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TURKISH CINEMA DELIGHTS NEW YORK

8TH ANNUAL NEW YORK TURKISH FILM FESTIVAL (THE VILLAGE EAST – OCTOBER 21-28, 2006)

Moon and Stars Project is proud to present its 8th annual New York Turkish Film Festival, bringing to New York City the most recent examples of Turkey's emerging cinema industry. The festival, to be held on October 21-28, 2006 at the prestigious Village East Cinemas, features movies from a variety of Turkey's star filmmakers including Fatih Akın, Ferzan Özpetek, Pelin Esmer and others, whose outstanding achievements dominated the international film scene in recent years.

This year's program includes 19 films. The festival opens with *My Father and My Son (Babam ve Oğlum)* directed by **Çağan Irmak**, one of Turkey's youngest and most successful filmmakers. As Turkey's big box office hit of 2005, the film was viewed by more than four million theatergoers. Another hit is European film award nominee *Facing Windows (La Finestra di Fronte)*, by Turkish director **Ferzan Özpetek** (director of *Hamam*), one of the most successful directors of the Italian cinema. The film won the "Best Film", "Best Actor", and "Best Actress" awards at the David di Donatello, the Italian equivalent to the Oscars, and the "Best Director" award at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival.

The festival also marks the return of Germany's **Fatih Akın**, the director of *Duvara Karşı (Head-On)*, one of the biggest international hits of 2005, with a documentary named *Crossing the Bridge-The Sound of Istanbul (İstanbul Hatırası)* based on the music of this glorious metropolis. **Pelin Esmer's The Play (Oyun)**, the winner of the Best New Documentary Filmmaker award at the Tribeca Film Festival this year, documents the story of a group of Anatolian women trying to put together a theater show in their village.

The festival's "Beyond Borders" series, which presents international films on Turkey and Turkish culture, features *A Touch of Spice (Politiki Kouzina)* by **Tassos Boulmetis**, a movie about the return of Yannis to Istanbul, the city of his childhood, where he sets out to discover the city he left behind.

The program also includes recent Turkish hits such as *Two Girls (İki Genç Kız)*, a digital movie by **Kutluğ Ataman**; **Erden Kıral's On the Road (Yolda)**, a film based on a period in the life of Yılmaz Güney, an idol for the Turkish left; and *Istanbul Tales (Anlat İstanbul)* directed in collaboration by five directors. *Organized Jobs (Organize İşler)*, "the story of those who rob and those who are robbed," features several stars of Turkish cinema including Yılmaz Erdoğan and Demet Akbağ.

The "Tribute" section features **Nesli Çölgeçen's** unforgettable classic *Züğürt Ağa (The Agha)*, written by **Yavuz Turgul** and featuring star actor **Şener Şen**. The festival also includes 8 short films by emerging directors from Turkey.

Festival director **Mevlut Akkaya** underlines that the theme of Istanbul, selected by the European Union as the European Capital of Culture for the year 2010, weighs in prominently in this year's program. Akkaya says "with movies such as *Crossing the Bridge-The Sound of Istanbul*, *A Touch of Spice*, *Istanbul Tales*, *Two Girls* and *Organized Jobs*, we aim to present the many faces of Istanbul to New York's cosmopolitan audience".

Moon and Stars Project was founded in 2002 in New York. It is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to highlighting the changing face of Turkish arts and culture and establishing a two-way cultural interaction between the United States and Turkey.

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