

Johan Liberau, actor in the film “Witnesses”

In the framework of the “Horizons” program, amateurs of FEST yesterday had the opportunity to see André Techiné’s “Witnesses”. Prior to the showing of the film, young actor Johan Liberau introduced himself to the audience in Sava Centar. Although acting in “Witnesses” was not his first experience, working with André Techiné is definitely the most imposing one, says Johan:



“He is a wonderful person, with great charisma. In first contact with him, he seemed very cold to me, which he in fact was, when I think of it. However, when he finally got to know the crew, everything was completely different. I am delighted with his attitude towards the actors; he’s very close to everyone. If one would watch from outside, André would maybe seem rude to him, but that’s only the appearance. In each second of working with him, I was aware of his enormous experience.

The charisma of André Techiné is such that I was more fascinated by him than by actors Michel Blanc or Emmanuelle Béart, which is not the case usually: we recognize the actors in the films. I was fascinated by his personality more than by other members of the crew.

Vesna Stanojevska, actress in the film “Shadows”

A Graduated Harpist and Naturschik

The guest of FEST Vesna Stanojevska is a professional harpist and member of the National Opera and Ballet of Macedonia. During her career of professional musician, she has performed with Jose Careras, attended the international seminar held by French harpist Elisabeth Bionoché. She is member of the L`art L`art Orchestra for film music in the School of Music in Skopje, where she tries to convey the tradition of playing the Harp to young generations. She has made her acting debut in Milco Machevski’s “Shadows”, as a first step in trying to find her way in a greater number of contemporary forms of art. Working on the “Shadows” was not her first cooperation with Milco Mancevski. Vesna has worked with him on the shooting of an advertisement in Macedonia and considering it was done as film, she knew what she could expect on the shooting.



“I learned about the casting by accident, from a friend”. I didn’t hope to get this part, let alone the leading one. I thought that, if I get selected, I would appear for a couple of minutes. I have understood my engagement as yet another experience in an area that is so much different from music. I wasn’t wrong. Milco helped me a great deal. He is very accurate in his requests and he knew exactly what he wanted from me. I hope that I will have more opportunities to work with him on film.

Eran Kolirin, director of “The Band’s visit”



The European “discovery of the year”, the film “The Band’s Visit” of Israeli director Eran Kolirin has seen its world premier on last year’s festival in Cannes, where it obtained its first award. “The Band’s Visit” won the FIPRESCI Award and the award of the Jury “A Certain Look”. Followed the awards in Montreal, Sarajevo, Flandres... Eran Kolirin explains how he is coping with the “burden” of newly acquired glory and responsibility:

“It is not easy to carry that burden. I try not to think about it, but it does come to my mind from time to time. The success of my film has been unbelievable and I really can’t say why. The worst that could happen is for someone to think that there is some kind of recipe for making a good film. You simply don’t think about that when you’re shooting a film. It simply happens that the audience likes it. There is some inexplicable magic to it. Before making this film, I had more experience in script writing than in making films. Hence, it was not easy for me to explain to the producers why they should trust me. I hope they have an easier time now and that they are enjoying the success of the film. I enjoy everything that is happening around “The Band’s Visit”, but I am aware that I will soon have to go back to my job and normal life without festivals, awards and hotels. That is why I am beginning to think about a new film.