

Portorož, 13 September 2017

PRESS RELEASE

**OPENING OF THE 20TH FESTIVAL OF SLOVENIAN FILM**

**The jubilee 20th edition of the Festival of Slovenian Film opened last night in Avditorij Portorož in the presence of the Honorary Patron of the festival, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr Miro Cerar, and Mayor of the Piran municipality, Peter Bossman, both of whom addressed the audience at the gala opening ceremony. The Metod Badjura Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to producer Franci Zajc. Hosted by Miša Molk, the ceremony was livened up with a music performance by Magnifico. Due to rain, the audience could watch the opening film, Marko Naberšnik's *Slovenia, Australia and Tomorrow the World* in the open-air cinema or indoors. For film enthusiasts, the night continued with a cake in the Crystal Hall at Kempinski Palace Portorož, to mark the festival anniversary.**

The 20th Festival of Slovenian Film opened on Tuesday, 12 September, with an address by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr Miro Cerar. The opening ceremony continued with addresses by the Mayor of the Piran Municipality, Peter Bossman, and Director of the 20th Festival of Slovenian Film, Jelka Stergel. Each year, the festival features a selection of the latest in domestic audio-visual production as well as a myriad of other events for all those eager to find out more about the film industry. Traditionally, the Metod Badjura Award ceremony is held on the day of the opening to celebrate lifetime achievements in cinema; this year, the award was presented to producer Franci Zajc. With an elegant ceremony, splendid performance by Magnifico, and impeccable hosting by one of Slovenia's greatest TV personalities Miša Molk, the organiser paid due respect and tribute to Slovenian filmmakers who, working with meagre funds, continue to produce excellent works, which have been gaining increasing international recognition. Due to poor weather, the audience was given the chance to watch the opening film, Marko Naberšnik's feature-length ironic drama *Slovenia, Australia and Tomorrow the World*, in the open-air cinema or in one of the indoor venues. After the screening, all visitors were invited to the Crystal Hall at the Kempinski Palace Portorož hotel for an informal gathering.