

Celebrating 20 years of the European
Union Film Festival in India



Delegation of the European Union to India
5/5, Shantiniketan, New Delhi - 110 021, INDIA
Tel: +91 11 66781919 | Fax: +91 11 66781955

eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india
www.facebook.com/EUinIndia
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FOREWORD

Welcome to the 20th European Union Film Festival in India.

This year we celebrate 20 years of bringing European movies to India, providing an ideal bridge between two vibrant cultural scenes with rich film traditions.

Through films, sitting in a darkened hall in front of a screen, we can laugh together, relive history, explore the beauty of distant landscapes, and celebrate what makes us human.

In the 20th European Festival we bring you, among others, the story of eleven year-old Freddy, a cyclist who hopes to win a race and thereby meet one of his heroes; of two opera Directors whose common passion for music is matched by their thirst for love; of a man who runs away from his girlfriend but collides with a bride who has run away from her wedding; of a woman whose life in a mansion somehow mirrors the turbulent changes of an entire century; of a boy who makes unexpected friends while investigating the death of his parents in a car accident; and of the happy householder with the perfect marriage who finds love – or maybe something else – with a choreographer who loves her cooking.

These, and many other charming or unsettling stories, are the oeuvre of the film festival.

Enjoy!!!

João Cravinho
Ambassador of the European Union to India

**Go, Eddy!
Allez, Eddy!**
Director-Gert
Embrechts



Synopsis:

11-year-old cycling talent Freddy is the son of a local butcher in the back of beyond. When the village's first supermarket opens its doors in 1975, Freddy's isolated life is turned upside down. To celebrate its opening, the supermarket organises a bicycle race, the winner of which will get to meet Eddy Merckx. Freddy's father, a fervent opponent of the supermarket, wants nothing to do with the race. Freddy enters secretly. Participation in the race opens up a new world, not only for Freddy, but also for all those surrounding him.

Cast: Peter Van den Begin, Barbara Sarafian, Jelte Blommaert, Els Dottermans, Stefaan Degand, Jelle Cleymans, Frieda Pittoors a.o.

 **Belgium**

Producer: Jacqueline de Goeij
2012 | 100 mins

The Foreigner
Director -
Niki Iliev



Synopsis:

A Frenchman falls in love with a hot-tempered Bulgarian village girl. Following the call of his heart he starts looking for the village where she lives without knowing the character and the language of the people living there.

"The Foreigner" is a romantic comedy bearing the spirit of the French movies from the seventies.

Cast: Lubomir Kovatchev, Sanya Borisova, Niki Iliev, Valentin Goshev, Elen Koleva, Assen Blatechki, Catherine Gautier, Christopher Lambert

 **Bulgaria**

Producer: Niki Iliev, Alexander Menkadjiev, Mihail Menkadjiev
2012 | 94 mins

The Don Juans
Donšajni
Director-
Jiri Menzel

Synopsis:

A small town opera company decides to put on Mozart's Don Giovanni that provides the connecting thread between the intersecting stories of two aging opera directors: obsessive womanizer Vitek, something of a Don Juan in his own right; and Marketka, one of a long line of women seduced and abandoned by a bass tenor starring in Mozart's masterpiece. The affectionate satire filled with sensual imagery tells the story about love and disillusion, music and passion; story about the world of opera unmasked and stripped of its glamour, and most of all, the story about the people caught in between.

From the Oscar Winning Director Jiří Menzel, The Don Juans (Donšajni) presents a brilliant combination and proper dosage of comedy and drama, opera and cinema, love and passion for life.

The Don Juans gained cheerful responses from audiences worldwide, including India, where The Don Juans were excitedly applauded at the International Film Festival India in Goa in November 2013 and Jiri Menzel was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award. In The Don Juans, Jiri Menzel combines his humanistic view of the world with his typical sarcasm and provocative cinematography.

Cast: Jan Hartl, Libuse Safrankova, Martin Huba

 **Czech Republic**

Producer: Adrian Sarbu
2013 | 102 mins

Celebrating 20 years of European Union Film Festival in India | Czech Republic | #3

**The Keeper
of Lost Causes**
Kvinden i buret
Director -
Mikkel Nørgaard

Synopsis:

Chief detective Carl Mørck and his assistant Assad become involved in a five-year-old case concerning the mystery of politician Merete Lynggaard's disappearance - a journey that takes them deep into the undercurrent of abuse and malice that lurks beneath the polished surface of Scandinavia.

Cast: Nikolaj Lie Kaas, Per Scheel Krüger, Troels Lyby

 **Denmark**

Producer: Louise Vesth
2013 | 100 mins



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The Age of Cannibals
Zeit der Kannibalen
Director-
Johannes Naber



Synopsis:

Öllers and Niederländer are business consultants. For years, they've toured the globe as the highly-paid grunts of international capitalism. However, they've always maintained a distance to the reality "out there", which they only perceive as a dusty silhouette behind the windows of their air-conditioned luxury hotels. So far, both managers have always believed they've had everything under control. But suddenly they have to deal with a new colleague. She's been brought in to replace their old pal Hellinger, who has an unexpected "career jump" – becoming a co-partner in the company. But this is only the beginning of the terror yet to come. Why does Hellinger throw himself out of a window so soon after arriving at the peak of business success? And what about the rumours of a hostile corporate takeover? Nerves become increasingly frayed. AGE OF CANNIBALS is a coolly remote, grotesque and shrill story about the fall from the Temples of Hubris to the Hades of wretchedness. Meanwhile, Muslim guerrillas have also stormed the hotel. (Ralph Eue)

Cast: Sebastian Blomberg, Devid Striesow, Katharina Schüttler

 **Germany**

Producer: Milena Maitz
2014 | 93 mins

Living Images
Elavad Pildid
Director-
Hardi Volmer



Synopsis:

Helmi, is born into the house of Baron von Strandmann in Old-Town Tallinn, in 1908. The only thing that she knows for sure about her past is that her mother was an Estonian servant girl. Everything else is a discovery during a life that runs the course of a century – a life that has quite a lot of surprises in store for Helmi.

Director Hardi Volmer's historical love story combines the grotesque of early silent films with the melodrama of the golden age of cinema and elements of both the epic and the comic.

Cast: Sandra Uusberg, Priit Võigemast, Anu Lamp, Tõnu Oja, Ita Ever, Aarne Üksküla, Hendrik Toompere jr jr, Ain Mäeots, Peeter Oja

 **Estonia**

Producer: Anneli Ahven
2013 | 135 mins

**A Place
Called Home**
Director-
Maria Douza



Synopsis:

Eleni Karapanos (Myrto Alikaki), professor of cardiology in London – has been estranged from her father (Elias Logothetis) for over fifteen years now, ever since defying his wishes she left Greece to relocate to England. Kyriakos who had been a refugee child in Serbia after the war has never forgiven her for leaving her country. One day, Eleni's husband Harris loses his job in a big corporation and is posted to China indefinitely. The prospect of a new uprooting prompts Eleni to make a “return” trip to her homeland. Before embarking upon a distant journey, Eleni wants to bridge the distance between her and her father, but also give her daughter Anna a “home” if she ever needs it. On a deeper level though what she really needs is to find a way back “home” herself. On the pretext of responding to one of her father's calls she takes Anna and comes to Greece, for the Easter holiday. But when she reaches home nothing she finds is as she expects. A Serbian woman, Nina (Mirjanna Karanovic), is living with Kyriakos, looking after his big estate. Kyriakos has been harbouring a few secrets of his own.

Cast: Myrto Alikaki, Elias Logothetis, Mirjana Karanovic, Nikos Orfanos, Gennad Patsis



**Producer: Michael Sarantinos, Eleni Atsikbasis,
Vasilis Katsoufis**
2013 | 108 mins

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Blancanieves
Snowwhite
Director-
Pablo Berguer



Synopsis:

Blancanieves is based on the fairy tale "Snow White" by the Brothers Grimm and is centered on a female bullfighter.

The film won the Special Jury Prize and an ex-aequo Best Actress "Silver Shell" Award for Macarena García at the 2012 San Sebastián International Film Festival. It also won ten Goya Awards, including the Goya Award for Best Film at the 27th Goya Awards.

Cast: Macarena Garcia, Maribel Verdú, Daniel Giménez



Spain

**Producer: Ibon Cormenzana/ Jerome Vidal/
Pablo Berger (Wanda Vision, Aracadia Motion
Pictures/ Cameo)**
2012 | 100 mins

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JAPPELOUP

Director-
Christian Duguay



Synopsis:

At the beginning of the 1980s, abandoning a promising career as a lawyer, Pierre Durand devotes himself, body and soul, to his passion: showjumping.

Supported by his father, he invests everything in a young horse called Jappeloup, even though no one else thinks Pierre has made a good choice. Too small, too temperamental, and too unpredictable, the horse has many flaws but also has remarkable poise and abilities. From competition to competition, horse and rider progress and impose themselves in the horse riding world. But the Olympic Games in Los Angeles are a terrible failure and Pierre becomes aware of his weaknesses. With help from Nadia, his wife, and Raphaëlle, Jappeloup's groom, Pierre wins the horse's trust and builds a relationship which will lead them both to the Olympic Games in Seoul in 1988.

Cast: Guillaume Canet, Daniel Auteuil, Marina Hinds, Lou de Laâge, Tchéky Karyo

 France

Producer: Acajou Films and Pathé Production
2013 | 130 mins

Vis-À-Vis

Director-
Nevio Marasović



Synopsis:

A director is working on a new film. The acclaimed actor he wants for the role of the father criticises the quality of the script and his choice for the role of the son. The director invites the actor cast for the role of son to join him on the island of Vis so they can work together on the script and on the character he is supposed to play. The director wants to find out if he made a good choice in casting him. Due to the island's isolation during winter, the two of them are unexpectedly faced with their own frustrations, which intertwine with the film's plot in a strange way.

Cast: Rakan Rushaidat, Janko Popović Volarić, Krešimir Mikić, Daria Lorenci Flatz

 Croatia

Producer: Nevio Marasović, Danijel Pek
2013 | 77 mins

Committed

Director-
Stelana Kliris



Synopsis:

The story is a romantic comedy about a man who takes to the road to escape the pressure of proposing to his girlfriend, only to come across a bride who has just run out on her wedding.

Cast: Melia Kreiling, Orestes Sophocleous



Cyprus

Producer: AMP Filmworks, Full Moon Productions,
AB Seahorse Film Productions
2014 | 85 mins

Pizzas Picas

Director-
Laila Pakalniņa



Synopsis:

Oskars (almost 18 years old) and Matīss (already 18) work as pizza bakers. It's a temporary job for them, of course. They have huge plans for the future – studying at Oxford for instance. But one evening their lives are turned upside down. Most likely they'll be charged with the kidnapping of a child.

Cast: Pauls Iklāvs, Reinis Stabiņš



Latvia

Producer: Laila Pakalniņa, Kaur Kallas
2012 | 63 mins

**The Symmetry
of Butterfly**
La symétrie du papillon
Director- Maisy
Hausemer and Paul
Scheuer



Synopsis:

Roger, a Luxembourgish writer, takes the people surrounding him on a journey into a fictional world. Playing with reality and fantasy, he transforms his novel 'The Symmetry of the Butterfly' into a dream-like and poetical fantasy, where colourful butterflies alight on a rather monotonous everyday life.

Cast: Marie Jung, Fred Frenay, Luc Schiltz, Marc Olinger, Steve Karier, Marie-Paule Von Roesgen

 **Luxembourg**

Producer: Iris Distribution

2012 | 100 mins

**THE AMBASSADOR
TO BERN**
A berni követ
Director-
Attila Szász



Synopsis:

Director Attila Szász's political thriller chronicles the day of August 16, 1958 when two Hungarian immigrants (Tamás Szabó Kimmel and József Kádás) break into the Hungarian Embassy in Bern and take the ambassador (János Kulka) hostage. As the Swiss police surrounds the building and a group of Hungarian immigrants shows up on the street to demonstrate, a tense, twist-filled hostage drama plays out behind the closed doors of the embassy. The screenplay by Norbert Köbli ('The Exam') is based on a true story.

Cast: János Kulka, Tamás Szabó Kimmel, József Kádás

 **Hungary**

Producer: Film Positive Productions

2014 | 76 mins

Soof
Director-
Antoinette Beumer



Synopsis:

A universal romantic comedy, about expectations, disappointments, food processors, pasta vongole, wine, vodka, cheating and being perfectly happy together. Soof - short for Sophie - has it all: sweet children, a small catering company, the ideal husband Kasper and a great house, but every once in a while she can't resist thinking: "is this all there is...?" During one of her catering jobs she meets Jim, a divine choreographer, who falls for her delicious cooking. The more she tries to resist this charming, uncomplicated and funny man that keeps popping up on every event she caters, the more Soof loses control of her once so perfect life.

Cast: Lies Visschedijk, Fedja van Huêt, Daniel Karaty

 **Netherlands**

Producer: KeyFilm, Millstreet Films
2013 | 96 mins

Ida
Director-
Paweł Pawlikowski



Picture Courtesy: Portobello Film Sales

Synopsis:

Anna, a young novitiate nun in 1960s Poland, is on the verge of taking her vows when she discovers a dark family secret dating back to the years of the Nazi occupation.

Ida has won many awards, including the 'Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film 2015' and 'European Film Award for Best Film 2014'

Cast: Agata Kulesza, Agata Trzebuchowska, Dawid Ogrodnik, Jerzy Trela, Adam Szyszkowski, Joanna Kulig

 **Poland**

Producer: Eric Abraham, Piotr Dziecioł,
Ewa Puszczyńska
2013 | 82 mins

A Woman's Revenge

A Vingança de
Uma Mulher

Director-
Rita
Azevedo
Gomes



Synopsis:

Roberto is one of those men to whom simulation has become the greatest art. A dandy! some will say. A libertine! others will tell. Anyway, he is unmoved, inscrutable, and such a mysterious man! But the truth is that Roberto deeply feels an intimate tedium. The boredom of those who already have exhausted all the pleasures of life. The only thing still surprising for him is the fact that nothing can surprise him anymore.

Meanwhile, one evening he has an overwhelming encounter with a woman. She reveals her unappeasable past, intact, displaying her crime and claiming its public scandal. Between that past and the present – a phantasmagory of objects, beings, places - the rêverie goes on and on. A blanket of silence falls upon Roberto's soul, sealed forever.

(Free adaptation of the homonymous tale, in "Les Diaboliques" by Barbey D'Aurevilly 1874)

Cast: Rita Durão, Fernando Rodrigues, Hugo Tourita, Duarte Martins, Francisco Nascimento, Marie Carré, João Pedro Bénard, Manuel Mozos, André Gomes, João Reis



Portugal

Producer: Christine Reeh, Isabel Machado,
Joana Ferreira
2011 | 140 mins

Shanghai Gypsy

Šanghaj

Director-
Marko Naberšnik



Synopsis:

The protagonists of the film are members of the gypsy family Mirga. Lutvija Belmondo Mirga narrates a story about four generations. Belmondo is the main character of the film, a gypsy king, who decided to establish his own gypsy village. He names it Shanghai. Belmondo makes his living by smuggling, and his power and influence grow big. He even gets the local police and politics on his side and that helps him to become untouchable by law. But with the downfall of Yugoslavia, the smuggling of goods is replaced by the smuggling of arms. Though lucrative, the business starts to threaten Belmondo's personal life and he finds himself at the crossroads. Will he protect his own family or is he going to sacrifice his personal happiness for business ambitions?

Shanghai Gypsy is based on the novel The Untouchables written by Feri Lainšček, who is one of the most notable contemporary Slovenian writers.

Cast: Visar Vishka, Asli Bayram, Bojan Emeršič, Senad Bašić,



Slovenia

Producer: Franci Zajc
2012 | 124 mins

The Candidate

Kandidát

Director-

Jonáš Karásek



Synopsis:

This Czechoslovak coproduction is a cynical black humoured thriller situated in Slovakia during a presidential campaign. Created on the basis of a novel written by Maroš Hečko and Michal Havran, it follows the manipulatory game of producing the President of a country out of Mr. Nobody. The campaign and a dangerous game is perceived through the eyes - and mainly ears - of two snoops, who are hired to tap and record Adam Lambert, a conjurer of the local advertising world. They get entangled in a game involving a powerful financial and political group. The Candidate is a witty political farce, indirectly depicting not only the political but also the wider malignancies of a post-communist society instantly transformed into a money-ruled, rightist one.

"You are not the one, who chooses the head of the country"

Cast: Marek Majeský, Monika Hilmerová, Michal Kubovčík



Slovak Republic

Producer: Azyl production, B-Digital s.r.o.
2013 | 106 mins

Boy Upside Down

Director-

Juha Lehtola



Synopsis:

Oliver, 11, (Esa Nikkilä) loses his parents in a car accident. He refuses to mourn and instead, starts investigating the cause of the accident. As he investigates, he meets Joonas (Kari Hietalahti), an alarm system salesman, and an unexpected friendship evolves. Over one summer Oliver also gets to know two extraordinary older men, Jaakko (Esko Salminen) and Rafu (Sulevi Peltola), who run an old cinema together. Despite the film's gloomy starting point, Boy Upside Down is a warm and positive survival story full of quick twists and turns, and proof that life goes on, even though sometimes the going gets tough.

Cast: Esa Nikkilä, Kari Hietalahti, Susanna Haavisto, Maria Heiskanen, Esko Salminen, Sulevi Peltola, Tommi Korpela, Torik Sieberg, Kukka Luukanen, Liisa Mustonen, Petteri Summanen



Finland

Producer: Liisa Penttilä-Asikainen & Pauli Pentti
2013 | 130 mins

The Last Sentence

Director-
Jan Troell



Synopsis:

The Last Sentence is based on the life of journalist Torgny Segerstedt, who alerted the Swedish public to the threat of Fascism in the 1930s. Torgny Segerstedt was one of the leading journalists in Sweden in the 20th century. He fought a one man battle against Hitler and the Nazi regime, with words as his only weapon, until his death in 1945. During these tumultuous times his private life is marked by a world in chaos, as he falls in love with his friend's wife although he is married himself.

Cast: Jesper Christensen, Pernilla August, Ulla Skoog, Björn Granath

 **Sweden**

Producer: Francy Suntinger
2012 | 124 mins



Go, Eddy!
Allez, Eddy!

 Belgium



The Foreigner

 Bulgaria



The Don Juans

 Czech Republic



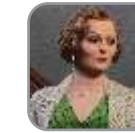
The Keeper of Lost Causes

 Denmark



The Age of Cannibals

 Germany



Living Images

 Estonia



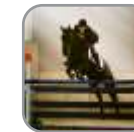
A Place Called Home

 Greece



Blancanieves

 Spain



JAPPELOUP

 France



Vis-À-Vis

 Croatia



Committed

 Cyprus



Pizzas

 Latvia



The Symmetry of Butterfly

 Luxembourg



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Soof

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Ida

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A Woman's Revenge

 Portugal



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