



### FILMFESTIVAL TURKEY/GERMANY, NÜRNBERG

**S**eyfi Teoman's **Our Grand Despair** took home both the main award as well as the prize of the film critics' jury at this year's **Film Festival Turkey/Germany** in Nuremberg, Bernd Buder reports. Other awards included *Best Acting* honours for Nicolette Krebitz (**The City Below**) and Nik Xhelilaj (**The Albanian**) and the *Öngören Prize for Democracy and Human Rights* to Marcus Vetter and Leon Geller's **The Heart of Jenin**.

The festival, which was established 21 years ago, has become a model for several similar reviews on Turkish film around Germany, but it became a festival proper in 2003 when the concept of German-Turkish intercultural exchange was established, and includes competition sections for fiction feature and short films.

This year's programme showed a total of 49 films, with 120 guests invited, including the veteran actor Tunçel Kurtiz who presented a documentary on Turkish migration to Germany which he had directed in 1978, Ahmet Boyacıoğlu who showed his feature-length debut **Black and White**, the actress Hülya Koçyigit who was the president of the main jury, and Fatih Akin who was presented with the festival's *prize of honour* by Kurtiz.

A special section focused on the 50th anniversary of the Turkish-German recruitment treaty. A side issue in both countries' cinema for a long time, the Turkish migration to Germany was picked up in

politically and socially engaged dramas like **Germany, Bitter Home**, which was made in 1979 by Serif Gören who later became the co-director of Yilmaz Güney's **Yol**, as well as black comedies like **V.A.T. Saban**, featuring the late popular comedian Kemal Sunal, and recent works of the so-called »German-Turkish cinema« of which **Luks Glück**, the new film by Berlin-based Ayşe Polat, took part in the competition.

The subject of migration was a good opportunity for proving the festival organisers' interest in debate. Kurtiz was very frank in criticizing Germany's visa regime which had foiled efforts for intercultural communication. »One cannot build as many bridges as are needed to overcome all the ditches broached by Germany's visa policy,« he declared, while Claudia Hahn-Raabe, head of the Goethe Institut in Istanbul, pointed out during the same panel discussion: »Culture connects, politics separate.« [www.fftd.de](http://www.fftd.de)