



## Films nominated for this year's European Film Awards will be featured as part of the Riga IFF program

At the end of this week we will discover which films have been nominated for the 27th annual European Film Awards, some of which will be shown here in Riga from the 2nd - 12th of December as part of the Riga International Film Festival (Riga IFF). This will be the festival's first year – its creation inspired by the so-called 'European Oscars' awards ceremony being hosted this December in Riga.

These nominations are what filmmakers and audiences from all over Europe have been waiting with bated breath for since September, when the chairwoman of the European Film Awards, Polish film director Agnieszka Holland, named 50 European films that could potentially claim the prestigious award. From that moment on, more than 3000 European Film Awards members have voted for their personal favourites in the various categories.

Riga IFF has created a special European film program that will include the most interesting films selected and awarded from over the last 10 years of the European Film Awards.

Among the films shown will be a Cannes favourite, Ruben Östlund's 'Force Majeure' aka "Tourist, which will also represent Sweden at next year's Oscars as a possible candidate for Best Foreign Film. This film could also earn Ruben Östlund the Best European Director award of 2014.

Equally exciting for film lovers will be the opportunity to see British director Mike Leigh's film 'Mr. Turner', with lead actor Timothy Spall in the running for the best actor title at this year's European Film Awards. The film is a not-so-flattering depiction of the life of the undoubtedly genius and eccentric British artist William Turner (1775 - 1851).

The festival's organisers have also given us an opportunity to watch a new experimental film - Ukrainian director Miroslav Slaboshpitsky's 'Plemya', about the efforts of a deaf and dumb teenager to fit in with other young kids of his age. This work is also a possible nominee for the European Discovery title at the European Film Awards.

Riga IFF spectators will also have the chance to see a thriller set in the Alps, 'The Dark Valley' ('Das finstere Tal'), not only a candidate for the Best Foreign Film Awards at the Oscars but also known to have been already awarded two special jury prizes for the film's technical merits – Klaus Rudolph Amler in the European Film Artist category, and Natasha Curtiss-Nos for best costume.

Apart from screening great films, the Riga International Film Festival has chosen to take advantage of this moment in time, when Riga will be at the centre of attention of film industry representatives and media from all around the world, to also present Latvia's international cinema achievements. That is why, for the first year, national film festival 'Lielais Kristaps' competition and out-of-competition screenings as well as the awards ceremony will be held as part of Riga IFF, which will also be broadcasted live on LTV.

In addition, the festival, in collaboration with the National Film Centre and Film Festival '2 Annas', has created an impressive industry section, including a special event dedicated to screenwriters – 'European Script Meeting' - and the National Film Center's annual 'Riga Meetings', which will offer a series of lectures presented by acclaimed film industry professionals, a range of film screenings for wide audiences, master classes for film professionals as well as the latest Baltic film screenings.

Another point of pride for the Riga International Film Festival is the bringing of Russia's most prominent documentary film festival program, 'Artdocfest/Riga', to Latvia, with seven documentaries, all local premieres - both last year's laureates and critically acclaimed new films.

Riga International Film Festival is supported by the SCCF, Riga City Council, Latvian State Forests, Cinema 'Splendid Palace', the Norwegian Embassy, Norden??

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Riga International Film Festival will take place at cinemas 'Citadele', 'K- Suns' and the 'Splendid Palace'.

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