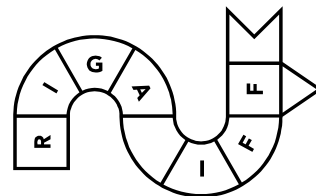


8th of December, 2014

The first week of Riga International Film Festival has been concluded



**RIGA INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL**

Exciting films, premieres and foreign filmmaker's visits have marked the first week of Riga International Film Festival (Riga IFF).

On 2nd of December a premiere of Latvian documentary grand Herz Frank's and Maria Kravchenko's film „Beyond the Fear” inaugurated the festival. Before the screening film's co-director Maria Kravchenko and producer in Russia Vitaly Mansky addressed the audience.

During the week, directors representing the outstanding documentary programme *Artdocfest/Riga* attended the premieres, took part in the open meetings and got involved in discussions with the audience. For example, each of Vitaly Mansky's „The Pipeline” screenings was followed by passionate debates so the scheduled time of screening for the following films had to be delayed. Meanwhile, the Estonian filmmaker Melis Muhi has brought to Riga his ironical observation of Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic which takes form in his documentary „PMR”.

To continue, Madina Mustafina has brought to the Riga IFF her documentary in which she explores and addresses taboo issues – “Come on, Scumbags!” is a story about a girl named Zhenya who turns out to be a boy. The last screening of Mustafina's film within the festival's programme is scheduled on 8th of December, 22:00 pm, at the cinema “K.Suns”. At the premiere of “Evromaiodan. Chornovy montazh” the audience had a chance to meet the film's editor Roman Bondarchuk. On 11th of December, 20:00 pm, at the cinema “K.Suns”, it will be the last screening of this outstanding documentary about the recent events in Ukraine, a film which is a result of a successful cooperation between several directors representing the new generation of Ukrainian filmmakers. In this week's programme you will also find screenings of other *Artdocfest/Riga* films, for instance, “Olya's Love”, a story about a lesbian couple experiencing the discriminatory laws against homosexuals launched by Russian Duma. The last screening of this film is scheduled on 9th of December, 22:00 pm, at the cinema “K.Suns”.

On Sunday, 7th of December, a special meeting was held at „Cinema Citadele”. The Danish director Esben Toft attended his film's “Beyond Beyond” premiere and took part in a discussion with the young spectators and the children jury. Toft's animated film is an adventurous story about a little rabbit who tries to rescue his mother from the King of Feather. This warm-hearted animated film will be screened one more time on 10th of December, 18:30 pm, at “Cinema Citadele.”

The festival's team is also glad to announce some good news for cinemagoers outside Riga – thanks to a successful collaboration with Vidzeme's Concert hall „Cēsis” films within the Riga IFF programme

(Animated Short Films from Latvia and Estonia and Nordic Films for Children and Youth) will be screened in Cēsis from 6th to 12th of December.

In a short time, we are also expecting the arrival of festival's guest of honour, Liv Ullmann, Norwegian actress and film director. The audience will have a chance to meet diva on 11th of December, 17:00 pm, at the Big Hall of „Splendid Palace” before the screening of her film „Miss Julie”. Nevertheless, those enthusiasts interested to attend a more extended conversation with Liv Ullmann, are welcome to take part in a discussion with Liv Ullmann, moderated by film expert and professor Vikors Freibergs on 12th of December, 12:00 am, the Big Hall of „Splendid Palace”; attendance is gratuitous.

On 11th of December, festival's closing night, all film enthusiasts shall gather at their TV screens at 21:15 pm and turn on LTV1 to watch the live transmission from “Daile Theater” where the closing ceremony of the Riga International Film Festival and the National Film Festival “Lielais Kristaps” will be held. During the ceremony awards in 24 nominations, as well as “Lielais Kristaps” award to honour a lifelong contribution, will be granted to contestants.

Tickets for Riga IFF films, the cinematic event of the year, are available at the cash boxes of the allied cinemas as well as at “Biļešu serviss”. A detailed film programme is accessible on the festival's official web page: www.rigaiff.lv.

Riga IFF has set a democratic and accessible admission fee for its films that will be screened at festival's cinema theatres - „Splendid Palace”, „K.Suns” and „Kino Citadele”. The ticket prices are as follows: 3.50 EUR for „Lielais Kristaps” films; 6.00 EUR for evening films; 4.50 EUR for *ArtDocFest/Riga* documentaries (“K.Suns”) or day-time screenings at any of the festival's cinemas. The admission fee for pupils, students and seniors is 3.50 EUR. No admission fee will be required for children aged under 5 years. Tickets are available on www.bilesuserviss.lv and at cinemas' box offices.

Riga, bearing the honour of Capital of Culture in 2014, will also host the European Film Awards ceremony on 13th of December, which serves as a great motivation for the local filmmakers to present the Latvian film in the international scene. Within the programme of the Riga IFF a list of significant film industry events will take place: Latvian National Film Festival „Lielais Kristaps 2014” will be held; the programme of the EFA nominees and European film retrospective will be screened at cinemas; cinemagoers will have a chance to attend the Programme of Nordic Films for Children and Youth, the Russian documentary film festival *ARTDOCFEST's* programme and Riga Film Museum's programme „Cinema 1914”. To continue, film programmes designed especially for the RIGA IFF and an industry event for screenwriters provided by film festival „2 ANNAS”, as well as the copious festival industry's programme „*Riga Meetings*” at The Latvian National Library by the National Film Center will be presented during the festival.

The supporters of the 1st edition of Riga IFF are State Culture Capital Foundation (SCCF), Riga City Council, "Latvijas Valsts Meži", cinema „Splendid Palace”, Lavazza, Vision Express, TNT; festival’s media partners: Latvijas Radio, Latvijas Televīzija, Dienas mediji, internet portal “Delfi”, kultura.lv, agency LILIT, online journal “Satori”, Rīgas Laiks, Veto Magazine, Fold, and others.

Riga IFF is held in “Kino Citadele, cinema theater “K-Suns”, cinema theater “Splendid Palace” and Kaņepe Cultural Center.

The official supporter of Nordic Films for Children and Youth programme is the confectionery producer “Laima”.

For more information, please, contact

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