

Vienna, March 22 2005

**Foreign Stuff – Festival Submission to the 7<sup>th</sup> Thessaloniki Documentary Festival – Images of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 1- 10.4.2005, Thessaloniki, Greece.  
Debut Documentary Film by Silvia Holzinger and Peter Haas**

The 44-minute long documentary “Foreign Stuff” (Roba Forestiera) is the first film by the Austrian-German team “Il Mare Film” to be shown in Greece. The film will be shown at the seventh Thessaloniki Documentary Festival this year, with screenings on April 2 at 4 o’ clock at the John Cassavetes Theatre and on April 4 at 7 o’ clock at the Stavros Tornes Theatre. Il Mare Film is also represented at the International Doc Market. The documentary portrays the Sassi of Matera, a remote and decaying town carved into tuff rock in the Basilicata in the South of Italy.

In conversations and interviews with unusual and original inhabitants of Matera, a lively portrait of the town is created that captures the magic and mystery of the place. There is Vito, who was born in a tuff cave. Ralf who came to Matera as a young man in 1980, stayed, restored a house that was falling down, and who has lived there since working as an artisan and artist. And there is Massimo who was so inspired by Matera that he founded a theatre there.

The Sassi have a unique appeal because of the fact that these Stone Age caves, which developed into tuff houses and were lived in until 1953, have been occupied for millennia, something that has drawn many filmmakers to Matera. Pasolini’s “The Gospel According to St. Matthew” and Mel Gibson’s “The Passion of the Christ” were both filmed there. Foreign Stuff accompanies a group of young people in Matera as they organise an exhibition about the making of the Pasolini film.

The audience is treated to an opulent and surprising vision of tuff-coloured pictures, the constant sound of rare hawks, the picture-perfect view of the Sassi and the Gravina gorge. The beguiling music in the film is provided by UARAGNIAUN, who use ancient restored instruments to play tunes from Murgia and the Gravina, helping to make the film a highly unusual and independent submission – or perhaps just an improvisation about the passing of time in film form.



About Il Mare Film –

Il Mare Film was founded by Silvia Holzinger and Peter Haas in Vienna in 2002. It is a collaboration of this Austrian-German team, and works exclusively with digital film. Il Mare produces films independently, FOREIGN STUFF is also entirely self-financed. Both filmmakers have taken part in film festivals in Germany, Austria and Italy, and hope to use the 7<sup>th</sup> Thessaloniki Film Festival to make direct contact with International TV channels in order to have an opportunity to show their film to international TV audiences. Press contact - +43 1 9133 925, or e-mail [pr@ilmarefilm.org](mailto:pr@ilmarefilm.org) Website in English, German and Italian at <http://www.ilmarefilm.org>