

“There is no way to peace. Peace is the way.”

Mahatma Gandhi



CINEMA FOR PEACE

CINEMA FOR PEACE LAUNCHES IN LOS ANGELES

with Special Guest speaker Dr. Deepak Chopra

LOS ANGELES (Friday, March 21, 2003)... After the enormous success at the Berlin Film Festival, founder Jaka Bizilj launched **CINEMA FOR PEACE** with the help of renowned spiritual leader Dr. Deepak Chopra to the Hollywood community at a private luncheon held at the historical Villa Aurora in the Pacific Palisades. Guests also included David Clennon (*The Agency, Thirty Something*), Brian Cox (*Adaptation, L.I.E.*) and Ralf Moeller (*Gladiator*).

The organization is aimed at representing the spirit of free thought to create dialogue with artists, filmmakers, intellectuals to discuss moral response and approaches towards peace through the medium of film and television. **CINEMA FOR PEACE** plans to build awareness to develop peace and humanity and to raise the level of consciousness by providing a platform for artists and filmmakers who stand for peace to encourage them to produce films that promote and highlight humanity and peace.

Speaking at the luncheon, founder Bizilj stated, “Our goal today is to introduce **CINEMA FOR PEACE** to Los Angeles, to the Hollywood community to discuss, to explore and to encourage dialogue amongst ourselves to discover new ways to contribute through our art. I believe art is essential for expressing the unarticulated.”

World-renowned spiritual leader Dr. Deepak Chopra also lent his support for **CINEMA FOR PEACE** and the message the organization stands for that the medium of film and television affords extraordinary opportunities to reach people through the artistic work and to be conscious of the impact this medium offers.

A former film critic and journalist, **CINEMA FOR PEACE** founder Jaka Bizilj was born and raised in Ljubljana, Slovenia (formerly Yugoslavia). He has also gained extensive European experience and knowledge living in Libya, Tanzania, and Malaysia and currently resides in Germany. Bizilj is well versed in politics, literature and philosophy and covered the war in Bosnia as a journalist. Bizilj is currently president of Star Entertainment with offices in Berlin and London that produces and promotes live entertainment shows and concerts that include Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Evita*, Verdi's *Aida*, Richard Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* and artists such as José Carreras, Bryan Adams, Jessye Norman, and Monserrat Caballé.

This year, Star Entertainment distributed its first feature film in Germany, the Academy Award winning anti-war film, *No Man's Land* by Bosnian director Danis Tanovic.

Bizilj launched **CINEMA FOR PEACE** at the 2002 Berlin Film Festival and plans to create at next year's Berlin Film Festival, the World Peace Forum to bring spiritual, political and scientifically leaders of the world together in order to develop peace and humanity on a global level.

Former home to German-Jewish exile writer Lion Feuchtwanger and his wife Marta, the Villa Aurora became a meeting place for exile Europeans after World War II to discuss politics, science, art and philosophy. Known to be frequent visitors to the Villa Aurora were Charlie Chaplin, Billy Wilder, Albert Einstein and director Fritz Lang. Today the Villa Aurora is the home for the Foundation for European-American relations and an international meeting place for artists, scientists, and politicians while it continues to offer scholarships and temporary residency to visiting writers, composers and filmmakers from Europe. Supported by the Berlin Lottery Foundation and the German Foreign Office, the friends of Villa Aurora purchased the house in 1990 and in 1995 it was dedicated as a historical monument by the City of Los Angeles. The German Foreign Office continues to sponsor the Villa Aurora along with the State Minister for Cultural Affairs and the Media.

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