

EUROPE IN LOVE



17th European Union Film Festival March – May 2012



Welcome to the European Union Film Festival

The European Union Film Festival is back to India in its 17th edition. This time titled "Europe in Love" and more representative than ever, the Festival will be touring seven cities - Delhi, Bangalore, Pune, Chennai, Kolkata, Goa and Hyderabad from March to May 2012.

This magnificent selection of 25 films, each from a different EU Member State, manifests the European unity in diversity through the central theme of love. Narrating many engaging stories, the festival showcases different aspects, nuances and hardships of that feeling, and offers the viewers a unique cocktail of cultural identity that Europe is known for.

The EU Film Festival is organised by the EU Delegation to India and the Embassies of the EU Member States, in collaboration with a number of partners: Federation of Film Societies of India, Alliance Française (Pune, Kolkata, Hyderabad), the British Council (Delhi, Pune), Goethe Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan (Pune, Kolkata, Hyderabad), Suchitra Film Society and Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy (Bangalore), Indo-Cine Appreciation Foundation (Chennai), Cine Central Calcutta, Entertainment Society of Goa.

Other partners include Department of Information of the Government of Karnataka, Bangalore International Centre, Taj Enlighten Film Society, National Film Archive of India, Film & Television Institute of India, Nandan Theatre (Kolkata).

For more information please go to www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/more_info



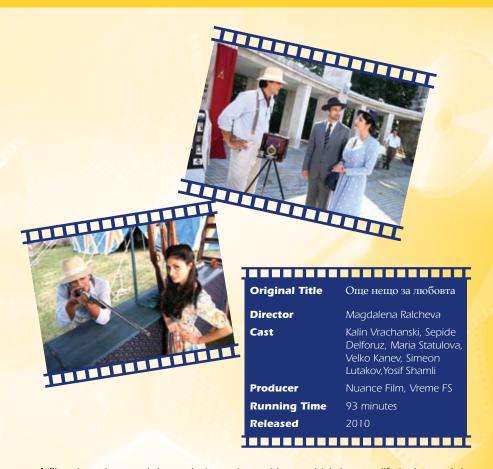
My Queen Karo



Ten-year-old Karo grows up with her parents in an Amsterdam commune in the Seventies. As an only child, she leads a carefree existence in this utopia-for-adults. The mandate says that everything is to be shared in the squat, but soon not everyone is able to honour these ideals. Karo is torn between love for her mother and loyalty towards her father and his ideals. She slowly realizes that nothing can stay the same forever ...

Something More About Love





A film about love and the enduring values without which human life is doomed. In 1945 the young medical doctor Rumenov, an assistant to Prof. Stanishev, who has been executed by the so-called Popular Court, is interned in Varna. There the young man meets an Armenian boy, Dikran, a photographer adored by everybody, who helps him rediscover what true friendship and *joie de vivre* mean. Unfortunately, Dikran has an accident in the sea and his condition remains critical. Then a pretty girl turns up at the hospital willing to marry him. Will the love of a woman conquer death?



You Kiss Like God



Original Title Libas jako buh

Director Marie Polednakova

Cast Kamila Magalova, Jiri Bartoska, Eva Holubova, Oldrich Kaiser, Nela

Boudova, Roman Vojtek, Martha Issova

Producer Jan Bradac, Svatka

Peschkova

Running Time 116 minutes

Released 2009

Human desire for love is infinite, just like the hope that we all find true love one day. Hence, when a man ends up caught between two women and a woman between two men, love can only be complicated, but can also mean the "only and one-time opportunity".

"You Kiss like God" provides a lighthearted humorous look at life of a school teacher who continues to live in the same apartment with her ex-

husband, deals predominantly with problems of her widowed sister, marital troubles of her son and grandmother's new-found love, but has already given up on her own dreams. When she suddenly falls head over heels in love her life turns into a stream of ups and downs. Director Marie Polednakova tells her story with humor, levity, heart, gentle irony and compassion.

The Film has been awarded by Czech Lion Award for the most attended film in the Czech Republic in 2009.

Aching Hearts





Their rocky relationship takes Jonas through the spectrum of emotions that arises with an aching heart.

start a new romance, he feels for

the first time a cold stab of jealousy.

"Aching Hearts" is shot over a period of three years, taking into account the development of the young actors, some of whom are amateurs from the actual milieus that director Nils Malmros is depicting.



Producer

Released

The Poll Diaries



On the eve of World War I, 14-year-old Oda von Siering returns to Poll, her family home on the Baltic coast, a region uneasily shared by Germans, Russians and Estonians. With her are the mortal remains of

her mother, who passed away in Berlin. Awaiting the bright and inquisitive girl are her father Ebbo, an eccentric scientist with a dubious interest in racial breeding; her aunt Milla, who flees reality through music and affairs; and other members of her aristocratic German family, who are clinging to their privileges in a world on the brink of disaster.

Alexandra Kordes and

Meike Kordes

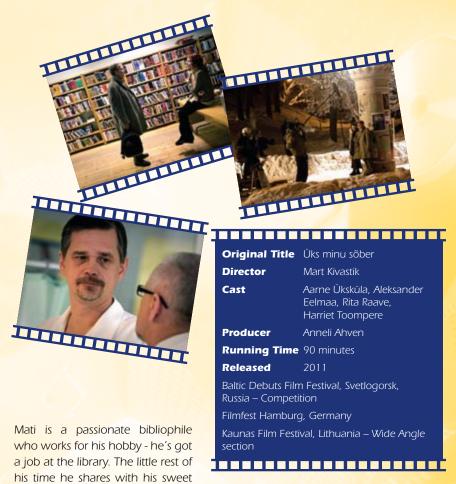
2010

Running Time 129 minutes

Upon finding a wounded Estonian anarchist on the estate, the passionate, impulsive Oda fearlessly hides him and secretly nurses him back to health, aware that her deed could trigger a chain reaction of uncontrollable violence. She falls in love with the young man, a writer who stimulates her craving for romance and adventure. He, however, plans to leave Poll as soon as possible. But he underestimates the power of her feelings toward him and of her alienation from a world she has little in common with.

A Friend of Mine





wife. Then one sudden day brings the death to his spouse. A whole life of stability crashes. Nor his adolescent daughter or dear books are of any help. Loneliness and indifference overrun his life and Mati plots a suicide.

A strange wayfarer Sass, who travels with a backpack of books and frequents public libraries to read the newspapers, brings forth a change. Bit by bit he starts to provide Mati with the interest for life again.



Once



A Guy (with no name - Glen Hansard of the Irish band Frames) is singing his heart out on the streets of Dublin for tip money. One day a Czech Girl

(with no name - Marketa Irglova) stops to listen to the Guy play his music. She is very impressed by his songs and she asks if he wrote his own music. The Guy says that he writes and loves to play his own songs to himself even if the street crowd wants to hear other music.

The Guy lives at home and helps his father repair vacuum cleaners, but he has a dream of becoming a recording star. His girlfriend of many years has just left him and is now living in London. You can tell what this has done to his emotions, because it is being reflected in his new songs. The Girl who happens to have a broken vacuum cleaner also has a musical background of playing the piano and writing songs. Their music brings them together and the Girl begins to help the Guy realize his dream.

They begin to share their music and their feeling for each other. They put together a band with other street players and rent a recording studio for the weekend to record two demos. This could be the start of a new and wonderful life.

The film won an Academy award for Best Original Song.

2007

Released

Touch of Spice





require a little salt to give them flavour; 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.



Camino



Original Title Camino

Director

Javier Fesser

Cast

Nerea Camacho, Carme

Elías, Mariano Venancio,

Manuela Vellés

Luis Manso

Producer Running Time 143 minutes Released

2008

Camino is a 2008 award-winning Spanish feature film directed by Javier Fesser. The film is based on the real story of Alexia González-Barros, a girl who died of spinal cancer at the age of fourteen in 1985, and is currently in process of canonization. The film is controversial because Alexia's siblings objected to Fesser's use of Alexia's full name in his dedication, despite him having undertaken not to directly identify her. He calls her Camino ('the

way') in the film, referencing 'the way' to sainthood she apparently undergoes.

More significantly, Fesser portrays the Catholic organisation, Opus Dei, in a negative way, depicting it as an extreme cult destroying families. Fesser suggests that Opus Dei manipulated the tragedy of the young Camino's painful death for its own ends. Her elder sister is an Opus Dei acolyte, deliberately kept from contacting her family. Suppressing open signs of normal maternal grief, the mother seems almost inhuman in urging her dying daughter to 'offer up' her suffering for Jesus. The father struggles to protect his daughter from a concerted effort to canonize her (even before her death) by his wife, elder daughter, and Opus Dei officials. Even the hospital medical staff seem to be complicit in this.

In a subversive irony, Fesser suggests that Camino's 'Jesus', whose name she invokes, is not Christ, but a teenage boy named Jesús (a common name in Spain and other Spanish speaking countries) on whom Camino has a normal schoolgirl crush. This is shown in dream sequences she experiences throughout the film.

The film won six Goya Awards, including best picture, best director, and best original screenplay.

FRANCE

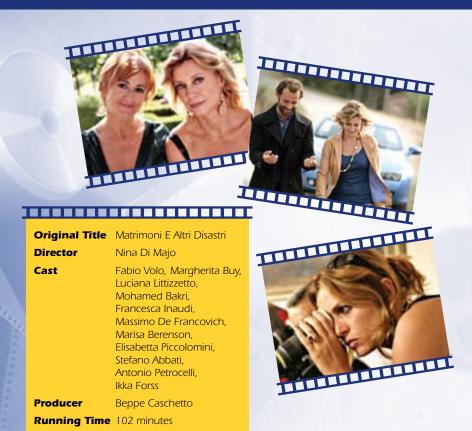
Romantics Anonymous



What happens when a man and a woman share a common passion? They fall in love. And this is what happens to Jean-René, the boss of a small chocolate factory, and Angélique, a gifted chocolate maker he has just hired. What occurs when a highly emotional man meets a highly emotional woman? They fall in love, and this is what occurs to Jean-René and Angélique who share the same handicap. But being pathologically timid does not make things easy for them. So whether they will manage to get together, join their solitudes and live happily ever after is a guessing matter.



Weddings and other Disasters



Forty year-old Nanà runs a small bookstore in Florence. Despite the constant nagging of her well-to-do

family, she has no intention of making anything more of her life.

As for her sentimental interests, though secretly in love with Bauer, a self-centred novelist who takes advantage of her feelings to obtain small professional favours, she has pretty much given up on finding her Prince Charming and living happily ever after. In fact, the unpleasant end to what she thought was the love of her life has left her allergic to the very idea of matrimony.

Then her younger sister Beatrice has the absurd idea of asking Nanà to organise her wedding. After an irresistible series of mishaps and plot twists, Nanà takes a good look at her own situation and decides to change it.

Released

2009

Tadas Blinda. The Legend is Born





Set against the backdrop of some of the most picturesque scenery in Eastern Europe, "Fireheart: The Legend of Tadas Blinda" is a historical romantic adventure in which a story of love, honor and freedom unfold in the restless outskirts of the Russian Empire in the 19th century.

------------Original Title Tadas Blinda. Pradžia Director Donatas Ulvydas Cast Tadas Blinda-Mantas Jankavicius, Kristina-Agne Ditkovskyte, Konstancija-Tatjana Liutajeva, Gruinius-Vidas Petkevicius, Edmundas-Dainius Kazlauskas, Motiejus-Jokubas Bareikis, Vince-Dominykas Vaitiekunas, Janek-Mykolas Vildziunas, Snegiriov-Antanas Surna **Producer** Zilvinas Naujokas Running Time 110 minutes Released 2011

He's a carefree serf with the heart of a rebel. She's the daughter of a powerful land-owner. But when Tadas and Kristina unexpectedly meet, they know that their love is doomed in the socially segregated Russian Empire. When political events and intrigue suddenly turn their worlds upside down, they – and everyone around them – must summon all their strength and courage to meet the new responsibilities that have befallen them.

It's 1861, and the country is engulfed in political turmoil and civil unrest. Tensions rise as high as the stakes of those in power who seek to prevent the imminent abolishment of serfdom at any cost. When an innocent Midsummer celebration in a remote village turns into a slaughter, Tadas unexpectedly finds himself in the middle of a rebellion, with dozens of men at his command. Now he is faced with the tormenting choice between his duty as a rebel leader, and his love for the daughter of the sworn enemy. The ensuing doubts, suffering and death of his comrades force Tadas to take responsibility for both his own actions and the lives of his loved ones... and to make a stand against evildoers of the Empire.

While fighting for freedom, justice and love, Tadas discovers values that are worth living and dying for.

Having already broken all time attendance records in its home country of Lithuania, this film brings together an unforgettable cast, a riveting plot, and a wonderful mix of adventure and passion to create a truly legendary tale reminiscent of Robin Hood – a source of inspiration for young and old alike.



Bride Flight



Original Title Bride Flight

Director Ben Sombogaart

Cast Karina Smulders, Pleuni Touw, Anna Drijver, Willeke Van Ammelrooy Elise Schaap, Petra Laseur,

Waldemar Torenstra, Rutger Hauer

Producer An IDTV Film Production, in cooperation with Samsa

Film:

Jani Thiltges and NCRV supported by Chios Media,

Matching Fund, Netherlands Film Fund and CoBo-Fund

Running Time 130 minutes Released

2008

A forbidden love, an impossible choice, a secret pact.

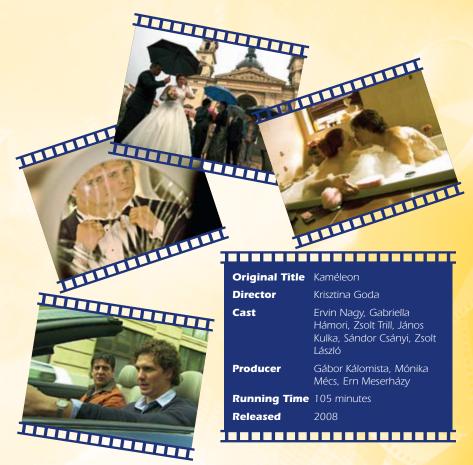
Three young Dutch women, Marjorie, Ada and Esther, eager to escape the damp and suffocating atmosphere in post-war Holland, are looking forward to a brighter life in New Zealand. They meet each other on the immigration flight to

their new country, where they are to be joined with their future husbands, already settled in New Zealand.

During the flight the three young women encounter Frank, who is immigrating to New Zealand to be a share farmer. In the early years in their new country, the lives of Marjorie, Esther and Ada become entangled. They lose each other out of sight and it's only after fifty years, at Frank's funeral that they discover how much their lives have become intertwined through their different relationships with him.

Chameleon





Gábor Farkas is a conman by profession. He ensnares plain-looking, lonely women with acts of love and then cheats them out of their savings. One day he becomes tired of his small-time swindles and craves a real challenge. He meets Hanna, a rich and beautiful ballerina who is trying to return to the stage after an absence from it caused by an accident. Gábor has to use every trick up his sleeve in order to make the girl take him seriously: he acquires a luxury apartment, a sports car, a medical degree and even an entire hospital to impress her. But his lies are so complicated that he gets entangled in his own ropes and in the end is no longer even sure what he wants to achieve.



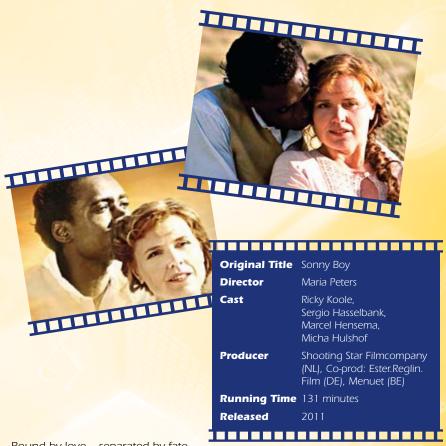
Kont Diġa'



Karl, a young free-spirited artist returns to Malta after many years abroad, seeking a connection to his roots. Through childhood friends and old haunts, shared memories and a former love, he realizes he is no longer the person he once was and wonders whether he can truly return to the place he once called home. Then Karl meets Anna, an unfamiliar face in a familiar land and a new bond is forged. Their friendship gives Karl the freedom to see both Malta and himself from a fresh perspective with renewed hope, and a possible future begins to unfold.

Sonny Boy





Bound by love – separated by fate.

SONNY BOY is the true, exceptional love story between two apparently ordinary people: Rika, a typical Dutch mother of four children, and Waldemar, a Surinam man seventeen years her junior. Their love can survive all the presumptions and obstructions of the cruel world outside, but is finally unable to cope with the brutal and devastating power of war.



Black Brown White



The truck driver Don Pedro and his paraplegic business partner have devised an elaborate but also illegal system whereby they smuggle African refugees to Europe. Jackie, a young Nigerian woman, and her son Theo are on the run across the Sahara going north. Their destination is Geneva. At the border between Africa and Europe, Don Pedro and Jackie meet for the first time. Pedro successfully carries the two passengers to Europe and falls in love with Jackie along the way. But the longer the trip the more complicated and desperate the situation becomes for Don Pedro.

Dance Marathon



Original Title Maraton tańca

Director Magdalena Holland - Łazarkiewicz

Cast Łukasz Simlat, Dariusz Toczek, Agnieszka Podsiadlik, Krzysztof

Skonieczny, Joanna Kulig, Olga Frycz, Barbara Kurzaj, Leszek Lichota, Grzegorz Kwiecien, Maciej Namysło, Piotr Nowak, Krzysztof Kulinski, Filip Garbacz, Joanna Gonschorek, Anna Maria Buczek, Maciej Wierzbicki, Jerzy Senator, Bogusław Parchimowicz, Sławomir Holland, Robert Jurczyga, Bartosz Gola, Piotr Chylarecki, Elnbieta Okupska, Romuald Kłos, Ewelina Paszke, Bartłomiej Topa, Bogusława Schubert, Krzysztof Lapko, Stanisław Melski, Maciej Kowalewski, Artur Janusiak

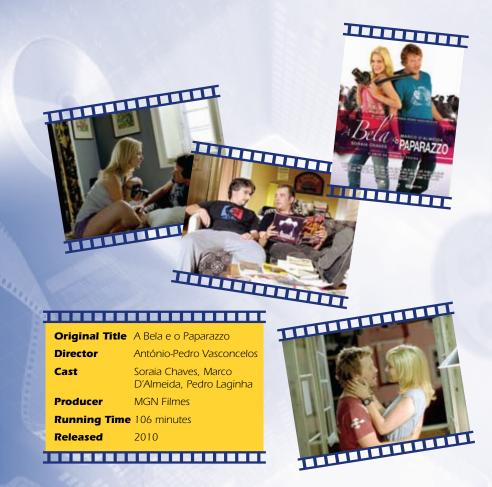
Producers Dariusz Pietrykowski, Sylwester Banaszkiewicz, Marcin Kurek

Running Time 97 minutes Released

A town in south-western Poland. A group of newcomers begins organizing a dance marathon. The spiritless townspeople start to have hopes and dreams. Each dance couple signing up for the exhausting marathon has its own reasons for winning. The real intentions of the organizers and their methods eventually come to light. The deceived contest participants learn something from this experience. A story inspired by real events.



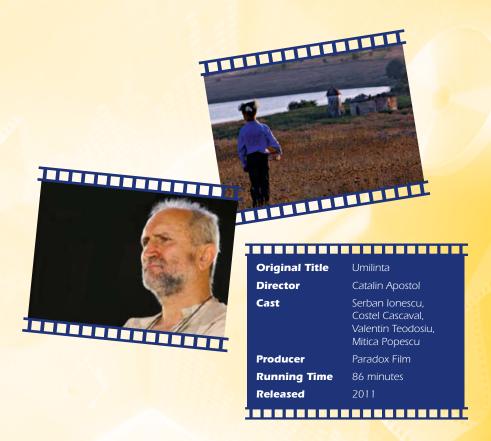
Beauty and the Paparazzo



The story of Mariana, an actress, and a paparazzo called João who find themselves involved in a romantic comedy...

Meekness





The main character, Dumitru, had once a normal life. He was a veterinary doctor, but an absurd accident ruins his whole existence. Starting from this private drama, the movie pictures a dramatic world without any bench-marks, estranged from any bit of humanity. The action of the movie takes place in 2005, during a catastrophic flooding, in a remote village.



Personal Baggage

Original Title Osebna Prtljaga
Director Janez Lapajne
Cast Boris Cavazza as

Grandfather, Natasa Barbara Gracner

as Mother,

Nina Rakovc as Girlfriend, Klemen Slakonja as Son, Branko Zavrsan as Father,

Tjasa Zeleznik

Producer Aiken Veronika Prosenc

Running Time 124 minutes

Released 2009



Vid is a talented but spoilt young man smothered by the affection of his adoring mother and heedless of his aloof father. His grandfather is a benevolent but self-important patriarch; and his new girlfriend is a creature of voluptuous innocence wrestling with the torment of a dysfunctional home. These are the central characters in this narrative of strained love and spiralling desire. The characters reveal inexorable issues, or baggage that they have brought with them. Ultimately this baggage becomes a ruinous psychic burden. The film focuses on the contemporary human inability to empathize.

Apricot Island





How many men can a woman truly love?

A captivating story of a woman tested by life, full of passion, cruelty and unbridled love. The story which takes place in southern Slovakia in remote apricot orchards thrusts you into the whirlwind passions of three men for one woman and her fateful love for them, with all the sorrows and joys that only life can bring. The sun, the smell of ripening apricots and search for your own happiness get you in the story of a strong woman who loves and desires to be loved ... as we all do.





If You Love



121 minutes

2010

If You Love is an edgy musical love story between a politician's daughter and an immigrant family's son. A spoiled 19-years old girl, Ada, crashes a car, loses her memory and has to start her life anew. She falls in love with Toni, but has to carry a big secret which endangers everything.

Running Time

Released

Dear Alice





Dear Alice centers on the intertwined destiny of four people:

Karin, an attorney about to get promoted, currently handling a case with a famous actor caught drunk driving.

Bosse, a television profile, who has just been fired from his 20-year-long career in front of the camera and simultaneously found out that his wife is having an affair.

Moses, Karin's husband, who works as a civil servant while trying to solve his father's economic difficulties in Africa and his own appearance on a list of terrorist suspects.

And finally Francis, who tries to get by in Sweden with the help of social security.

On this specific day, seemingly trivial decisions these people make in relation to one another turn out to have life-shattering implications.

UNITED KINDOM The Deep Blue Sea



Hester Collyer leads a privileged life in 1950s London as the beautiful wife of a high court judge Sir William Collyer. To the shock of those around her, she walks out on her marriage to move in with a young ex-RAF pilot, Freddie Page, with whom she has fallen passionately in love.

Set in post-war Britain, this adaptation of Terence Rattigan's classic play, The Deep Blue Sea is a study of forbidden love, suppressed desire, and the fear of loneliness, but is at heart a deeply moving love story. Stuck between the devil and the deep blue sea, what - or whom - should Hester choose?

Festival Dates and Cities

Delhi	14-25 March
Bangalore	16-22 March
Pune	3-9 April
Chennai	6-12 April
Kolkata	20-26 April
Goa	20-29 April
Hyderabad	10-20 May

For more information please go to www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/more info

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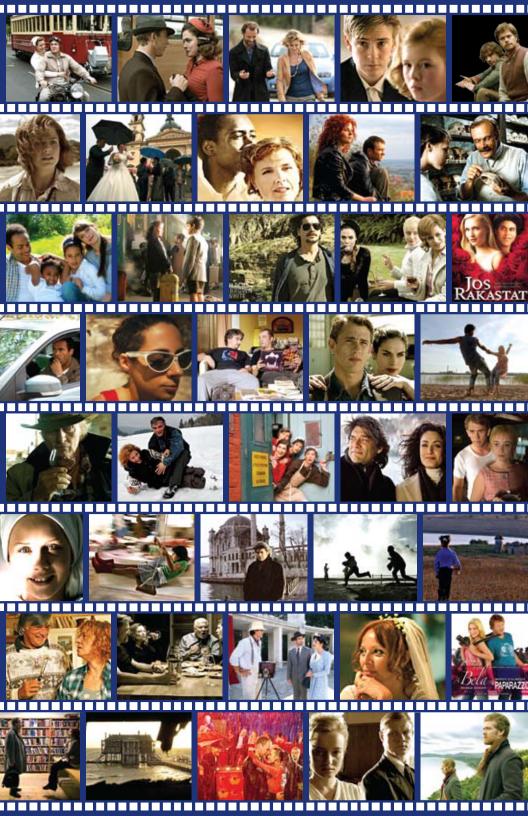
















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