



Press Release, Berlin, 4th February 2010

**BANANAS!* BY FREDRIK GERTTEN AT THE BERLINALE 2010 –
NOMINATED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL GREEN FILM AWARD 2010
BY CINEMA FOR PEACE**

BANANAS!* focuses on a slippery fact trail and a controversial, landmark David vs. Goliath legal case, pitting sick and poor Nicaraguan plantation workers against the multi-million-dollar Dole Food Corporation, which is alleged to have knowingly used a banned pesticide - resulting in a generation of sterilized local workers. Part eye-opening documentary - part John Grisham story, BANANAS!* is the very quintessence of the modern political documentary.

The film made headlines last June when it came under fire by Dole. After the Los Angeles Film Festival was forced to take the film out of competition under massive pressure from attorneys representing Dole, the company went on to sue the filmmakers and even demanded that the director himself make no further comments on the case.

After six months of vocal pressure and overwhelming support for the film from the Swedish Parliament, individual Swedish grocers, the German Documentary Association and Reporters Without Borders along with many others, Dole finally submitted and quietly withdrew its legal proceedings.

Aside from the screenings of BANANAS!* scheduled in the Culinary Cinema programme, the film will be discussed in other events organised by the Berlinale involving filmmakers, journalists, lawyers, etc:

SUNDAY, 14th FEBRUARY

14:00 – 15:30, HAU1, Talent Campus

"Shooting Suspects: Trust and Risks in Documentary Cinema"

Experts: Fredrik Gertten, Laura Poitras, Anat Zuria

Moderated by Jörg Taszman

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MONDAY, 15th FEBRUARY

11:00 – 12:30, HomeBase Lounge

"BANANAS!* vs DOLE", a case study: "How do we protect ourselves when we're attacked? How do we support one another?"

Experts: Lincoln Bandlow, lawyer, Los Angeles (defended BANANAS!* against DOLE); Andreas Spieß, German media lawyer; Sabine Bubeck-Paaz, ZDF/ARTE; Fredrik Gertten, director BANANAS!*; Margarete Jangård, producer BANANAS!*
Moderated by Ove Rishøj Jensen, European Documentary Network

18.00, Konzerthaus Gendarmenmarkt

Cinema for Peace gala: the International Green Film Award will be presented by Leonardo di Caprio and Mikhail Gorbachev

22:00, Martin Gropius Bau Cinema

Screening of BANANAS!* - in the Berlinale Culinary Cinema Programme



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TUESDAY, 16th FEBRUARY

17:00 – 18:30, Gropius Mirror Restaurant

Fruit Salad: A discussion with Fredrik Gertten on his film BANANAS!* and the politics of food

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WEDNESDAY, 17th FEBRUARY

BANANAS!* Event at the Swedish Embassy in Berlin:

17.00 Cocktail - at the invitation of the Ambassador of Sweden

17.45 Screening of BANANAS!*

19.15 Panel on freedom of speech: ***"When Corporate Lawyers Come Knocking on Your Door"***

Experts: Mats Johansson (conservative member of the Swedish Parliament who presented BANANAS!* to the Parliament); Percy Bratt (civil rights defence lawyer (former Swedish Helsinki Committee); Sabine Bubeck-Paaz (commissioning editor ZDF/ARTE, co-producer of BANANAS!*); Fredrik Gertten (director of BANANAS!*); Margarete Jangård (producer of BANANAS!*); Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger (German Minister of Justice, not yet confirmed)

Moderated by Benedikt Härlin (journalist and former politician of the Green Party)

More information and a press kit are available at: <http://www.bananasthemovie.com/>

For press and interview requests, please contact:

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