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Great Support from DenizBank and TÜRSAK to Turkish Cinema

In line with its mission to bring culture and arts to a wider section of the community, DenizBank realizes "2nd DenizBank First Script First Film" Contest this year with the cooperation of Turkish Foundation of Cinema and Audio-Visual Culture (TÜRSAK) by expanding its scope.

Commenting on the project that is realized to support the development of the art of film making, DenizBank CEO Hakan Ateş said "As of the date of establishment of DenizBank, we have always believed in making investment for cultural development, uniting arts and society if we aim to leave a good heritage to the next generation of this beautiful country. This renewed cooperation with TÜRSAK is an indicator of our efforts in this way. We will continue to say "Yes to Arts"."

Fehmi Yaşar, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of TÜRSAK stated that "Decrease of loss that occurs as a result of fast growth and not being regarded fully as a sector, and prevention of intellectual, economic and creative loss due to defaults in methods and ways constitute the most important reason for the reunion of DenizBank and TÜRSAK."

DenizBank continues to work for making every branch of culture and arts accessible by the community in line with its social responsibility vision. The bank realizes the second "DenizBank First Script First Film" contest organized by Turkish Foundation of Cinema and Audio-Visual Culture (TÜRSAK) and provides a significant support for the creation of permanent works of art and scripts.

A unique platform for talented script writers

The project selection will be based on two phases in DenizBank First Script First Film Contest which is highly important in bringing filmmaking and script writing to the agenda in Turkey and reaching out to those who are willing to write scripts.

15 projects that will be approved as a result of the assessment to be made by the preliminary jury will be taken into a second assessment by the main jury consisting of Birce Akalay, Damla Sönmez, İbrahim Altınsay, Mehmet Aslantuğ, Melisa Sözen, Nuran Evren Şit, Perihan Yücel, Prof. Dr. Nurçay Türkoğlu, Serdar Akar, Tayfun Pirselimoğlu and Turgut Yasalar under the chairmanship of Tefvik Başer. The first three scripts and consolation prizes to be determined as a result of the assessment of the main jury will be disclosed on the night of the award ceremony.

The first work of art will be awarded 30.000 TL and script doctor training from a foreign script writer, the second work of art will be awarded 15.000 TL and script consultancy from a Turkish script writer and the third work of art will be awarded 10.000 TL and script consultancy from a Turkish script writer. Three script writers to be determined by the jury will be awarded consolation prizes for their participation and their works of art available for development.

The information on the contest was shared with the public in a press conference held in Deniz Tower, DenizBank HQ, on 10th of August 2016 Wednesday. DenizBank CEO Hakan Ateş, TÜRSAK Chairman Fehmi Yaşar, jury members, Birce Akalay and Director- Script Writer Serdar Akar attended the meeting.

“We will continue to say “Yes to Arts”

Commenting on the project that is realized to support the development of the art of filmmaking, DenizBank CEO Hakan Ateş stated that “As of the date of the establishment of DenizBank, we have always believed in making investment for cultural development, uniting arts and society if we aim to leave a good heritage to the next generation of this beautiful country. We are happy to take place in a project that will maybe change the lives of professional or amateur script writers who are willing to write scripts yet who cannot find a platform to share their original ideas till today and to share their hopes, excitements. We will continue to say “Yes to Arts” as we did before.”

“Prevention of intellectual, artistic and economic loss is the main ground for this contest”

Chairman of the Board of Directors of TÜRSAK, Fehmi Yaşar, pointed out the revival in the cinema in the last years and the filmmaking reached to 150 films a year and stated that the ratio of the people who watch films increased to 57%. Yaşar stated that “Decrease of loss that occurs as a result of fast growth and not being regarded fully as a sector, and prevention of intellectual, economic and creative loss due to defaults in methods and ways constitute the most important reason for the reunion of DenizBank and TÜRSAK. The main ground for this contest is not to add a new field in contests inflation but to prevent intellectual, artistic and economic losses that occur due to lack of methodology”.

“Script is crucial for film making”

Serdar Akar, the jury member who commented on behalf of TÜRSAK, emphasized the importance of script for cinema and stated that “script is crucial for film making, it has technical characteristics. It has its own world. It cannot be considered as a literary text. It cannot be qualified as something that can be understood by everyone.”

“I am honoured”

The jury member Birce Akalay stated that she was happy to experience her first jury membership in “first script” contest and stated that “I am honoured to be a part of a mechanism that works for development of the art of filmmaking, acquisition and promotion of new script writers, together with very valuable people in the filmmaking industry who have written scripts, directed films, been awarded, considered filmmaking as a mission since their early years”

The finalists will be announced in March, 2017 and the award ceremony of 2nd Denizbank First Script First Film will be held in May, 2017.

“The awarded projects will be sent to international contests and institutions supporting the contest”

This year there will be stages for renewal of the awarded scripts. In this line the script writers of the first three projects will make a comprehensive study consisting of at least three stages for improving their scripts. As a result of the meetings with the consultant, the script writers will continue to improve their scripts till the decision of the script doctor to finish and the awarded amount will be given as the study stages are finalized. The finalized scripts will be sent to international contests and supporting institutions by the support of TÜRSAK. The work of art in the first place will be submitted

to the script department of Taff Yapım and a film will be shot if accepted as a result of the assessment.

Under the contest, a panel and special award organization will be held to increase support in the field of script writing. In the panel to be organized on script consultancy, a joint study will be carried out with the script institutions and script writers working abroad. Special DenizBank award at an amount of 25.000 TL will be granted to the "Best First Film" to be selected among productions in theatres in 2016. The deadline for application to the contest which is open for all script writers with first feature length film scripts is 9th of December 2016.

DenizBank says "Yes to Arts"

Having said "Yes to Arts" from the date of its establishment to contribute to the cultural life and history of Turkey, DenizBank gives support to important projects besides the cooperation with TÜRSAK which started last year. In 1997, it renovated the valuable Afife Jale stage and it is involved by its subsidiary Deniz Kültür in many leading projects varying from theatre to symphonic music, from opera to literature, from documentary to cinema. It has been the corporate sponsor of Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Academic Başkent Concerts for 11 years.

About Türsak

Türsak, Turkish Foundation of Cinema and Audio-Visual Culture, is an autonomous foundation founded in 1991 with the participation of 215 members well known in the fields of cinema, television, fine arts, mass media, business and politics. It raised tens of valuable directors, hundreds of cinema students, and sector employees and introduced many qualified staff to the sector. Producing hundreds of international festival projects, the foundation realized Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival which is among the high quality, major projects in promotion of Turkey in the international arena, between 2005-2008. TÜRSAK which has acted in line with its principles since the date of its establishment with the sole purpose of serving to public is a foundation that creates awareness in the community and contributes to the economy of the country by the organizations it carries out. TÜRSAK is managed by the new board under the chairmanship of Fehmi Yaşar since May, 2015. The new management that aims to progress with more transparent, professional and innovative works aims to update current projects and realize new projects as per need.