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### **A fixed star in the Berlinale firmament: Breakfast & Books**

**Presenting a novel in just a few minutes: this is an art that agents and rights dealers have mastered to perfection. Ten titles were introduced at the Breakfast & Books event at the Berlinale (11 – 21 February 2010), attracting a great deal of interest.**



Pitch me if you can: attractive film material was presented during Breakfast & Books.

Around 200 accredited visitors gathered in the Co-Production Market in Berlin's Abgeordnetenhaus, where the Frankfurt Book Fair was hosting Breakfast & Books for the fifth time in cooperation with the Berlinale. Ten new publications were presented here in pitches lasting only a few minutes, among them the new novel "Der Koch" by Swiss bestselling author Martin Suter and, appropriately for Argentina's Guest of Honour appearance at the Frankfurt Book Fair, Claudia Piñeiro's romantic marital crime novel "Ganz die Deine" (Unionsverlag), with the film rights represented by the Frankfurt-based Agentur Mertin.



Nicole Witt, Literarische Agentur Mertin

For many rights managers, publishers and producers, Breakfast & Books has become an absolutely unmissable event. "We're here for the third time in a row and have pitched a title for the second time", says Nicole Witt, owner of literary agents Literarische Agentur Mertin. "The response to Claudia Piñeiro's novel was very satisfying. We've had a lot of enquiries, above all from German producers, but also a few from Latin America and the English-speaking world."



Dr. Gesine Lübben, Diogenes

Gesine Lübben is responsible for theatre and film rights at Diogenes, and she was happy too. Breakfast & Books was a real "fixed star in the Berlinale firmament", she said and added: "As expected, Martin Suter's new novel 'Der Koch' met with a lot of interest. The enquiries will be put into concrete form now, discussed with the author and then a calmly considered decision will be taken."

When it comes to producers, Breakfast & Books is used to cultivate contacts: "A large proportion of the films produced by Constantin are based on literary originals", says project developer Martina Neumann. "That's why Breakfast & Books is the perfect opportunity to talk to colleagues from publishing companies. I think the cooperation between the Berlinale and the Frankfurt Book Fair is very good because it networks the two industries."

All the titles pitched at the Breakfast & Books event were included with 66 other titles in a rights catalogue which was distributed to 400 producers. The titles are also available to interested film professionals online in the Frankfurt Book Fair's Rights Catalogue.