

South East European Film Festival, Los Angeles
www.seefilmla.org

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SEEFest Awarded New Grant from the Academy

Los Angeles, December 2013 - SEEFest, the South East European Film Festival, proudly announced to its supporters in the U.S. and Europe that it was among the 23 film festivals in America to receive the prestigious festival grant from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The grant is given in support of the 9th edition of SEEFest, May 1-5, 2014.

"It is such an honor for us to be chosen as one of the recipients," said SEEFest founder and artistic director, **Vera Mijojić**. "We are going to work really hard to create a truly exciting cinematic journey through South East Europe's lands and cultures with *must-SEE films*."

Since 2006, SEEFest has engaged American audiences with its annual presentation of cinematic and cultural diversity from, and about 15 countries of South East Europe. The festival has gradually developed year-round programming with films that tell a larger story and unlock the delicate doors into human existence in this troubled, but culturally rich region.

The Academy Foundation, the Academy's cultural and educational wing, annually awards grants to film scholars, cultural organizations and film festivals throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Some of the films recently presented by SEEFest include "*Medal of Honor*", by director Calin Peter Netzer, internationally-acclaimed director of the Romanian *new wave* generation; "*Buzz*", documentary by Spiro Taraviras about the legendary Hollywood screenwriter of classic American noir films, A.I. Bezzerides; "*Bliss*" by Abdullah Oğuz, the first major international film about honor killings and winner of 14 international awards including Council of Europe's Prix Odyssee Human Rights Award; "*The Trap*" by the leading Serbian director Srdan Golubović, winner of 17 international festival awards; "*I am not your friend*" by the Hungarian *enfant terrible* György Pálfi, nominated for the Crystal Globe at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, with hundreds of other films that helped open the door for local audiences to get to know the rich cinematic potential of South East Europe.

Special curatorial effort is dedicated to SEEFest retrospectives and screenings of archival treasures. In the last three years the festival organized retrospectives of Slovenian cinema 1950-2010 in collaboration with the UCLA Film Archive; presented the 10th anniversary celebration of the Academy Award® winning film from Bosnia, "*No Man's Land*" directed by Danis Tanović; collaborated with the Austin Film Society on the

retrospective of representative films from South East Europe 2000-2012, and is currently organizing a retrospective of the landmark 1960s short films from Serbia by the internationally acclaimed director Vlatko Gilić. In 2012, SEEFest was voted by staffers of Flavorwire as one of the 10 best-under-the-radar film festivals in America. In 2013, SEEFest has received recognitions from the California Assembly, County of Los Angeles, and City of Los Angeles “*for enhancing the cultural life and creating opportunities for cultural exchange between Southern California and South East Europe*” and “*contribution to the cultural vitality of Los Angeles*”.

The ACADEMY of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences:

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Founded in 1927 by 36 of the most influential men and women in the motion picture industry at the time, the Academy is an honorary membership organization whose ranks now include more than 6,000 artists and professionals.

The Academy Foundation was established in 1944 with the purpose of organizing and overseeing the Academy’s educational and cultural activities, including the preservation of motion picture history. In addition to operating the Academy Film Archive and the Margaret Herrick Library, the Foundation also presents the Academy’s rich assortment of screenings and other public programs each year.

The new major development is the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, the world's premier museum devoted to exploring the history and future of motion pictures. The Academy Museum will contain over 290,000 square feet (27,000 square meters) of state-of-the-art galleries, exhibition spaces, movie theaters, educational areas, and special event spaces devoted to exploring and curating the history and future of the moving image.

About SEEFest:

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Established in Los Angeles in 2006, the South East European Film Festival, SEEFest presents cinematic and cultural diversity of South East Europe to American audiences through its annual festival and year-round programming. SEEFest also serves as the hub for cultural exchange, and resource for scholars and filmmakers on cinema and cultures of the region.

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