



Information for the media
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Internationally renowned film events are expected in Riga in December

The European Film Academy award ceremony, which will take place in Riga on December 13th, as part of the European capital of Culture programme, has encouraged the union of Latvian film professionals, in order to present Latvian cinema internationally in the most wide-ranging way. International film professionals and Latvian film industry representatives will all gather in one place in December - in Riga, and through the film festival, cinematic master classes, and lectures will urge the development of international collaborative projects, and the establishment of significant contacts.

“The European Film Academy’s choice to host this year’s award ceremony in Riga, establishes international visibility for the conclusion of the European Capital of Culture year. The activity of the Latvian film folk is truly delightful, not just their readiness to use this occasion for the Latvian cinema’s visibility in Europe, but also in finding powerful impulses in the improvement of the field’s events. The Riga International Film Festival is a supportable initiative, integrated into the European film event calendar,” emphasized Foundation Rīga 2014 Director Diāna Čivle.

The Riga International Film Festival (Riga IFF) will for the first time take place in Riga from December 2nd-12th, where viewers will be offered more than 120 films, including the Latvian National Film Festival *Lielais Kristaps – 2014* award contest and *hors concours* displays.

This year several European Film Academy (EFA) members will join in the *Lielais Kristaps* jury. A novelty this time will be the *Lielais Kristaps* audience sympathy award, which will be awarded to one of the European films included in the Riga IFF programme. One of the central accents of the Riga IFF programme will be the EFA award nominated film programme.

Also the Film Festival will offer an European film retrospective, which will bring a very special guest to Riga. The programme is dedicated to the EFA award for Achievement in World Cinema. It will include films from the mid-90s to today – bringing in the newest Norwegian Actress, Director and Ingmar Bergman’s muse Liv Ullmann’s directed film “Miss Julie”. And more – the Festival’s guest of honour will be none other than the director herself, who will present a lecture and meet with viewers before the screening of her film.

Within RIFF, the Film Festival 2ANNAS will present the EFA award nominated short-film programme *Short matters*, as well as *Latvijas robežpārkāpēji* (“Latvian Transgressors”) – films, which can be viewed as brave turning points in Latvian cinema history. A programme of Northern European children’s and young people’s films has been prepared for the Festival’s younger audience – featuring 10 films from Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and other countries, which will open the holiday season for students.

The project *Cinema 1914* will be realized together with the Riga Film Museum. The hundred year old film selection for the cinema Splendid Palace will be presented as it had been a hundred years ago – without intervals and with live musical accompaniment. Whereas, in partnership with the leading Russian documentary film festival ARTDOCFEST, viewers will be offered a daring and current documentary film programme *Artdocfest Riga* with seven films premiering in Latvia.

“This December all of Europe’s film circles attention will be turned to Riga. It is hard to imagine a better fit moment to bring into being the existence of a truly distinguished and professional international film festival” highlighted Riga International Film Festival’s Director Sonora Broka.

The National Film Centre of Latvia, within the Riga International Film Festival, is organizing a vast relevant section, which will include various events for both cinema locals and foreign guests, as well as a wider festival audience.

Rīga – Eiropas kultūras galvaspilsēta

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Meanwhile the 2ANNAS Film Festival team is coordinating an event for scriptwriters as part of the Riga IFF programme. Within Riga's creative atmosphere the project *European Script Meeting* will gather known script writers from Europe, from the 11th – 14th of December, to stimulate international cooperation with another key group of guests – film directors and producers.

„The European Film Academy Award ceremony's occurrence in Riga allows us to fully key in Latvian film into the European context, just as, hopefully, it will create and continue a wide-ranging collaboration with European professionals. Lectures and creative workshops, that will take place in Riga in December, are an opportunity for visitors to meet legendary film creators in person” expressed the Director of the National Film Centre, Dita Rietuma.

“Cinema Splendid Palace will be inviting viewers to the best European films, cinema events and festivals throughout the autumn season. Splendid Palace is a place, where we not only show, but also celebrate film! To experience today's film nerve and pulse, it's not just the film on the screen that counts, but also the atmosphere in the theatre. Splendid palace is seeking its spectators in both the youthful student audience, but also offering special film screenings for seniors. They too will be offered fittingly appealing European film. We will help you familiarize and love European film” informed the Chairman of the Board of Rīgas Nami, Vineta Verika.

The European Film Academy award ceremony will take place in Riga on December 13th during the European capital of Culture, and this has encouraged the Latvian film professionals to present Latvian cinema internationally in the most wide-ranging way. The Latvian National Film Festival *Lielais Kristaps – 2014* will take place in December, as part of the Riga International Film Festival, as well as a European Film Academy award nominated film programme and retrospective, a Northern European children's and young people's film programme, the Film Festival 2ANNAS film programme selected specially for Riga IFF and a special topical event for script writers, as well as the National Film Centre's wide ranging film industry's programme – lectures and creative workshops led by world class film industry representatives. At the end of the year Riga will gather foreign film professionals to stimulate the creation of collaborative projects together with Latvian film industry representatives. Meanwhile cinema Splendid Palace will be inviting viewers to the best of European film and cinema events throughout the autumn season.

The European Capital of Culture programme is organized by Rīga 2014 in collaboration with National, Municipal and NGO cultural organizations, and creative unions. The programme is financed by the Riga City Council, The Ministry of Culture, and the European Commission. *Lattelecom* is the Rīga 2014 programme partner, which supplies technical support.

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