

### Macedonian Film 'Mothers' Heads to Berlinale

The Macedonian film “Mothers”, directed by the internationally acclaimed filmmaker Milco Mancevski, is launching its European and world tour with a gala premiere at the Berlin Film Festival on February 16.

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The movie has been selected as part of the festival’s special panorama programme, which promotes titles with bold cinematic expression that are of particular significance for world cinematography.

“What is particularly exciting is that the premiere and the subsequent five screenings in Berlin will be held in the two biggest movie theaters at the festival,” Tatjana Pepeljugoska from the Skopje-based Manaki Film, the distributor of the movie, told Balkan Insight.

Mancevski’s fourth motion picture held its world premiere last year at the Toronto Film Festival, and has since been greeted with record interest at cinemas back home.

However, the distributors say the real European and world promotion begins with the film’s screening in Berlin.

“After this the movie will go to festivals in Belgrade, Serbia, Vilnius, Lithuania, Lodz in Poland and Istanbul, Turkey,” Pepeljugoska explained.

“Mothers” connects three seemingly independent stories into one film narrative. The first two parts of the film are fictional stories, but they meld into the third act- an unsettling documentary about a Macedonian journalist who was accused of killing elderly women and then reporting on the murders.

Mancevski gained worldwide fame for his first motion picture, "Before the Rain," which won the prestigious Golden Lion award for best movie at the Venice Film Festival in 1994. Mancevski was the first newcomer to win the award since Andrei Tarkovsky in 1962.

"Before the Rain" won more than thirty international awards and acknowledgments and was nominated for an Oscar for best foreign film in 1995.