



**RIGA INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL**

Upcoming Riga International Film Festival events

The first Riga International Film Festival will be held from the 2nd – 12th of December, bringing exciting events for local cinemagoers, film enthusiasts and foreign visitors alike. The festival will be followed by the annual European Film Awards, enabling Latvian film professionals to seize the opportunity to present Latvian cinema to a wider international audience.

Other events that will be held as part of the Riga International Film Festival are the Latvian National Film Festival 'Lielais Kristaps 2014', screenings of this year's nominations for the European Film Awards, a special European film retrospective and a programme of Northern European children's and young people's films. In addition, the 2ANNAS festival will present its own film programme and hold special events devoted to screenwriting, and last but not least, the Latvian National Film Centre will deliver a series of industry events entitled 'Riga Meetings'.

'Riga Meetings' is an annual event organised by the National Film Centre that unites film industry professionals from around the world. It has grown from a gathering of producers into a much larger-scale selection of events and in December, film lovers will have the opportunity to attend a wide range of special events – seminars given by some of the most renowned professionals in Europe, workshops for film professionals and an array of film screenings, including the most recent and critically acclaimed Baltic releases. These will be accompanied by the traditional producer meetings and will give everyone the opportunity to discuss potential future collaborations and shared projects with their foreign counterparts.

Events for the general public will take place at the Latvian National Library in Ziedona Hall. The 9th of December will be devoted to Baltic Films – the programme will include the most recent films from Lithuania and Estonia. On the following day, the International Federation of Film Critics, *FIPRESCI*, will host a conference on '*Latvian cinema in the European context*', with a screening of Mark Cousins's '*A Story of Children*' on the same day. Meanwhile, throughout the 11th of December, people will have the opportunity to attend different lectures and seminars led by such film industry stars as Wim Wenders and Agnieszka Holland. There will also be daily film screenings and corresponding networking events with the filmmakers.

This year Riga will also see its first European Script Meeting, organised by 2ANNAS in collaboration with the Riga International Film Festival (Riga IFF) and the European Film Awards. The emphasis during the meeting will be placed on the story, the storyteller and scriptwriting. These events are set for the 10th – 14th of December and will provide a platform for international scriptwriters, directors and producers to come together and develop new ideas and turn them into future collaborations.

The festival will also be showcasing a book that will prove invaluable to all Baltic film professionals - '*Stork flying over pinewood*' - which details the most notable and

significant Nordic and Baltic film project collaborations from 1989 up to 2014. On the 12th of December the author, Jan Erik Holm, the project manager of international projects at the Norwegian Institute, will present his work, which was made in collaboration with many well know Latvian authors. The book will give an insight into not only the projects but also the history of Baltic cinema after the collapse of the Soviet Union, its leading directors, producers, internationally acclaimed films and the historically most significant film festivals.

But film buffs need not wait till December, as the Riga International Film Festival has been warming up the crowds since the start of summer, inviting people to attend such notable film screenings as Signe Baumanes' animation 'Rocks in my pockets', produced by Lokomotive studios, and Xavier Dolan's 'Tom at the Farm', that can currently be seen as part of the Spektra film festival.

On the 5th of November, to commemorate the fall of the Berlin Wall, Riga International Film Festival in collaboration with CPH:DOX will be screening the documentary '1989' at the Citadele cinema, as it's being shown simultaneously across the rest of Europe. The screening will commence at 20.30 and will kick off with a discussion about the 25-year old event. After the screening, viewers will get the chance to participate in a live Q&A with the film's director, Aders Ostergard.

Starting from the 21st of October the Riga International Film Festival invites everyone to dwell into the historical aspects of the Latvian film industry. The Riga Film Museum, with the help of Latvian film history's foremost professionals Agris Redovics and Kristine Matiss, have introduced the very first Film Walk map - an exciting opportunity to discover Riga as a film city. It marks the different filming spots used both for cult films from Soviet times and in contemporary Latvian cinema, as well as reveals the different personalities of Latvian cinema, historical and current film theatres and other film-related institutions in Riga. All the information has been complemented by corresponding images of the different locations and how they looked on the film sets.

The four routes have been designed in a way that is of interest to both local and foreign visitors, encouraging them to do a little cinema sightseeing tour of Riga. Along them, visitors will discover: Vecrīga, a popular location for shooting Soviet films; Jauniela, where the Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson was filmed; Zirgu street and its crass transformation from the German post-war drama '17 Pavasara Mirkli' (1973) and finally, the route will also pass through the locations for some very well-known Latvian films, e.g., where the character Anita, played by the wonderful Akvelina Livmane in the film 'Apple in the River' (1974), slowly sips her cocktail in the cage or where Kurmis (Eduards Pavuls), with his comrades, put up political campaign posters in the film 'Pie bagātās kundzes' (1969). Similar stories can be found on the other routes.

The Film Walk map can be purchased on the Riga Film Museum website in Latvian and Russian languages and will soon be made available also in English:

<http://www.kinomuzejs.lv/karte>

On the 21st of October, nominations were revealed for this year's "Lielais Kristaps" awards, for the first time part of the Riga International film festival. The ceremony will see its 26th anniversary in December (nominations attached) and the selection

process wasn't an easy one this year as there were a lot of entries, given that the previous edition took place three years ago.

The film with the most nominations, at a tally of 11, is director Aigars Grauba's feature film 'Dream Team. 1935' (Sapņu Komanda. 1935). The second in line with 7 nominations is director Jura Kursiesa's film 'Modris', followed by Signe Birkova's 'I will return as a glowing rose' (Es atgriezīšos kā kvēlojoša roze), Davis Simanis' 'Escaping Riga', Ivars Tontegods' 'Mushroom Pickers' (Sēņotāji) and Ilona Bruvere's 'Tapir' (Tapieris) all with 6 nominations. With 5 nominations each are Janis Nord's 'Mother, I love you' (Mammu, es tevi mīlu!), Peteris Krilovs' 'Uz spēles Latvija' (Latvia at stake) and Edmunds Jansons' animation 'Kora turneja' (Choir Tour). Most of these films have also gained international recognition. Altogether 98 films were submitted to the festival with lengths ranging from 2 minutes to 3 hours. From these, 33 were chosen for the festival. Overall, the 'Lielais Kristaps' award will be presented in 24 categories.

We would like to remind you that on the 22nd of September we announced awards for the lifetime achievement in Latvian cinema and this time there were two winners, tandem in both life and art – director/operator Ivars Seleckis and editor Maija Selecka.

The Lielais Kristaps' awards will be presented during the Riga International film festival at the Lielais Kristaps awards ceremony that will take place on the 11th of December at the theatre 'Daile' and it will also be shown live on LTV1.

The first Riga International Film Festival is supported by VKKF, Riga City Council, Latvian State Forests, Cinema "Splendid Palace", Lavazza, TNT.

Media sponsors: Latvijas Radio, Latvijas Televīzija, Diena media group, "Delfi", agency LILIT, online magazine "Satori", Rigas Laiks, Veto Magazine, Fold, among others.

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

In anticipation of the upcoming film events in Riga, Splendid Palace has come up with a promotion, – The European cinema tickets - inviting everyone this autumn to discover European cinema. The cinema invites everyone to watch three European films by the 31st of November at the Splendid Palace cinema, with a chance to win invitations to a special screening with the European Film Academy's lifetime achievement award winner that will take place on the 12th of December at Splendid Palace. More on the campaign: www.splendidpalace.lv

For addition information please contact:

Kaspars Beķeris

Public & Media Relations

Riga International Film Festival

Mob.t. 28676201; E-mail: kaspars@rigaiff.lv, press@rigaiff.lv