

New integration methods

To improve the educational opportunities of children from an immigrant background, it makes sense to involve the parents. But how can schools reach those who don't attend parents' evening? "Creating integration together – for a successful educa-

tional partnership with parents from an immigrant background" is the aim of a forum in Baden-Württemberg to be attended by representatives from various ministries and organizations. The initiative is supported by the state government's integration commissioner, the Breuniger Foundation and the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

Awards for pupil editors

Winners of the "Young people and Europe – Pupils make newspapers" competition have been announced in Paris. The competition was organized by the Franco-German Youth Organization, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, and the French regional press.



German and Russian journalists in discussions

The Second German/Russian Media Conference organized by the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the German Digital Institute involved an open and critical discussion of the role of the media in German-Russian relations. Twenty leading journalists from *Der Spiegel*, *FAZ*, *RTL*, *n-tv*, *RTR-TV*, *Kommersant Daily*, and *Novaya Gazeta* met in Berlin to talk about the current economic crisis, its significance for global politics, and reporting (photo left).

Successful change of language

Polish-born author Artur Becker is awarded the 25th Adelbert von Chamisso Prize

Munich | al | Encountering literature is almost always a very personal activity that happens in silence, often while lying back on the sofa. But there also are people who can only read at the kitchen table. No matter what your preferences, as a reader you almost always find yourself somewhere with total peace and quiet, where you can be alone with yourself, the book, and a story.

However, there also are exceptional moments where the coming-together of book, reader and au-

"Becker affirms the close links between Polish and German culture in a hauntingly poetic way."

Chamisso Prize jury assessment

thor is a noisy public celebration. The presentation of a literary prize is such an occasion, particularly when it is being presented for the 25th time – as is the case with the Adelbert von Chamisso Prize from the Robert Bosch Stiftung. The prize winner in this anniversary year is Artur Becker, with commendations for Maria Cecilia Barbeta and Tzvetta Sofronieva.

In March, the foundation issued invitations to the Allerheilige Hofkirche in Munich's Residenz palace to honor author Artur Becker for his life's work to date. It was an idea that initially shocked the 41-year old author, who was born in Bartoszyce, Poland. It was not that he had anything against literature prizes per se, just the fact that an award for his life's work might make him feel old! It was only when he actually looked back over the dozen novels that he has pub-



Already thinking about his next book: Artur Becker, born in Bartoszyce, Poland in 1968, has resided in Germany since 1985 and now lives in Verden an der Aller, Lower Saxony.

Photo: Yves Noir

lished to date that Becker understood the reason.

The sheer number of books that Becker has written says something about him in itself – he is a prolific, literature-obsessed writer, who is already thinking about his next work long before he has completed the previous one. But this alone does not make him worthy of the prize. He has been awarded the Chamisso Prize and the €15,000 that come with it, for his outstanding contribution to contemporary German literature and for his success in switching from the Polish

language to German. This makes him the perfect candidate for the prize, which was set up in 1985 to honor authors who write in German, but for whom German is not their native language.

A linguistic memorial

Nevertheless, Becker defines himself as a Polish writer in the German language. He's a writer who, according to the jury's assessment, "affirms the close links between Polish and German culture in a hauntingly poetic way" as well as creating "an impressive linguistic

memorial to the Mazurian landscape and its people."

The two €7,000 Chamisso runner-up prizes went to the Berlin-based Maria Cecilia Barbeta, originally from Buenos Aires, for her debut novel *Los Milagros Tailors* and the Bulgarian-German lyric poet Tzvetta Sofronieva for her *A Handful of Water* collection. Some 360 guests attended the gala event in Munich, which was hosted by TV journalist Dieter Moor with musical accompaniment from pianist Benedikt Jähnel. The event was recorded by Bavarian radio.

The Chamisso Prize

Readings, magazine, conference



To mark the 25th anniversary of the Chamisso Prize, the Robert Bosch Stiftung has launched a range of activities on the theme of "Chamisso Literature." For the rest of this year, prize winners and runners-up will be reading from their works and then discussing them at 11 publishing houses in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, as well as in schools. October will see the Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag publish an anthology of pieces by Chamisso prize winners, edited by Péter Esterházy. In November, the foundation and the German Literature Archive in Marbach are organizing an academic conference on the past, present and future of Chamisso literature. There also is an anniversary magazine *Chamisso* ("Many cultures – one language"), with the first of three editions already in print.

► www.chamissopreis.de

Effectiveness of drug investigated

Stuttgart | sb | Around 50,000 women in Germany contract breast cancer every year, and around 18,000 of these women die as a result of the disease. This is partly due to a lack of effective drugs, but also partly to patients' resistance to therapy or their failure to respond to drugs.

The Dr. Margarete Fischer Bosch Institute for Clinical Pharmacology (IKP), set up by the Robert Bosch Stiftung in Stuttgart, has been involved with developing individualized drug therapy for the treatment of breast cancer for approximately ten years. The IKP in Stuttgart forms a combined treatment and research unit along with the Robert Bosch Hospital. Affiliated with the University of Tübingen, it researches the causes for the lack of effectiveness of drugs and their undesirable side effects.

Treatment for breast cancer
Tamoxifen is an important drug in breast cancer treatment and researchers from the IKP have succeeded in identifying a crucial relationship – the effectiveness of the drug for a particular patient appears to depend on her hereditary disposition. The aim now is to make use of international cooperation to verify this finding and to apply the research clinically as soon as possible.

"New developments in the field of endocrine treatment of breast cancer" was the theme of an international breast cancer conference in Stuttgart in February. Speakers at the conference included Professor V. Craig Jordan, the man who discovered Tamoxifen 30 years ago and who spent the winter researching at the IKP.

► www.ikp-stuttgart.de

Lifeblood of the world's young filmmakers

Encounters at the Berlinale Talent Campus

Berlin | al | The Talent Campus at the Berlinale – the annual Berlin Film Festival – is the world's largest forum for young filmmakers. In February, 350 young directors, producers, camera operators, film musicians, sound technicians, and other filmmakers from 102 countries on every continent gathered for a week during the festival to participate in more than 70 workshops with international experts from all genres of film.

Steven Spielberg's congenial cameraman Janusz Kaminski led a workshop, as did the Bosnian Berlinale prize winner from 2006, Jasmila Zbanic, and English actress Tilda Swinton. In practical exercises and individual discussions, filmmakers such as Wim Wenders also used this seventh Talent Campus to pass on some of their experiences to the next generation. The Hebbeltheater and the Theater am Halleschen Ufer in Kreuzberg pro-

vided the venues for the event and were the creative hub of the Talent Campus throughout the Berlinale.

Working on the future

There was nowhere more colorful, loud or lively. While the long-established rights negotiators, producers, and distribution companies went about their business at the film market in the nearby Martin-Gropius-Bau, and while endless lines of film fans waited at ticket offices on Potsdamer Platz and photographers attempted to catch a glimpse of the big Hollywood stars on the red carpet outside the festival center, the Campus was all about the creative future of international film.

It was a place for young filmmakers to meet – and they did, resulting in various international collaborations between young artists that are as unusual as you



Talent at the dining tables: A place for young filmmakers to meet and collaborate. Photos: Berlin International Film Festival/Peter Himsel

could imagine and probably couldn't happen anywhere else. The best example is the Indian/Pakistani team that won the Berlin Today Award. Its members met for the first time at this event, the only

place they can work together – something that would be inconceivable for them at home.

The Robert Bosch Stiftung has been supporting the Talent Campus for four years, presenting its



Janusz Kaminski, Oscar-winning Polish cameraman, during one of the workshops.

Co-Production Prize and arranging seminars to teach young directors and producers the importance of internal co-productions. The foundation's focus, as its prize suggests, is on promoting and facilitating co-productions between Germany and eastern Europe, which is why support for eastern European talent at the Campus is an important component. More than 30 talented filmmakers from eastern Europe were able to come to Berlin thanks to assistance from the foundation.

The success that is already being enjoyed by German/eastern European co-productions by young directors is demonstrated by the short film *Renovare* by the Romanian Paul Negoescu. His film was supported by the Co-Production Prize in 2008, and this year became the first winner to go on to enter the Berlinale Shorts short-film competition.

Chronically ill children at school

Berlin | Krb | Children with chronic illnesses are particularly disadvantaged in their day-to-day schooling. Not only do they have to deal with the disability itself, but they also often have to cope with frequent periods of time off or regular trips between hospital and school. Teachers are not always able to provide affected children with the appropriate level of support, as their training does not often include the required expert knowledge to deal with these pupils. Around 15 percent of the children attending regular schools are chronically ill and in need of special support.

Through the University of Potsdam's School and Illness Network project, the Robert Bosch Stiftung is promoting training for teachers on "illness and school." Hospital schools, where children are taught during their treatment, also are being integrated as a bridge to regular schools. The aim is to achieve a comprehensive and sustained improvement in the schooling situation for children who are suffering from chronic illnesses throughout Germany.

► www.schuleundkrankheit.de