SEVEN-YEAR PITCH

As a testimony to perseverance, Anup Singh’s Glass deserves the proverbial thumbs up. Nick Cunningham reports

Recipient of IHF script development funding in 2004 and passed over by CineMart in 2005, although Singh’s Lasya received the CineMart nod in 2006, winning the Fes Claas Fund Award in the process, the German/India/France/Netherlands co-pro was awarded production subsidy this week by Filmstiftung NRW to the value of €335,000. With a quarter of the €1.6 million budget left to find, producer Bettina Brokemper of Germany’s Heimat Film is now confident of scheduling an Autumn/Winter 2008 shoot. In the film, fate comes back to haunt a man who, desperate to have a son, decides to bring his latest daughter up as a boy. “We are very happy to receive this NRW money,” Brokemper says. “We have a German broadcaster on board and we are very happy to have a great partner in the Netherlands (Bert Breij of Augustus Film, who is pitching Land at CineMart 2010). After Berlin, Anup and some of the producers will go to India to do the prep of the film, which is about the journey of a soul through time.”

VIVA AVIVA!

Media International chief Aviva Silver spoke to the Daily Tiger about an invitation-only meeting in De Doelen, arranged under the auspices of CineMart 2010. Media International is a pre-production programme that sets up co-operation between filmmakers from Europe and developing countries. “We’ve tried to gather together all the Media International projects from 2008 and 2009 to look for synergies between them in the context of the launch of our Media Mundus programme later this year,” she commented. Media Mundus will look to provide €432 million of funding from 2010-2013 for European and developing world audiovisual professionals. The meeting was attended by Sigd Yehuda, managing director of Israeli Greenhouse, where Sundance 2010 winner A Film Unfinished (aka The Missing End) was developed. The film, which reveals how most of the archival footage from the Warsaw Ghetto originated from Nazi archives, won the World Cinema Documentary Editing Award. NC