



Press release

Bridging the Dragon launches the initiative - BtD Professional Talents -

As has been expected for several years, the Chinese box office has overtaken that of the US in recent months. With more than 50,000 screens being built on a daily basis backed by a quickly developing society, the Chinese public is eager to see better and more diversified movies.

A new generation of talented directors is growing alongside festivals, educational programs and a landscape of promising new production companies. But in the midst of such quick growth, the local industry is still lacking enough talents, especially on the technical side. This is one aspect where Europe, with its long tradition and the expertise of its filmmakers, can offer a big contribution.

Since 2014 the Sino-European platform *Bridging the Dragon* has worked to connect the two industries through public events, content development labs and matchmaking activities.

The association has headquarters in Berlin and Beijing. It is supported by many European film institutions and is an official partner of the European Film Market of the Berlinale, the Marché du Film of Cannes and several other festivals. As of today, it has over 80 official members and it receives over 800 applications annually for its different activities.

On April 19th, within the frame of the Beijing International Film Festival and following a request from the local industry, BtD will launch a new initiative called "*BtD Professional Talents*". The program will promote a number of selected European technical talents on the Chinese market. These include DOPs, editors, composers, along with production and costume designers that have contributed to making so many European movies great, whether in the art house or commercial arena.

Counted among them are artists such as: Italian DOP **Arnaldo Catinari** ["Il caimano" (*The Caiman*) in competition at the 2006 Cannes Film Festival]; Italian composer **Andrea Farri** [the blockbuster "Veloce come il vento" (*Italian Race*)]; Italian composer **Santi Pulvirenti** ["La Mafia uccide solo d'estate" (*The Mafia Kills Only in Summer*)]; Italian editor **Roberto Missiroli** [Cannes Un

Certain Regard Winner 2003, “La meglio gioventù” (*The Best of Youth*); Italian editor **Cecilia Zanuso** [the blockbuster comedy “La pazza gioia” (*Like Crazy*)]; David di Donatello award-winning DOP **Vladan Radovic** (Venice winner *Black Souls*, Paolo Virzi’s *Like Crazy*, screened in Cannes Directors’ Fortnight); or **Christof Wahl**, who signed some of Germany’s biggest comedy blockbusters such as *Fack Ju, Göhte* and *Kokowääh*; composers like **Rikard Borggård** (the cult Swedish series *Real Humans*) or **Paolo Buonvino** (Gabriele Muccino’s Sundance winner *The Last Kiss* and Nanni Moretti’s *Quiet Chaos*); editors like Frenchman **Hervé Schneid** (*Amélié*, *Delicatessen*, *Alien Resurrection*) or **Claudio Di Mauro** who signed most of Italian biggest comedies of the last few years next to art house cults like *Eros* (Antonioni, Wong Kar-wai, Soderbergh); production designers like **François-Renaud Labarthe** (Olivier Assayas’ *Personal Shopper* and the historical epic *The Lady in the Portrait* starring Fan Bingbing) or **Tonino Zera** (Tornatore’s *The Unknown Woman* and Spike Lee’s *Miracle at S. Anna*) and Italian costume designer **Eva Coen** [“Caffè” (*Coffee*) directed by Cristiano Bortone, Venice Days 2016 and the first international co-production between Italy and China].

It is our hope that this initiative will trigger further collaboration between the two industries by exchanging expertise, ideas and fostering personal relationships in a moment when European cinema is gaining more and more attention among the Chinese public.

For more information:

info@bridgingthedragon.com

www.bridgingthedragon.com

Bridging the Dragon is supported by Creative Europe – MEDIA Programme of the European Union

