



**Statement of the jury on conferring the  
2007 Bernhard Wicki Film Award  
to Kevin Kline for his performance in *Trade***

*Dr. Heinz Ungureit – Fritz Pressmar – Elisabeth Wicki-Endriss*

As Bernhard Wicki once said, “The ability to reveal and let us partake in struggles of the soul is one of the most important qualities of an actor.”

This is exactly what Kevin Kline allows us to do. Reserved, taciturn and hostile, the federal insurance fraud investigator Ray crosses paths with a young Mexican man on a desperate search for his 13-year-old sister, who has been kidnapped by sex traffickers.

What Kevin Kline portrays is an attitude more than anything else. He is a charismatic actor with a magnetizing ability to draw us into an inner monologue without words. His almost frightening intensity grabs us by the throat, never letting up for an instant. Kline slowly steeps us in his character’s story – that of a loner on a hopeless quest for a vision from his past.

On the shared journey of these two very different characters, who are both trapped by their social and cultural background Kevin Kline reveals his character’s vulnerability in a subtle yet powerful performance of stunning immediacy. With acting of such expressive force, every thought, every impulse becomes an event.

And yet Kline always manages to give his young co-stars the space they need to explore their new experiences: the hot-headed young Mexican slowly drawing closer to a man who is essentially a stranger; his 13-year-old sister Adriana, her eyes revealing the shame of a deeply wounded child when Kline first encounters her. The humiliation in the girl’s eyes and the equally profound shame in the eyes of the devastated man hits us with a force that makes us want to cry out in rage at those responsible for this suffering.

It is one of the most moving moments in the film.



Bernhard Wicki Gedächtnis Fonds e.V.

## STATEMENT OF THE JURY

In the end, Kline's character returns home, accompanied by a little cat on the backseat of his car. And we know it won't be long before he takes up the quest again – the same hopeless quest.

For his powerful performance in *Trade*, we hereby confer  
the Bernhard Wicki Film Award –The Bridge - The German cinema award for peace  
on **Kevin Kline**