



Juraj Lerotic, director and lead actor of “Safe Place,” communicates with the viewers.

the Shanghai fest in 2021, after it was recommended by the Cairo International Film Festival, a member of the alliance.

He was not able to attend in-person that year due to the pandemic, and is excited to have finally made the trip this year, now appearing as director of the Cairo International Film Festival in his second year in the role.

“I’m really looking forward to programming films from new filmmakers from the region,” he said.

“You can watch acclaimed films and big movies in festivals around the world, but I’m really interested in exploring new cinema, and new Chinese cinema in particular, and new talent showing the kind of films you don’t really get to watch in big auditoriums elsewhere.”

He also looks forward to in-person conversations with other alliance members, as “collaboration between film festivals are crucial, especially at this time,” he added.

“Films are really suffering from post-COVID problems. Communications, support and partnership to help each other with programing is essential.”

Such communications are not limited to between filmmakers or festival programmers, but sometimes also go beyond the festival itself to achieve some intriguing results.

Hungarian director Noémi Veronika Szakonyi had her film roots in China when she studied in the country for three years. Her feature film “Six Weeks” is screened at the film week, with the lead actress Katalin Román

winning a Media Choice Award for Filmmaker.

The film follows a rebellious pregnant teenager as she plans to give up her baby for adoption, as well as the six weeks after adoption during which she can change her mind under a new Hungarian law.

The director wasn’t able to make it to the festival, and instead sent her cinematographer Zoltán Dévényi, who was previously always filming so didn’t have the chance to travel with this movie that he loves dearly.

“Every film festival has its own flavor, and it’s a completely different environment and culture here,” he said.

“I’m just starting to enjoy it, and will try to find myself in the Shanghai film festival.”



Andrés Kaiser, director of “Time Theorem,” answers questions from the audience.



Movie buffs have their tickets checked for a screening of the Chinese movie “Absence,” which won this year’s Media Choice Award for Film.

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I was amazed by quite a few films from the Belt and Road Film Week before ... You get to see movies from countries that are not regular guests of film festivals, or maybe I just didn’t pay enough attention to their films. Either way, it’s nice to see these movies and get a sense of the country.