cinematic sky", said **Reinhard Brundig**, co-founder of Pandora Film. "Our goal is to enable Baumi's love of film to live on through the Award."

"Together with Pandora Film, we are honoured to keep alive the memory of Karl Baumgartner, a great person and unique producer", said **Petra Müller**, director of the Film- und Medienstiftung NRW. "The Award will help screenwriters to independently develop their stories and, in so doing, make extraordinary cinema possible. He would've liked that."

Karl Baumgartner was born in 1949 in Bruneck in South Tyrol, Italy. From 1967 to 1970, he worked in Rome as an assistant director and occasional film critic. In 1971, he moved to Frankfurt am Main, where he became part of the "Harmonie" art-house film collective. In 1981, Reinhard Brundig and Karl Baumgartner founded Pandora Film Distribution. The company is now one of Europe's leading distributors of art-house films.

Pandora Film Distribution built its reputation on films by Yilmaz Güney, Andrej Tarkovsky, Jim Jarmusch, Aki Kaurismäki, Sally Potter, Jane Campion, Emir Kusturica and Ari Folman. At the same time, Pandora Film in Cologne became increasingly active, successfully producing and co-producing numerous films, for example Emir Kusturica's "Underground", winner of the Palm d'Or at the 1995 Cannes Film Festival. Karl Baumgartner died in Frankfurt in 2014 at the age of 65.

For further information: Film- und Medienstiftung NRW, Tanja Güß, Tel.: 0211-93050-24, during the Berlinale mobil 0172-9427029, tanjaguess@filmstiftung.de