

PRESS RELEASE
June 11, 2009

**Matthieu Darras - newly appointed Artistic Director
of the International Film Festival Bratislava in Slovakia**

The 11th edition of the International Film Festival Bratislava held in the capital of Slovakia will be enriched by the cooperation with its newly appointed artistic director coming from France.

"With regards to his rich professional experience as festival programmer, journalist, and cultural manager, we expect Matthieu Darras to contribute significantly to our festival," IFF Bratislava Managing Director Vladimir Krajniak said.

After studies of cinema in Los Angeles and reportage on Hong Kong cinema in 1997, Matthieu Darras graduated in political sciences and sociology. Since 1999 he has been writing for the French monthly film magazine Positif and contributing to various publications such as the Larousse du Cinema.

In 2000 a university programme in Amsterdam was a turning point towards the foundation of NISI MASA, the European network of young cinema. The range of the network's activities is wide: from documentary workshops to scriptwriting seminars passing by film journalism trainings; Matthieu Darras has been coordinating more than 60 film events in more than 20 countries of Europe and beyond.

Since 2005 Matthieu has been working as programmer for the Semaine de la Critique of Cannes. He's also the artistic co-director of Alba International Film Festival, Italy and works as scouter for the Torino Film Lab, an international laboratory supporting emerging filmmakers from all over the world.

Along with the work for the two important international film festivals in Cannes and Alba, the new position of artistic director at IFF Bratislava represents a new thrill. "As IFF Bratislava is the most popular film festival in Slovakia, the first and foremost challenge is to arouse the curiosity of the general audience and to satisfy their appetite for cinema," Matthieu Darras says.

He considers as exciting the fact that the programme spectrum of IFF Bratislava is larger than Cannes or Alba's ones. "Within the years the Bratislava IFF has managed to build up a very strong reputation internationally, in particular for the quality of its programme. I will put my effort in improving the festival's profile because if showing good films is essential it's still not sufficient to make an outstanding festival. A festival may be considered as successful only if achieving the appropriate international status and recognition," the new IFF Bratislava Artistic Director Matthieu Darras closes.

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