



## **THE EUROPEAN INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL 2010 ANNOUNCES FINAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS CLOSED**

PARIS, FRANCE (22 January, 2010) – The European Independent Film Festival (ÉCU), Europe’s premier event for independent filmmakers and their audiences, announces the final submission deadline for this year’s festival has now closed.

The fifth edition of the festival received submissions from 42 countries ranging in genre from feature films, short films, documentaries, animation and student films as well as a category for films dealing with environmental issues.

*“I’m continually amazed at the quality of films submitted to the festival. The idea that there are people all over the world united by their overwhelming desire to tell a masterful story, often with limited resources, shows that the creative spirit of independent filmmaking is alive and kicking,”* says Scott Hillier, ÉCU 2010’s President and Academy Award honoured independent filmmaker.

The selection committee is in the final stages of judging all ÉCU 2010 submissions. The Official Selection will be announced on Monday 15th February and will represent the pinnacle of independent filmmaking talent from around the world.

ÉCU 2010 will be held at Cinema Le Grand Action and Theatre Triomphe in Paris, France from 12th-14th March, 2010. Officially selected filmmakers will compete for twenty-two awards, including the prestigious title of “Europe’s Best Independent Film”. This year’s jury includes Cannes Film Festival award-winner Joao Salaviza (Portugal), Kustendorf Film Festival programmer Dunja Kusturica (Serbia) and Sam Holland (UK) director of *Zebra Crossings* - Europe’s Best Independent Film 2009.

Running alongside the screenings will be a series of workshops on scriptwriting, editing, acting and directing. ‘Meet-the-Directors’ sessions will be held throughout the weekend and are open to the public.

Since its inception five years ago, ÉCU has proved to be a discovery point for many of Europe’s talented independent filmmakers who are driven by the passion to make great cinema, but don’t benefit from large production budgets.

*“I know how hard it is for independent filmmakers to get the recognition they deserve,”* says Hillier. *“Our mission is to discover and showcase the most exciting young talent in the film industry today.”*

For more information, visit [www.ecufilmfestival.com](http://www.ecufilmfestival.com).