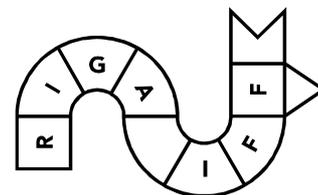


November 27, 2014



**RIGA INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL**

Riga International Film Festival announces the programme

Riga International Film Festival has published its programme and begins selling the tickets. During the festival which will be held from 2nd to 12th of December, 150 of the newest Latvian and European films, accompanied by a retrospective of major European film heritage, will be offered to the audience in 139 screenings. The programme includes films nominated for the European Film Awards (EFA), as well as films-contestants for the national film festival's award „Lielais Kristaps”, and Panorama selection.

For consideration of all cinema enthusiasts – tickets for the Riga IFF films, the most amazing cinematic event of the year, are now available for sale at cash boxes of “Biļešu serviss”. A detailed festival's programme is published on its 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 from 27th of November. We kindly remind you that festival's ticket subscriptions you have purchased earlier can be changed into tickets at the „Splendid Palace” box office beginning from 27th of November.

The team of the Riga IFF is proud to present numerous Latvian film premieres. To begin with, Herz Frank's “Beyond the Fear” will be premiered at the opening event. The director begun working on this film ten years ago and eventually it was completed by the co-director Maria Kravchenko. On the list of the local premieres you will also find “Vēsā mierā” (In a Calm Peace) by Didzis Eglītis, “Mazliet ilgāk” (A Little Longer) by Staņislavs Tokolovs” and “Homo Ludens” by Ivars Zviedrs. During the festival you will have a chance to attend Latvian premieres of Jurgis Karson's „Seja” (Face) Lizete Murkovska's “Vakars uz ezera” (A Night on the Lake) as well as Vera Glagoleva's „Divas sievietes” (Two Women). Vladislavs Scepin's "Svina migla vai man grūti atzīties mīlestībā" (Leaden Mist) completes the list of Latvian premieres.

On 5th of December a special screening will be dedicated to the director and operator Ivars Seleckis and the montage director Maija Selecka, the honourable prizewinners of National Film Festival „Lielais Kristaps” award for their lifelong contribution to Latvian cinematography. The event will be celebrated by screening "Nāc lejā, bālais mēnes!" (Come down pale moon!), as it is film's 20th anniversary this year. The student film programme will be screened at *Kaņepe Cultural Centre*.

From 2nd to 11th of November, the National Film Festival „Lielais Kristaps”, within the programme of Riga IFF, presents Latvian films that have been created during the last two and a half years. Film specialists have already emphasized how remarkably impressive is the Panorama film programme of this edition. During the festival, the jury of “Lielais Kristaps” will be evaluating Latvian films and eventually will decide the prize-winners. The Awarding ceremony will be held on 11th of December and broadcasted on Latvian Television. The audience will have a chance to give their vote for films right after the screenings or on the internet portal Delfi.lv. There will also be a special audience prize named “Lielais Kristaps” for one of the best European films.

Liv Ullmann, festival’s guest of honour will bring to Riga her latest film “Miss Julie”, and will give a brief speech before the film’s screening on 11th of December; furthermore, a day after, on 12th of December, the famous actress and director will take part in a discussion, during which she will also answer the audience’s questions. In honour of the lifelong collaboration between Liv Ullmann and Ingmar Bergman, Riga IFF in alliance with the Norwegian Film Institute presents an exhibition “Liv and Ingmar”, which will be open to visitors from the 2nd of December at cinema theatre “Splendid Palace”.

As promising is the programme of *ArtDocFest/Riga*. It has been brought to Latvia by the most prestige Russian documentary festival *ArtDocFest* which is known for its free spirit and its unconcealed opposition to the official politics (the reason why in 2014 the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation has rejected the request to finance the festival). However, *ArtDocFest* stays optimistic about its future in Europe and this year have begun collaborating with Riga International Film Festival. *ArtDocFest*’s director Vitaly Mansky will be visiting Riga IFF to present his recent and internationally appreciated film “Pipeline”. There will be several other directors and filmmakers of *ArtDocFest/Riga* film programme visiting Riga – the audience will have a chance to meet the director Madina Mustafina before the screening of her “Come On, Scumbags!”, Roman Bordunchuk and “Kiev - Moscow” as well as the director Meeli Muhu who is bringing to Riga his film “PMR”.

In order to enrich the cinematic taste of the younger cinemagoers who are so used to the Hollywood productions, Riga IFF presents its Programme of Northern European children’s and young people’s films. Some noteworthy guests are being expected to Latvian premieres of these films, for example, Esben Toft Jacobsen, the director of “Beyond Beyond”.

Films that have been selected for festival’s programme have also been highly appreciated in other international film festivals. Such is the case of Swedish writer and well known director Lukas Moodysson’s “We are the best!” that has been nominated for the EFA. On Riga IFF’s programme you will also find Iceland’s most popular director Ragnar Bragason’s “Metalhead” and Finland’s Oscar nominee Ulrika Bengts with her “Disciple”. Festival also presents the first screening in Latvian cinemas of Denmark’s and New Zealand’s coproduction “The Weight of Elephants”, a visually refined initiation drama created in *Zentropa*, a film studio founded by Lars Von Trier.

Film Festival „2 Annas” has prepared a programme of short films that was nominated for the EFA in 2013 and the outstanding selection of films “Latvian film history

trespassers – the first, the brave, the creative and the reckless of their time”, which reviews Latvian film history by decades and emphasizes the revolutionary phenomena in form, content, ideology or morality of the each period.

On 6th of December, within the programme of the 1st Riga IFF, Riga Film Museum presents a special event which will be held in „Splendid Palace“ – a film programme designed by the British Film Institute with a view to depict a typical film screening of 1914.

As for the Riga IFF’s Film Industry section, it is provided by the National Film Center and Film Festival “2 Annas”.

“*Riga Meetings*” is a cycle of lectures and master classes for film industry professionals and students as well as anyone interested in the field, presented by the National Film Centre as an industry event. The film programme will be displayed within this event. “*Riga Meetings*” will be held from 9th to 13th of December in Latvian National Library (LNL) and in the cinema theater „Splendid Palace”. On 9th of December a show of Latvian and Estonian feature films begins at LNL Ziedonis Hall. On 10th of December FIPRESCI conference „Latvian national film in the context of the European film” attended by leading film industry theorists will be held in LNL; on the same date the cycle of master classes for film industry professionals “*Riga Meetings*” will begin. On 11th of December German director Wim Wenders will give a lecture at LNL on applying the newest technologies to the filmmaking.

From 10th to 14th of December “*European Script Meeting*” will gather international screenwriters, directors and producers to encourage future co-productions for the upcoming film projects.

As Riga city has the honour of being the European Capital of Culture in 2014 it will also be hosting the European Film Awards (EFA) ceremony on 13th of December which serves as a motivation for Latvian film professionals to take the opportunity and present Latvian film industry in the international film scene.

Resuming the facts, 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; the audience will have a chance to attend the Programme of Northern European children’s and young people’s films, 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 offered by the National Film Center will be presented during the festival.

The supporters of the 1st edition of the Riga IFF is supported are State Culture Capital Foundation (SCCF), Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, National Film Centre, Riga City Council, "Latvijas Valsts Meži", cinema „Splendid Palace”, Lavazza, Vision Express, TNT, Laima, Jameson, Capital; 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, Radio Naba, Rīga

TV24 and others. Riga IFF film industry section is organized by National Film Center in collaboration with Ministry of Culture and “Rīga 2014”, Riga City Council, Radošā Eiropa Latvija-MEDIA, Riga IFF, Riga Film Museum and European Film Academy. Riga IFF is held in “Kino Citadele, cinema theater “K-Suns”, cinema theater “Splendid Palace” and Kaņepe Cultural Center.

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