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Hubert Bals Fund announces Fall 2015 and second round NFF+HBF selections

The Hubert Bals Fund of International Film Festival Rotterdam has selected fourteen film projects from countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East to receive grants in the categories HBF Script & Project Development and HBF Postproduction, totalling € 175,000.
Two film projects from Argentina, produced by Viking Film and Topkapi Films, have been selected for the second round of the Netherlands Film Fund + Hubert Bals Fund (NFF+HBF) Coproduction Scheme 2015.

HBF Script & Project Development selection

In its Fall 2015 selection round, the HBF supported eight projects with a Script and Project Development grant, selected from 259 applications. The selection includes four first or second projects by filmmakers Sorayos Prapapan, Gym Lumbera, Shahram Mokri and Liu Shu, and new projects by four award-winning filmmakers.

Arnold Is a Model Student, Sorayos Prapapan, Thailand
Kékszakállú, Gastón Solnicki, Argentina
Lotus Position, Liu Shu, China
The Mysteries of Taal: A Philippine Volcano and Lake, Her Sea Life and Lost Towns, Gym Lumbera, Philippines
Over the City, Emir Baigazin, Kazakhstan
Wine Sediment, Mohammad Rasoulof, Iran
Yellow Apples, Shahram Mokri, Iran
Antigone, Pedro González-Rubio, Mexico

HBF Postproduction selection

The Hubert Bals Fund supported six films with a Postproduction grant, selected from 65 applications. Three filmmakers' first fiction feature films were selected: **Hedi** by Mohamed Ben Attia, **Suspension**

by Ala Eddine Slim and **Alba** by Ana Cristina Barragan. Also awarded with a HBF Postproduction grant are: **La flor** by Mariano Llinás, **Era o Hotel Cambridge** by Eliane Caffé and **Burning Birds** by former IFFR Tiger Awards nominee Sanjeewa Pushpakumara.

Alba, Ana Cristina Barragan, Ecuador

Burning Birds, Sanjeewa Pushpakumara, Sri Lanka

Era o Hotel Cambridge, Eliane Caffé, Brazil

Hedi, Mohamed Ben Attia, Tunisia

La flor, Mariano Llinás, Argentina

Suspension, Ala Eddine Slim, Tunisia

NFF+HBF Coproduction Scheme 2015 selection

The Netherlands Film Fund and the Hubert Bals Fund have selected two Argentinian film projects in the Fall 2015 round of its joint NFF+HBF Coproduction Scheme: **Rojo** by Benjamin Naishtat, coproduced by Dutch producer Viking Film and **La cama** by Mónica Lairana, coproduced by Dutch producer Topkapi Films. These two projects will receive a production contribution of €50,000 from the Netherlands Film Fund.

Viking Film will coproduce **Rojo**, Benjamin Naishtat's third feature film. Earlier films of this filmmaker include **Historia del miedo** (Competition Berlinale, 2014) and **El movimiento** (Competition Locarno, Filmmakers of the Present, 2015). **Rojo** is set in Argentina in the 1970s, a country suffering from an unprecedented wave of political violence. In these dark times, an ordinary man sees his chances to hide a very bad deed. The film will be produced by Pucará Cine (Argentina) and coproduced by Ecce Films (France), Sutor Kolonko Filmproduktion (Germany), Desvia (Brazil) and Viking Film (The Netherlands).

Topkapi Films will coproduce Mónica Lairana's first feature film **La cama**. Laraina's previous short films include **María** (2012), **Rosa** (2010), which both screened at IFFR. **La cama** tells the story of Jorge (58) and Mabel (56) in the final day of their relationship. We see them eat, make love, cry and laugh, while deconstructing their family home after 30 years of marriage. The film will be produced by Rio Abajo Producciones (Argentina) and coproduced by Gema Films (Argentina), Adriana Yurkovich (Argentina), Mónica Lairana (Argentina) and Topkapi Films (The Netherlands).

The NFF+HBF Coproduction Scheme (previously HBF Plus) is a joint programme of the Netherlands Film Fund and IFFR's Hubert Bals Fund that has been successfully stimulating Dutch producers to get involved in international coproductions supported by the Hubert Bals Fund. Since 2006, the Netherlands Film Fund annually reserves €200,000 for NFF+HBF and selects four film projects per year.

The Hubert Bals Fund (HBF) of International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) provides financial support to remarkable feature films by innovative and talented filmmakers from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and parts of Eastern Europe. Since the Funds establishment in 1989, more than 1,000 projects have received support. Each year, a rich harvest of films supported by the HBF is presented at IFFR and at various major festivals around the world.

The Hubert Bals Fund is supported by the Creative Europe-MEDIA programme of the European Commission, the Human Rights Fund of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hivos, the Dioraphte Foundation, Lions Club Rotterdam: L'Esprit du Temps and the Tiger Friends Foundation.

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