

**SEE Fest Public Relations – Press Release**

Press Contact: Ken Aaron, (310) 286-1011

Festival Contact: Vera Mijojlic, (310) 709-5497

For Immediate Release

April 16, 2010

**South East European Film Festival Announces Youth Program 2010****AREA STUDENTS BRIDGING THE GAP  
BETWEEN EAST AND WEST****10AM April 29 - 30<sup>th</sup> at the Goethe-Institut Auditorium**

*Los Angeles, April 2010* – Fueled by independent spirit and a passion for the cinema of southeast Europe, the team behind LA-based SEE Fest (South East European Film Festival) announces its 2010 Youth Program, to accompany the 5<sup>th</sup> annual film festival. The Youth Program takes place April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at 10AM at the Goethe-Institut in Los Angeles.

Presented in conjunction with the US Premieres of the EU-sponsored “Transitland” and “Crossing Boundaries” video archive projects, the youth program will screen a selection of videos by young artists about their experiences with the turbulent events surrounding the fall of the Berlin Wall. “We bring to light innovative, different films that create an in-depth portrait of southeast Europe, where countries are sandwiched between defunct empires and mixed legacies,” says **Vera Mijojlic**, festival director. “They are the voices of a wonderfully expressive diversity, something southeast Europe and Los Angeles have in common.”

Youth group discussions, led by world-renowned video arts curator **Kathy Rae Huffman**, will follow the screenings and focus on exploring the similarities and differences between southeast Europe and Southern California.

Students will investigate and reflect on issues such as inter-ethnic hate, minority rights, economic transitions, and immigration in their own city and around the world. Discussions will also highlight how grass-roots efforts and youth arts initiatives can help break down barriers and successfully counter harmful cultural practices. Attendees will have the chance to speak about their communities and to brainstorm positive courses of action they can take to solve these problems. The Youth Program then gives concrete action steps to encourage students to get involved in their community.

“We seek to inspire students from local schools to learn how film affects their lives and how to convey stories that make an impact on their communities,” says **Polo Munoz**, the Youth Program Coordinator.

The South East European Film Festival is the only festival in the United States devoted exclusively to southeast Europe. Its mission is to not only show films but to educate audiences about the region, its troubled history, and its cultural diversity. The festival runs from Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> through Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010. Screenings April 29 & 30 start at 6:30pm, May 1 & 2 start at 1:00pm and are held at the Goethe-Institut Los Angeles, 5750 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90036. The closing night of the festival is held on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm the James Bridges Theatre on the UCLA campus in Westwood. The Business Conference takes place on Monday, May 3 at UCLA Anderson. For tickets and more information go to [www.seefilmla.org](http://www.seefilmla.org), or <http://www.itsmyseat.com/SEEFEST.html> .

# # #

Press Contact: Ken Aaron, (310) 286-1011  
Festival Contact: Vera Mijojlic, (310) 709-5497  
PRESS@seefilmla.org