

International News

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Alpha Violet sells 'Alla,' 'Student'

Paris-based company picks up 'Too Much Water' at Ventana Sur

By JOHN HOPEWELL

Cracking two of Europe's toughest markets with a pair of standout Spanish-language artpic debuts, Paris-based Alpha Violet has sold "Aqui y Alla" to Italy's Cineclub Internazionale and "The Student" to Greece's Mikokosmos.

Both deals went down during this week's Ventana Sur, where Alpha Violet closed international rights on another buzzed-up Latin American first film: Uruguay's "Too Much Water."

A Spain-Mexico-U.S. co-prod, Antonio Mendez's "Aqui" depicts a Mexican emigrant returning home to his mountain pueblo.

An incisive, fast-paced take on Argentine college politics, "Student" established Mitre as a highly sought-after Latin American director.

"Arthouse films are having a hard time in Italy and Greece. But we met with two daring distributors who are conscious that, in time of crisis, cinema tickets represent the cheapest entertainment," said Virginie Devesa, who founded Alpha Violet with Keiko Funato.

The U.K. and Japan are under discussion.

Epicentre Films bows "Student" next month in France.

Alpha Violet is working on its U.S. distribution deal.

It now reps international outside Latin America, Germany and Russia/CIS on "Water," from tyro helmers Ana Guevara and Leticia Jorge.

Deal was closed at Ventana Sur with "Water" producer Agustina Chiarino at Uruguay's Control Z Films, whose credits include "Whisky," "25 Watts," "Acne," "Gigante" and "Hiroshima."

Devesa commented: "We liked very much this first film directed by two female filmmakers portraying with a very subtle sense of humor the rainy holidays of a divorced father and his two kids."

"Water" won the Cicae and Europa Distribution awards at Toulouse's 21st Films in Progress last March and the Nortedo Prize at San Sebastian's FIP in September.

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