

Bavaria Film International announces first sales of restored Fassbinder work

BERLIN ALEXANDERPLATZ: REMASTERED coming soon to France and Benelux

(Geiselgasteig, December 19th, 2006) Bavaria Film International has sold the sumptuously restored **BERLIN ALEXANDERPLATZ** by Rainer Werner Fassbinder (1945-1982) to France (Carlotta Films) and the Benelux (Lumière). The central oeuvre and masterpiece of the legendary German director will be released for the first time on DVD in 2007. Furthermore the TV rights have also been sold to Finland (YLE) and Sweden (SVT).

The restoration of **BERLIN ALEXANDERPLATZ: REMASTERED** will be completed in early 2007, the year that marks the 25th anniversary of the death of Rainer Werner Fassbinder and the 50th anniversary of the death of Alfred Döblin. The DVD specialists of Imagion in Trier are preparing the central master that will be used in France and the Benelux. Imagion's superior competence in producing high-quality DVDs is confirmed by the many awards the company has won: in 2003 and 2004 the DVD Champion Award for "Best DVD Studio" and awards for the "Special Edition" of Fritz Lang's "Metropolis," as well as for the "Best Box Set" award for their Edgar Wallace Edition. Imagion also obtained awards for the DVDs of Marc Rothemund's "Sophie Scholl" and Wolfgang Becker's "Good Bye, Lenin!"

BERLIN ALEXANDERPLATZ is the film adaptation of the eponymous novel by Alfred Döblin. The epic project was commissioned by the Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR) and Radiotelevisione Italiana (RAI) and produced by Bavaria Atelier. Shooting took place between June 1979 and April 1980 at original locations in Berlin as well as at the Bavaria Studios in Geiselgasteig. After its premiere in Venice in 1980, it was first aired on the ARD beginning on 12 October 1980. Even after the very first episodes, it was clear that it had both triggered an intense and controversial public discussion and provoked the enthusiasm of German and international film critics. The lead roles were played by Günter Lamprecht (Franz Biberkopf), the Fassbinder muse Hanna Schygulla (Eva), Barbara Sukowa (Emilie "Mietze" Karsunke) and Gottfried John (Reinhold Hoffmann).

The mammoth project, consisting of 900 minutes of film derived from normal 16mm material, is currently being restored according to the latest technology. The 14-part series, originally conceived for television, is being restored through digital frame-by-frame retouching in 2K scan technique before being transferred to 35mm film. HD masters for DVD and TV use are also being produced. Guaranteeing the utmost faithfulness to the original is the work's cameraman Xaver Schwarzenberg, who was hired as the project's artistic director. Overseeing the entire project is Juliane Lorenz, the editor of the original work and president of the Rainer Werner Fassbinder Foundation (RWFF).

BERLIN ALEXANDERPLATZ: REMASTERED is a cooperation of Bavaria Media and Rainer Werner Fassbinder Foundation (RWFF) in collaboration with CinePostproduction and ARRI. Supported by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (German Federal Cultural Foundation) and Filmförderungsanstalt, Filmstiftung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, FilmFernsehFonds Bayern, German Films, with contributions from MoMA – The Museum of Modern Art and the RWFF.

For further details and background information please contact Bavaria Film, Hansgert Eschweiler, Tel. +49 89 6499-3910