

KURT SCHORK AWARDS – 2002

Winners:

Local reporter category – **Tomasz Patora, Marcin Stelmasiak, & Przemyslaw Witkowski** (Poland)

Freelance category – **Carlotta Gall** (UK)



From left: *Marcin Stelmasiak, Carlotta Gall, Tomasz Patora and Przemyslaw Witkowski*

Carlotta Gall, in explaining the wars and different cultures she has encountered around the world as a freelance journalist for *The New York Times*, has proven herself unafraid to expose mistakes, whether committed by the Pentagon or by Afghan warlords known for taking swift reprisals. She stands as a great example of what can be achieved by combining boldness with an unerring common sense, and her courage has served readers across the world

Gall, 40, a native of England, got her start in journalism in the 1990s for *The Moscow Times* where she gained notice for her detailed coverage of the first Chechen war, which she chronicled in a book co-authored with Thomas de Waal, *"Chechnya: Calamity in the Caucasus"*, first published in Britain in 1996 and widely praised as the definitive account of that conflict. A fluent Russian speaker with knowledge of the Dari spoken in Afghanistan, Gall went on to report for *The Financial Times* and *The Economist* from Russia, Central Asia and the Caucasus before joining *The New York Times* in January 1999, chronicling the events leading up to the outbreak of war in Kosovo, covering the Albanian rebels from inside Kosovo and Macedonia during the war, and then taking up residence in Belgrade to report on events throughout the Balkans.

Tomasz Patora, Marcin Stelmasiak and Przemyslaw Witkowski, in an example of powerful, collaborative journalism, produced the investigative piece, "Lowcy skor" for *Gazeta Wyborcza*, one of Poland's largest newspapers, exposing the sale of dead patient corpses to Polish undertakers by the Lodz Public Emergency Station. Based on a thorough nine-month investigation, the team defied risks, displaying courage and determined reporting to produce the kind of journalism that changes minds in models of transparent, accountable journalism.

A reporter for *Gazeta Wyborcza* since 1991, Patora, 29, heads the City Desk of the Lodz issue and focuses on criminal and investigative pieces, often collaborating with Stelmasiak, 28, who joined the staff in 1994. Together, the two reporters have collaborated on a number of award-winning investigative pieces including "Pan na Funduszu", in which they uncovered the abuse by state officials of funds intended for environmental protection, and a report on the privatization of Polish hospitals which enriched politicians. Prior to joining *Gazeta Wyborcza* in 2001, Witkowski, 33, worked at Radio Lodz, the local public radio station as a criminal and investigative journalist. He also continues to teach journalism at the University of Lodz.