



Europe Month
in
Saudi Arabia
May 2013



The Delegation of The European Union
to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates

Europe Day Celebration



Date : 8 May
Venue : King Abdul-Aziz Historical Centre (National Museum)
Time : 8:30 p.m.
Contact : Delegation-Saudi-Arabia@eeas.europa.eu

On the occasion of Europe Day, H.E. Ambassador Adam Kulach, Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Riyadh will inaugurate a cultural soirée and reception organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities.

French and German Schools' Choir:

Abbas Lea, Al Abd Hana, Allam Christian, Bejjani Maria, Cavaciuti Thibault, Chalhoub Joseph, El Kahi Céline, Farghali Salma, Khalife Monalynn, Le Lea, Mally Myriam, Murad Aya, Nasser Reina, Raad Diane, Rafei Aya, Sabbagh Nour, Shili Emna, Soliman Habiba Sherif, Younes Alexandre.

Classical Music Quintet:

Antonia Kirtzoglou (Piano), Racha Massalkhi (Violin), Anahid Jamgotchian (Violin), Tobias Muel-ler-Deku (Viola), John Qualls (Cello).

Launching of the Photo Exhibition "Europe seen by Gulf Arab Students"

Saudi Folklore

Italian Tarantella:

Alessandro Arcella, Antonello Apicella, Domenico Simonelli, Bruno Spagna, Antonio Orefice, Massimo De Vita, Roberto Caccavale, Vittorio Bruno, Raffaele Cardone, Marcello Basile.

Photo Exhibition: "Europe seen by Gulf Arab Students"



Date : 8-15 May
Venue : King Abdul-Aziz Historical Centre (National Museum)
Contact : Delegation-Saudi-Arabia@eeas.europa.eu

The exhibition "Europe Seen by Gulf Arab students" is a collection of photos of landscapes, architectural features and people taken in the countries of the European Union by nationals of the Gulf Cooperation Council, who studied at a school or university in the European Union .

Italian Folklore: Tarantella

ITALY



"Traditional Music Songs and Dances of Southern Italy"

Venue : Embassy of Italy
Date : 9 May
Time : 7:30 p.m.
Contact : oasitalia@gmail.com

The "Guarracini" group celebrates the "tarantella". This is a lively folk dance performed to a distinct, upbeat musical style. Originally from Southern Italy, different types of tarantellas are found in many cities in the mainland of Italy and the island of Sicily.

The "Guarracini" group is composed of ten artists coming from Naples, Italy. Singers, percussionists, and dancers will interpret the musical traditions of southern Italy.

Classical Music Concert :

France Germany

Solenne Paidassi (violin) and Boris Kusnezow (piano)



Venue : Embassy of France
Date : 11 May
Time : 8 p.m.
Contact : info.culture@af-ksa.com

Solenne Paidassi, a French violinist, has been awarded many prizes in France and abroad. She has a very active concert career, giving recitals and concerts all over the world. Boris Kusnezow is a German pianist who won several prizes in Germany and in Italy. Together, they will perform violin and piano sonatas of famous European composers, such as Debussy, Beethoven, Brahms and Saint-Saëns.

Film: Singularidades de uma Rapariga Loura (Eccentricities of a Blonde-haired Girl) 2009

Portugal



Venue : Embassy of Czech Republic
Date : 12 May
Time : 6:30 p.m.
Duration : 64 min
Director : Manoel de Oliveira
Booking : carlos.oliveira@mne.pt

A young man falls helplessly in love with a mysterious blonde woman who turns his life upside down.

Film : Il Sole Dentro (The Bright Flight) 2012

ITALY



Venue : Embassy of Italy
Date : 13 May
Time : 8.30 p.m.
Duration : 100 min
Director : Paolo Bianchini
Booking : italianmovie2@gmail.com

Yaguine and Fodé, two Guinean boys, wrote – on the behalf of every child and boy from Africa – a letter to "Their Excellences the members and officials of Europe". In this letter, they're asking help to have schools, food, medicines, "as your sons that you love like your own life". With their letter in their pocket, Yaguine and Fodé hide themselves inside the undercarriage of a plane directed to Bruxelles and, in this way, their long travel of hope – from Africa to Europe – begins. Ten years later, another journey, in the opposite direction – from Europe to Africa – made by other two boys, Thabo and Rocco, along with a football. Thabo, 13 years-old, comes from N'Dola, an African village, and he wants to go back there, with his friend Rocco, 14 years-old, from Catania. The boys are victims of the kid football players market, from which they escaped.



Film: Bitwa warszawska 1920 (The Battle of Warsaw)
2011

Poland



Venue : Polish Ambassador's Residence
Date : 14 May
Time : 7:00 p.m.
Duration : 115 min
Director : **Jerzy Hoffman**
Booking : riyadh@msz.gov.pl

A war movie with spectacular action, a cast of thousands and a decent love story holding it all together, "1920: Battle of Warsaw" rousingly recounts how Poland routed the invading Bolshevik army shortly after World War I. Vigorously directed by veteran hitmaker Jerzy Hoffman and beautifully lensed by Slawomir Idziak. Poland's winning battle against Soviet Russia is seen through the eyes of two young protagonists, Ola and Jan. She is a Warsaw cabaret dancer, while he is a cavalry officer and poet who believes in socialist ideals.



Film: Politiki kouzina (A touch of spice)
2003

Greece



Venue : Embassy of Germany
Date : 18 May
Time : 7:00 p.m.
Duration : 108 min
Director : Tassos Boulmetis
Booking : abby_laurance@yahoo.com

"A Touch of Spice" is a story about a young Greek boy (Fanis) growing up in Istanbul, whose grandfather, a culinary philosopher and mentor, teaches him that both food and life require a little salt to give them flavor; they both require... A Touch of Spice. Fanis grows up to become an excellent cook and uses his cooking skills to spice up the lives of those around him. 35 years later he leaves Athens and travels back to his birthplace of Istanbul to reunite with his grandfather and his first love; he travels back only to realize that he forgot to put a little bit of spice in his own life.



Film: Tobruk Veclav Marhoul (One war-One battle-One destiny) Czech Republic
2008



Venue : Embassy of the Czech Republic
Date : 15 May
Time : 6:30 p.m.
Duration : 102 min
Director : Václav Marhoul
Booking : Vladimír_Kadlec@mzv.cz

Private Jiří Pospíchal, a young man who left his occupied country to join the Allies and fight in the war, confronts his naive ideas of bravery with a real life situation in the northafrican desert. The movie Tobruk depicts the everyday life of the Czechoslovak soldiers who held the Libyan port of Tobruk against the attacking Germans and Italians during the Fall of 1941.



Film: Quartet
2012

United Kingdom



Venue : British Embassy
Date : 19 May
Time : 8:30 p.m.
Duration : 98 min
Director : Dustin Hoffman
Booking : Ruba Yassin (Ruba.yassin@sa.britishcouncil.org)

"Quartet" as a comedy-drama film based on Ronald Harwood's play of the same name, the film takes place at Beecham House, a home where retired opera singers Cissy (Pauline Collins), Reggie (Tom Courtenay) and Wilf (Billy Connolly) live. Formally part of a quartet, every year the three take part in a concert to celebrate composer Giuseppe Verdi's birthday. But when Jean (Maggie Smith), the fourth member of their group arrives at the seniors' home, things get complicated. Theatrical temperaments and drama evidently ensues and it becomes unclear whether or not the show will go on.

While the film never gets any more drastic than this, it is delightfully charming to see veteran actors Smith, Courtenay, Connolly and Collins strut their stuff. With Smith perfectly playing the slightly narcissistic queen bee of the group, even Michael Gambon makes an appearance as the eccentric lead coordinator of the concert. But as we see Courtenay's Reggie harbour old feelings for his ex-wife and Collins play the lovable confidante Cissy, it's Connolly who steals the show as the hilariously lustful Wilf.

Although there isn't much material to let the actors stretch their acting capabilities, Quartet is a pleasure to watch. Although it pokes fun at old age and shows the fears of becoming a has-been, it's the performances by the film's legendary actors that make Hoffman's endearing tale what it is.



Film: Je n'ai rien oublié (Small World) 2010

France



Venue : Embassy of France
Date : 20 May
Time : 8:00 p.m.
Duration : 93 min
Director : Bruno Chiche
Booking : inscription.jenairienoublie@gmail.com

Struck with Alzheimer's, the handyman of a rich Swiss-German family divulges embarrassing memories.

It relates the story of Konrad, the son of servants in a rich and prestigious Swiss-German Koch family. Konrad was the boyhood friend of Thomas Koch, and he becomes a jack of all trades as an adult, whereas Thomas Koch marries Konrad's true love. This close world begin to be perturbed since Konrad is losing his mind, lost in childhood memories that don't match up with the official party line.

A well-constructed family drama that reveals lies can be much more devastating than Alzheimer's, based on the bestseller by Swiss writer Martin Suter, set in the stiff world of Good Society and with fabulous performances (living legend Gérard Depardieu as the good but disconnected soul incapable of holding a grudge).

Photo Exhibition" Brussels-Capital of Europe"

Belgium



Venue : Belgian Ambassador's Residence
Date : Opening 22 May by invitation only. 23-29 May open to public
Time : 10:00am - 2:00pm
Contact : Joyce.Azzi@diplobel.fed.be

Photo exhibition focusing on Brussels, capital of Europe.



Film: The Vanishing of Patò (La Scomparsa di Patò) 2006

Italy



Venue : Embassy of Italy
Date : 21 May
Time : 8.30 p.m.
Duration : 120 min
Director : Rachid Bouchareb
Booking : italianmovie2@gmail.com

The Vanishing of Pato is based on Andrea Camilleri's novel of the same name and the film takes place in the Sicilian town of Vigata in 1890.

The Neapolitan inspector Ernesto Bellavia has this mystery on his hands: the sudden vanishing of a local banker, Antonio Pato. Bellavia is assisted by local Sicilian Carabinieri Giummaro. Despite their cultural, linguistic and personal differences the two men have enough in common to forge an alliance which is as comic as it is productive. Together, they wade through local politics, personal agendas and the general wackiness that is Vigata to find out what really happened to the banker who mysteriously disappeared. And perhaps most surprising of all, the policeman and the carabinieri find that they can trust each other more than they can trust anyone else in Vigata.

The detective story serves as a frame for social commentary on Italy's class system and politics. The spectator can see how a simple case of a missing person can turn into a complex web of intrigue set in the breathtaking countryside of southern Italy.



Film: Svarta nejlika (The Black Pimpernel) 2007

Sweden



Venue : Embassy of France
Date : 26 May
Time : 7:30 p.m.
Duration : 91 min
Director : Åsa Faringer, Ulf Hultberg
Booking : malika.baccar@gov.se

The story about Swedish ambassador in Chile - Harald Edelstam - and his heroic actions to protect the innocent people from the execution during and after the military coup on September 11th 1973. We travel with Edelstam during the terrible moments just after the coup and follows his never-ending fight for human rights, law and order. What drove him? And what price did he end up paying for his total commitment? Haunted by his own demons the we experiences on close hand how a womanizer desperately searches to find love again, a task only doable, if he can fight his own past and redeem himself. After saving hundreds - maybe even thousands - he is challenged once more, this time to save his newfound love from the death penalty issued by the regime. Another impossible task and a desperate chase against time.

A ROYAL AFFAIR



Film: En kongelig Affære (A Royal Affair)
2012

Denmark



Venue : Embassy of Germany
Date : 27 May
Time : 7:00 p.m.
Duration : 137 min
Director : Nikolaj Arcel
Booking : Rand Shawkat Barawy (ranbar@um.dk)

A ROYAL AFFAIR is the true story of an ordinary man who wins the queen's heart and starts a revolution. Centering on the intriguing love triangle between the ever more insane Danish King Christian VII, the royal physician who is a man of enlightenment and idealism Struensee and the young but strong Queen Caroline Mathilda, A ROYAL AFFAIR is the gripping tale of brave idealists who risk everything in their pursuit of freedom for their people.



Film: De Tu Ventana a La Mía (From my window to your window)
2011

Spain



Venue : Embassy of France
Date : 28 May
Time : 8:00 p.m.
Duration : 101 min
Director : Paula Ortiz
Booking : maysara.daadou@maec.es

Interwoven emotions and struggles of three women of different generations aiming to build the lives they desire, their own future, love and dreams. All of them lose the love of their lives and they will have to pursue their happiness and fight for their dignity in a dark and hostile world.



Polish Concert

Poland



Venue : Polish Ambassador's Residence
Date : 29 May
Time : 8:00 p.m.
Contact : riyadh@msz.gov.pl

Polish composers' works (Lutoslawski, Chopin, Paderewski) will be performed.