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Press release

## THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FILM PRIZE: **THREE FILMS TO COMPETE FOR THE LUX PRIZE 2011**

Rome, 26 July 2011

Today, in the context of the Venice Days section (Giornate degli Autori) of the Venice International Film Festival, the European Parliament unveiled the three contending films for the LUX Prize 2011, all of which will have screenings during the upcoming Venice Film Festival, with the directors in attendance:

**Attenberg** by Athina Rachel Tsangari – Greece

**Les neiges du Kilimandjaro** by Robert Guédiguian – France

**Play** by Ruben Östlund – Sweden, France, Denmark

**As part of the ongoing partnership with Venice Days/Giornate degli Autori, the European Parliament is proud to present three feature films that examine sensitive European issues with originality and sensitivity.**

The films in Competition for the LUX Prize 2011 bring a fresh insight into themes in the best tradition of previous editions of the LUX Prize: integration and youngsters, economic crisis and solidarity, familial and cultural relations, the rules under which we live and the rules that drive our hearts.

### **Attenberg**



*"A tender but deadpan anthropological black comedy... it's an imaginative curio of animal gestures whose emotional power creeps up on you."*

Nick James

### **Athina Rachel Tsangari**

Director of *Attenberg*

"Marina is left with nothing, in the end of *Attenberg*. So, in a way, she is set free. She is free to start all over again, from nothing. I wrote *Attenberg* during the first riots in Athens, in December 2008. Unconsciously, some of the desperation, alienation and sense of betrayal that had poured out in the streets, snuck into the film. Three years later, in the midst of my country's controversial collapse within the European Union, it is a big surprise and a great honor to be nominated for the LUX Prize. I think now, more than ever, making cinema in Greece goes beyond making art. It is an act of political, social, and moral survival."

### **Les neiges du Kilimandjaro**



*"It is a deeply moving human drama, loosely inspired by Victor Hugo poem, and directed by French master Robert Guédiguian. A cinema full of passion and very much aware of contemporary social issues."*

Jakub Duszynski

### **Robert Guédiguian**

Director of *Les neiges du Kilimandjaro*

"In my eyes, one of the most serious issues in today's society is there is no longer any class consciousness. In the sense that you can no longer even say "working class"; this is why I speak about "poor people". Yet, the actual awareness of being "poor people," doesn't exist. [...] There aren't two types of populations, one being a native, employed, unionized home owner... and the other being an unemployed immigrant, delinquent, from inner cities or poor suburbs. Politics and cinema can work to unmask this intellectual deception – and my mind will never be changed on this question: therein lies the essential."

### **Play**



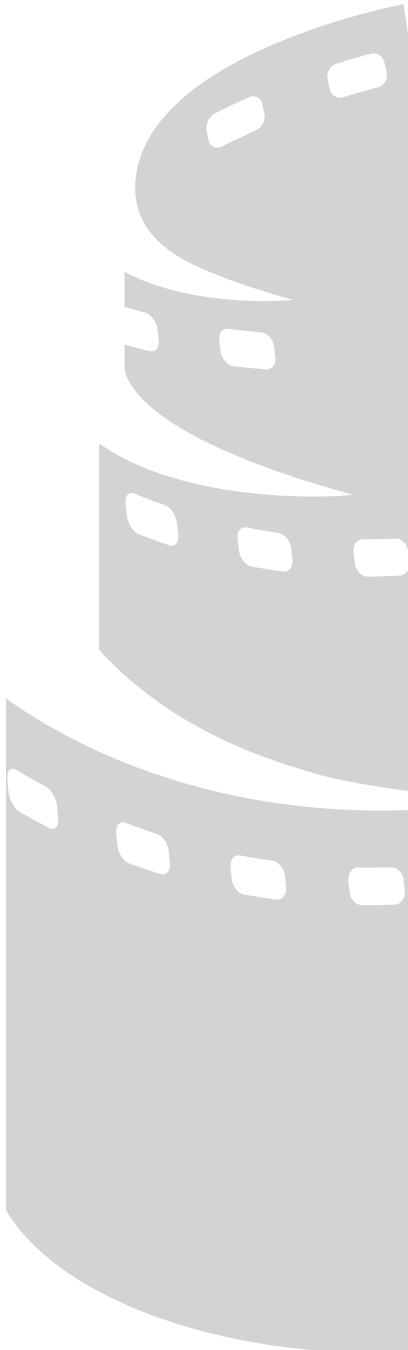
*"Intelligently observed game of mind-sets in black and white dispositions. Youngsters in Sweden being manipulatively robbed of their mobile phones and wallets by the gang of other youths."*

Mira Staleva

### **Ruben Östlund**

Director of *Play*

"*Play* deals with the type of events currently taking place throughout Europe. Events that we have difficulty processing and thus tend to avoid. One reaction I've often encountered is when journalists assure me that they understand what *Play* is all about, but they're afraid others may misinterpret the film. Shying away from the controversial aspects of events like these, either out of fear or kind-hearted concern, will only preserve and possibly fortify the fundamental problem. The LUX Prize nomination, which involves screening this film for the Members of the European Parliament, is a truly significant development. Hopefully their reaction to *Play* will pose a problem and prompt them to rise to that challenge."



Established in 2007 the LUX Prize is a tangible symbol of the European Parliament's commitment to the European film industry.

The LUX Prize annually casts a spotlight on three films in Competition that reflect the richness and diversity of the European cultural landscape as well as the creative excellence of European cinema.

The LUX Prize supports European cinema in the deep conviction that, as a mass cultural medium, it is an emotional and powerful vehicle for sparking debate and reflection on Europe, its values and its future.

The LUX Prize focuses on distribution by covering the cost of subtitling the winning film into the 23 official languages of the European Union (EU), including the adaptation of the original version for hearing or visually-impaired people, and supplying

a digital cinema package or a 35 mm print in the 27 EU's member states.

The LUX Prize winners have been *Auf der anderen Seite* by Fatih Akin (2007), *Le silence de Lorna* by Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne (2008), *Welcome* by Philippe Lioret (2009) and *Die Fremde* by Feo Aladag (2010).

#### **LUX Prize 2011 forthcoming important dates and events:**

**31/08-10/09:** Screening of the three competing films at the Venice Days

**11/10-10/11:** Screening of the three competing films within the European Parliament's premises and vote by the Members of the European Parliament

**16/11:** Unveiling of the LUX Prize 2011 winner (Strasbourg, award ceremony).

### Attenberg



Director: Athina Rachel Tsangari  
Country: Greece  
Year: 2010  
Running Time: 95'  
Original languages: Greek

Marina, 23, is growing up with her architect father in a prototype factory town by the sea. Finding the human species strange and repellent, she keeps her distance. Instead she chooses to observe it through the songs of Suicide, the mammal documentaries of Sir David Attenborough, and the sexual-education lessons she receives from her only friend, Bella.

A stranger comes to town and challenges her to a foosball duel, on her own table. Her father meanwhile ritualistically prepares for his exit from the 20th century, which he considers to be "overrated." Caught between the two men and her collaborator, Bella, Marina investigates the wondrous mystery of the human fauna.

#### Cast

Ariane Labed, Giorgos Lanthimos, Vangelis Mourikis, Evangelia Randou

### Les neiges du Kilimandjaro



Director: Robert Guédiguian  
Country: France  
Year: 2011  
Running Time: 90'  
Original languages: French

Despite losing his job, Michel lives happily with Marie-Claire. They have been in love for more than thirty years... Their children and their grandchildren bring them joy and they are surrounded by their close friends. They are proud of their political struggles and moral values. This happiness will be shattered by two armed and masked men who attacked them violently, tie them up, and snatch the money they had received to go for a trip to Kilimanjaro. The shock will be even more violent when they discover that this attack was organized by one of Michel's young co-worker, Christophe, laid off along with him. Michel and Marie-Claire gradually discover that Christophe must also take care of his 2 young brothers as they were abandoned by their parents.

#### Cast

Ariane Ascaride, Jean-Pierre Darroussin, Gérard Meylan, Marilyne Canto, Grégoire Leprince-Ringuet, Anaïs Demoustier, Adrien Jolivet, Robinson Stévenin, Karole Rocher, Julie-Marie Parmentier, Pierre Niney, Yann Loubatière, Jean-Baptiste Fonck, Emilie Piponnier, Raphaël Hidrot, Anthony Decadi, Frédérique Bonnal, Miguel Ferreira

### Play



Director: Ruben Östlund  
Countries: Sweden, France, Denmark  
Year: 2011  
Running Time: 118'  
Original languages: Swedish

*Play* is an astute observation based on real cases of bullying. In central Gothenburg, Sweden, a group of boys, aged 12-14, robbed other children on about 40 occasions between 2006 and 2008. The thieves used an elaborate scheme called the 'little brother number' or 'brother trick', involving advanced role-play and gang rhetoric rather than physical violence.

#### Cast

Anas Abdirahman, Sebastian Blyckert, Yannick Diakité, Sebastian Hegmar, Abdiaziz Hilowle, Nana Manu, John Ortiz, Kevin Vaz

## Appendix 2 -

### The three contending films are part of the LUX Prize 2011 Official Selection

Every year, a panel appointed by the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education, determines the LUX Prize Official Selection and the Competition. This panel includes producers, distributors, exhibitors, festival directors, film critics and the previous winner. The European Commission (MEDIA) and the Council of Europe (EURIMAGES), sit as observers.

The LUX Prize 2011 Official Selection was unveiled at the 46<sup>th</sup> Karlovy Vary International Film Festival on 3 July 2011. It includes the ten following films.



**A Torinói ló**  
(The Turin Horse) by Béla Tarr



**Attenberg**  
by Athina Rachel Tsangari



**Essential Killing**  
by Jerzy Skolimowski



**Habemus Papam**  
by Nanni Moretti



**Le Havre**  
by Ari Kaurismäki



**Les neiges du Kilimandjaro**  
by Robert Guédiguian



**Mistérios de Lisboa**  
(The Mysteries of Lisbon) by Raoul Ruiz



**Morgen**  
by Marian Crisan



**Pina**  
by Wim Wenders



**Play**  
by Ruben Östlund

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