



## PRESSE RELEASE

### Bridging the Dragon's Sino-European Project Lab 2017

Bridging the Dragon is happy to announce the start of its **Sino-European Project Lab 2017**.

This year the first module of the event will take place before the Shanghai Film Market from **13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of June** in the city of **Nanjing** and will be organized in collaboration with **ARRI, Nanjing University of Arts, Pin Ying She, One More Pictures, Gourmet Pictures**.

After the success of the previous editions, the aim of the initiative is still to foster the development of projects suitable for collaboration between the European and Chinese film industries. Film projects from China and Europe will be tutored by respected scriptwriters and production experts, in order to help overcome cultural differences and improve their feasibility. But mostly, once more the event will become an inspiring think tank with open speeches and discussions, offering the chance to selected film professionals to establish personal relationships.

This year among the tutors respected director/screenwriter **Cao Baoping**, famous novelist/screenwriter **Yan Geling** (among many titles Zhang Yimou's *Flowers of war*, *Coming home* and the new Feng Xiaogang's movie *Youth*), script writer **Philip LaZebnik** (behind many animation blockbuster such as *Mulan*, *Pocahontas*, *Prince of Egypt*), **Rikke Ennis CEO of Trust Nordisk** and the new enterprise **Zentropa China**, Hong Kong producer **Chow Keung, Abe Kwong**, (formerly general manager of script development at **Wanda** and Vice President of **Enlight** and now **Senior VP of Magilm Pictures**), Deputy director of academic committee of **Beijing film Academy** and director of **China children film festival Hou Keming**, renowned Dutch producer **Els Vandevorst (N279 Entertainment)**.

The 5 European and 6 Chinese selected projects represent a rich array of genres and companies: art house drama **Mumu** (from veteran Taiwanese producer/distributor and festival habitué **Flash Forward Entertainment**) directed by new promising director **Hu Yangyi**; the war comedy **Undertake**, a very original take on Middle eastern conflicts produced by dynamic Tianjing company **Century Pictures**; the science fiction adventure **Mark Brandis – Space Partisans** by German **Rexin Film** (co-producer of Agnieszka Holland's Silver Berlin Bear winner *Spoor*, Golden Berlin Bear winner *Honey*, etc.); a, the culture shock comedy about wine set in Italy **Grape to Glass** by award winning director **Elsa Yang (Zhuoxi Film and culture Media)**; the epic Sino-French drama **Across the Valley And Into The Hills** by **Jordan Schiele** (his previous *San Fu Tian* nominated Best first feature at Berlinale 2016); the fantasy drama **Autumn River** produced by **Zentropa** and directed by Taiwanese promising director **Tzu-Yang Chen**; the animation **Hello Isabelle** by Croatian award winning producer **Sinisa Juricic** ; the comedy **Whiskey and Noodles** by UK producer **Sinner Films**.

During the event the Nanjing University of arts will host open conferences by some of the tutors. So Mrs. **Yan Geling** will discuss about the challenge of **adapting novels into movies** with director **Cristiano Bortone** (whose co-production *Coffee* is now nominated for the Media awards at SIFF); script analyst **Alex Jia** will challenge **Philip LaZebnik** on the topic "**How to make film stories great**"; **Rikke Ennis** will give an overview of the potential of Chinese films on the global market and Locarno and Udine programmer **Maria Ruggieri** will explore the **world of international festivals**.

*Bridging the Dragon* president producer **Leontine Petit**: "The increasing number of submissions that we had this year and the quality of the projects and the companies that applied is a sign of how our two film industries are gradually getting closer to each other and how times are getting more mature for a successful collaboration."

*Bridging the Dragon* Managing director producer/director **Cristiano Bortone**: "This is the third edition of

the lab. Year after year we have witnessed how important the in depth residential experience has been in closing the cultural gap between the two worlds and creating personal relationships that are key to long lasting collaborations. Some of the projects from the 2015 editions are going into productions now and many of the attendees are actively involved with each other. This makes us very proud and willing to make this format continue and grow.”

**Mandy Rahn**, Senior Manager International Program at **ARRI** : “After attending the lab in 2016 we were impressed by the atmosphere and the attendance of the event and that’s why ARRI decided to continue supporting the initiatives of *Bridging the dragon*. We believe the activity of the association can give an important contribution in bringing the European film industry closer to the Chinese one. We, as ARRI, are very interested in being part of this process and explore all the possibility of collaboration with this great new market.”

The Chinese partner of the event will be **One More Pictures**, a film production and incubation company now opening up to global productions. So its founder Zhu Li: “We are happy to be part of this exciting event. It is our aim to continue the collaboration with Bridging the dragon and make the lab grow into a larger Sino-European yearly summit that could bring together talents and resources and make our movies better and more global”.

**Press agent** of the event as well as continuously for *BTD*’s yearly events is **Go Global**, the Beijing based promotion arm of *IM Global* specialized in the support of Chinese content and events at the main international film festivals.

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#### Bridging the Dragon is supported by Creative Europe - MEDIA programme of the European Union



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