

TODAY'S ZAMAN

New films dominate national competition at Golden Orange

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New productions dominate the Turkish movies to compete for Golden Orange trophies at next month's Altın Portakal (Golden Orange) Film Festival, according to the list festival organizers announced on Thursday.

Among the 12 titles shortlisted for the national feature film competition at the festival's 44th edition are playwright and stage director Berkun Oya's debut feature "İyi Seneler Londra" (Happy New Year, London) and likewise first-time director Cemal Şan's "Zeynep'in Sekiz Günü" (Eight Days of Zeynep).

Other new productions are Aydın Sayman's "Şanjan" (Opalescence), which tells a complex love story between a pretty young girl, an old man and a handsome young man; and Reis Çelik's "Mülteci" (Refugee), which centers on the story of a youngster who escapes to Germany in fear of his life. Other recent productions are "Münferit" (Personal), directed by Yavuz Altun, "Rıza" by Tayfun Pirselimoğlu and honor-killing drama "Saklı Yüzler (Hidden Faces), by Handan İpekçi.

Meanwhile, Turkish-born German filmmaker Fatih Akın's latest feature, "Cennetin Kıyısında" (The Edge of Heaven), which was last week named as the German entry to compete for the best foreign language film award in the upcoming edition of the Academy Awards and which earned the best screenplay award at this year's Cannes Film Festival, will also be competing at the Golden Orange. Abdullah Oğuz's "Mutluluk" (Bliss), which is up for nomination at next year's Golden Globes, Turgut Yasalar's "Sis ve Gece" (The Fog and the Night), Semih Kaplanoğlu's "Yumurta" (Egg) and Barış Pirhasan's "Adem'in Trenleri" (Adem's Trains) rounded out the list.

A nine-member jury presided over by veteran theater actor-director Genco Erkal will decide on who will receive the Turkish cinema industry's most prestigious awards. Famed stand-up comedian Cem Yılmaz, film critic Mehmet Aar, director Zeki Demirkubuz, director of photography Uęur İbak, film producer Nida Karabol, actress Hale Soygazi, screenwriter-director Mahinur Ergun and film poster designer Emrah Yücel, are other members of the national feature film jury.

Organized by the Turkish Foundation of Cinema and Audiovisual Culture (TÜRSAK) in collaboration with the Antalya Foundation for Culture and Art (AKSAV), the festival is scheduled to mark its 44th year Oct. 19-28 in the Mediterranean holiday hotspot of Antalya. The Golden Orange festival has, in its last two years, become part of a greater scheme called the Antalya International Film Festival, also including sister-events the International Eurasia Film Festival and the Eurasia Film Market, which this year mark their third editions. The Eurasia festival and film market were introduced into the Golden Orange lineup in 2005 in a bid to internationalize the film festival, making it one of Europe's top cinema events.

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