

THE  
SIXTH\*  
EUROPEAN  
FILM  
INDE-  
PENDENT  
FESTIVAL

Le VI<sup>ème</sup>  
ÉCU  
THE EUROPEAN  
INDEPENDENT  
FILM FESTIVAL

In Partnership  
with G-Technology  
by Hitachi



PRESS KIT

ÉCU - THE EUROPEAN INDEPENDENT  
FILM FESTIVAL

APRIL 1, 2, 3 2011

CINEMA 7 PARNASSIENS

98 BLVD DU MONTPARNASSE

75014 PARIS

ECUFILMFESTIVAL.COM

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# I – AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FESTIVAL

## 1) ÉCU in a few words :

ÉCU – the European independent film festival is dedicated to the discovery, promotion and projection of the work of the best independent filmmakers.

Scott Hillier, a cinematographer with an Oscar under his belt, created ÉCU in 2006 to give independent filmmakers the opportunity to project their work in front of a large international audience made up of a melting pot of professionals from the film industry and of course, film lovers.

His goal is to shine the spotlight onto the best European cinematographic work being created today by hundreds of talented, independent but unfortunately under-funded film makers – and to defend and promote the free and creative spirit that is unique to independent cinema.

Independent cinema, by its definition, is created without funding from studios, production houses or financing agencies. This financial independence releases filmmakers from external pressures, enabling true freedom of expression – which is what the festival's strength and appeal is founded upon. The festival gives these filmmakers the chance to present and project their work in front of a broad audience, normally saturated by Hollywood productions.

Since its creation 6 years ago, ÉCU has become the premier event for filmmakers seeking recognition for their talents, while competing with the best independent filmmakers in Europe – and of course meeting their fans!

The festival has made a name for itself as a talent spotlight in the international film community. More and more it is being seen as the European version of the Sundance Festival, one of the major independent film festivals in the world.

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of ÉCU – The European Independent Film Festival will be held from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2011 in Paris, France. The official selection will be a showcase of the best independent films from all over the world.

## 2) ÉCU Key Figures

At the 2011 festival, we hope to gather more filmmakers and spectators than ever before! To give you an idea, here are a few numbers from the 2010 ÉCU festival:

- Over 80 films competing
- More than 25 countries represented

On top of this, each year the festival has attracted an average of 4000 spectators composed of film professionals and film lovers of all ages.

## 3) Previous Winners

After being a part of ÉCU, many directors have found financing for future projects, helping to kick start their careers. ÉCU has been a great launching pad for several movies that have been projected in cinemas around the world.

We are particularly proud of the film, Zebra Crossing, debuting at ÉCU 2009, nominated then for a Bafta Award in the same year, before being screened this year in cinemas in the UK. We are also very proud of the film, Das Kind, directed by Jonathan Levy (France). It received the 2010 honorable mention and was subsequently bought by the Ministry of Culture of France and is now available in national libraries all over the country.

### **Best Student Feature Film 2010:**

- The Highest Low by Louisa Mayman (UK)

### **Best Independent European Film 2010:**

- Las 2 Vidas de Andrès Rabadàn by Ventura Durall (Spain)

### **Best Independent European Short Film 2010:**

- Das Paket de Marco Gadge (Germany)

### **Best Actor 2010:**

- Bogdan Cotlet as Tarantyno (Romania)

## 4) The Jury

The jury of the 6<sup>th</sup> ÉCU film festival is made up of an international group of film professionals, including several well-known faces of the film industry. A few jury members judging the films this year are: Carlo Varini, Alan Arrivé, Julien Vialon, Varo Venturi, Susan Sainty, Oscar Vega, Silvia Defrance, Alvaro Ramos, Daniel Ellezam, Paul Anderssen.

## 5) Prizes and Awards



The winning directors at ÉCU 2011 will receive prizes from our following sponsors:

- G-Technology
- Script Shark
- London Film Academy
- Final Draft

## II – THE PROGRAM 2011

### 1) New Additions ÉCU 2011

A new category has been added to the festival this year – Music Videos. Because music and film form a coherent unit, ÉCU is convinced that the launching of this new category will reinforce the connection between musicians and filmmakers.



### 2) La compétition

Several films will be rewarded in twelve categories: The official selection is currently in progress and will be finalized on February 16th, 2011: [www.ecufilmfestival.com](http://www.ecufilmfestival.com)

### 3) Les temps forts

**Concerts given by artists** from around the world. Members of Access Film-Music are scheduled throughout the festival since music is an integral part of the ÉCU Festival.

- **Meeting the directors.** After each screening, the audience will have the opportunity to meet the directors and participate in a « Question & Answer Session ». Here they will be able to ask questions and discuss in detail the obstacles faced when creating a film.

- **Workshops.** ÉCU is a festival that offers the public much more than just screening of high quality independent films. It is an interactive experience where participants have the opportunity to take part in several workshops given by industry professionals.

The workshops for the sixth edition are:

- Alan Arrivé: Scriptwriting & Directing
- Jeff Gross: Scriptwriting



- Elliot Grove: “99 Minute Film School”
- Yann Malcor: Editing
- Charles Weinstein: Acting
- Mathieu Weschler: Video Art & Filmmaking

#### 4) Surrounding the festival

The festivities will continue after the event with parties organised for each of the nights where attendees can interact with the filmmakers and industry professionals.

# III – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## 1) The cinéma des 7 Parnassiens

The European Independent Film Festival (ÉCU) 2011 will take place at the 7 Parnassiens, 98 boulevard Montparnasse, 75014 Paris.

Everything in the program of the festival (screenings, workshops and the meeting of filmmakers) will be open to everyone.

## 2) Press Contact

Alexandra Faussier, Florence Alexandre & Fanny Garancher

01 42 00 38 86 - [alexflo@lespiquantes.com](mailto:alexflo@lespiquantes.com)

[www.lespiquantes.com](http://www.lespiquantes.com)

## 3) L'équipe ÉCU

**President and Founder of the Festival**  
**Festival Coordinator**  
**Communications Officer**  
**Marketing Manager**

Scott Hillier  
Teodora Berglund  
Clementine Briand  
Kadi Lökk

### Scott Hillier's Biography

Originally from Australia, Scott Hillier traveled around the world for 10 years with the BBC, during which he found himself in warzones such as Bosnia, Tchétchénie, Cachemire and Lebanon. After a particularly difficult trip to Tchétchénie, Scott decided to dedicate himself to writing and directing « Behind the Eyes of War! », which received the award for best dramatic short film at the New York Independent Film and TV Festival in 1999. As a director of photography, he participated in the documentary « Twin Towers » which won an Oscar in 2002.

In 2006, he decided to create ÉCU in Paris in order to support the world of independent filmmaking.

Filmography:

2003: "The Bravest" CBS – Producer / Director

2004: "Deadman's Mail" Theatre du Moulin de la Galette – Writer/ Director

2005: "World's Apart" – ABC America/True Entertainment/Endemol – Producer.

## 4) Contact ÉCU

ÉCU – Festival européen du cinéma indépendant

108, rue Damremont

75018 Paris - France

+33 (0)9 53 57 81 28

info@ecufilmfestival.com

[www.ecufilmfestival.com](http://www.ecufilmfestival.com)

## 5) Our Partners

<b>Partenaries</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>G-Technology</b>	Main Sponsor
<b>Equity Travel</b>	Primarily bringing in British Students
<b>Higher and Futher Travelling Agency</b>	Primarily bringing in British Students
<b>Access Music</b>	Organizing the festival's music and concerts
<b>Script Shark</b>	Offering prizes for festival winners
<b>GoDigital</b>	Online distribution of the Official Selection
<b>L'Artino</b>	Media Partner (internet exclusively)
<b>Carte Imagine R</b>	Competition through which ÉCU tickets will be won Special prices for Imagine'R card users, and coverage of the ÉCU backstage
<b>Cineuropa</b>	Media Partner
<b>AngloInfo</b>	Media Partner
<b>Wall Flower Press</b>	Media Partner
<b>New York Film Academy</b>	Media Partner
<b>Nova</b>	Free tickets to be won on their site, Novaplanet.com, and are offering us airtime
<b>Toute La Culture</b>	Marketing partnership

<b>Film Annex</b>	Media Partnership and screening of our online festival trailer
<b>Your Major Studio</b>	Media Partner and launching the online movie pitch competition
<b>Eurochannel</b>	Media Partner and will be televising a program about ÉCU in March
<b>O'CD</b>	Flyer printing

