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Contact: info@seefilmla.org

South East European Film Festival Closing Gala Fetes Young Filmmakers May 5 at Ahrya Fine Arts

Inaugural SEEFest Project Accelerator Finds Home In West Hollywood

Los Angeles, 4 May 2016 – The 11th annual South East European Film Festival, SEEFest, will conclude its 8-day run and 44 film screenings at Ahrya Fine Arts, 8556 Wilshire Blvd in Beverly Hills, on Thursday, May 5th with awards gala and screening of *Family Bonds*, selection of five shorts by young filmmakers.

This special presentation will feature deeply emotional yet uplifting stories about children who overcome life's odds with humor, strong will, and a good measure of boxing. "SEEFest is proud to showcase the works by talented newcomers Tunde Skovran, Jure Pavlović, Adrian Sitaru, Antoneta Kusijanović, and Michael Magidson," says SEEFest Founder and Artistic Director, **Vera Mijočić**. *Family Bonds* delivers a terrific portrait of childhood and adolescence rarely seen in such intimate, gutsy detail.

Also concluding on May 5 is SEEFest's inaugural Project Accelerator aimed at supporting new talents from South Eastern Europe. Hosted by the City of West Hollywood/WeHoArts at the Library campus on San Vicente, twelve projects in development selected for the first Accelerator included a basketball story based on real events in 1992, an adventure story for young children set in a refugee camp, oral history project about an ethnic community in the Bay area, a love story between a janitor and the landlord's daughter, portrait of refugees and their everyday life as outsiders see it, documentary web series, love between two people from different ethnic groups in Los Angeles, an animation project, story about adoption, and a story about escape from prison. Three awards for best projects will be presented at the Closing gala on May 5th at Ahrya Fine Arts theater.

About SEEFest

The South East European Film Festival in Los Angeles is an annual competition festival. It presents to American audiences films from, and about 18 countries of South East Europe, showcasing diversity of cultures and cinematic talents.

SEEFest 2016 took place from April 28 – May 5, at Ahrya Fine Arts and Music Hall in Beverly Hills, the Goethe-Institut Los Angeles and West Hollywood Council Chambers @ Library campus.

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