

EU KINOTEKA  
european  
film club  
travelling to  
universities

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# Dear Students



It is my pleasure to introduce to you the first Kinoteka project – a selection of European films travelling to universities across India.

As Ambassador of the European Union, I often talk about European diversity. This film selection, put together by the Embassies of the EU Member States and the EU Delegation, represents this diversity in many ways.

But diversity is not divergence, and in fact diversity is precisely one of the elements of similarity between Europe and India, each of whom live proudly under the principle of "unity in diversity".

By bringing these films to your university, we want to show some of Europe's facets. Hopefully you will have a great time watching them, and maybe you will also find something worth discussing, considering and remembering from this wonderful selection.

**João Cravinho**

Ambassador of the European Union

# the world is big and salvation lurks around the corner

BULGARIA



**Original Title:** Svetat e golyam i spasenie debne otvsyakade

**Director:** Stephan Komandarev

**Cast:** Miki Manojlovic, Carlo Ljubek, Hristo Mutafchiev, Ana Papadopulu, Lyudmila Cheshmedzhieva, Blagovest Mutafchiev, Nikolai Urumov, Vasil Vasilev-Zueka, Dorka Gryllus, Stefan Valdobrev, Pavel Popandov, Georgi Kadurin

**Producer:** Stefan Kitanov, Karl Baumgartner, Thanassis Karathanos, Andras Muhi, Danijel Hocevar

**Co-producer:** Goran Radakovic

**Running time:** 105 minutes

**Released:** 2008

This is a story about a young Bulgarian man, Alex, who grew up in Germany, where his family had emigrated. Alex lost his memory due to a car accident that killed his parents. In an attempt to cure him from amnesia, his grandfather comes to Germany and, using a backgammon set, organises a spiritual journey to the past for his grandson. While travelling in time and space and crossing several European countries on a tandem bike, both play backgammon, as they did in Alex's childhood in Bulgaria. This game helps the young man to restore his memory, to become aware of his identity and to make his choices.





**Original Title:** Surnuaiavahi tütar

**Director:** Katrin Laur

**Cast:** Maria Avdjushko, Rain Simmul, Kerttu-Killu Grenman, Esther Kõiv


**Producer:** Mati Sepping

**Running time:** 98 minutes

**Released:** 2011

# the graveyard keepers' daughter

ESTONIA



A snapshot of one segment of Estonian life, shown through the eyes of a child: Lucia (8) is leading a jolly and naughty Pippi-Longstocking-style life in a small town. Her father Kaido (35), a graveyard keeper, can hardly provide for the family. Her mother Maria (37) is a drunk.

Then suddenly the family receives an unexpected invitation to spend a week in Finland, in the house of the female pastor Sirpa (45). This week will change everybody's lives in unexpected ways.



nobody

GREECE

**Original Title:** Kanenas

**Director:** Hristos Nikoleris

**Cast:** Georgina Liossi, Antinoos Albanis and Nikolas Papagiannis

**Producer:** Yannis Exintaris

**Running time:** 95 minutes

**Released:** 2010



Infusing Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet with a contemporary Athenian migrant setting, director Christos Nikoleris has crafted a film that successfully blends the original play with shades of Homer. Goran and Julia, Russian and Albanian, are two teenager immigrants of the second generation, two children with dreams and ambition to escape the environment they grew up in. Things become even more complicated when those two paths meet. Love is lightning, but the two worlds collide, threatening to destroy the first thrill they feel about each other.





**Original Title:** Ensemble c'est trop

**Director:** Léa Fazer

**Cast:** Nathalie Baye, Pierre Arditi, Aïssa Maïga, Jocelyn Quivrin, Laurent Lafitte, Eric Cantona , Olivia Cote , Françoise Bertin

**Producer:** Chez Wam

**Running time:** 96 minutes

**Released:** 2010

Clémentine and Sébastien, young, overwhelmed parents, stretched between their work and children, find themselves further burdened with Marie-France, Sébastien's mother, who comes to stay with them after she discovers that her husband Henri has been cheating on her and is now expecting a baby with his mistress.

Distraught, Marie-France behaves like a teenager in a crisis, undermining the young couple's authority and morale. The birth of Sébastien's little brother and the blissful euphoria this later-life paternity provokes in his father is the final straw: everyone is left reeling and the order of generations is turned upside down.

together is  
too much

FRANCE



# charlotte: a royal at war

LUXEMBOURG

**Original Title:** Léif Lëtzebuenger

**Director:** Ray Tostevin

**Producer:** Lynn Rothwell,  
Candice Allen

**Running time:** 98 minutes

**Released:** 2008

Grand Duchess Charlotte of Luxembourg was a "propagandist in pearls" who used personal charm and the power of radio to reach out to her people in their darkest hour. Combining vivid eye-witness testimony with dramatic reconstruction, Léif Lëtzebuenger is the story of how one of the world's smallest democracies survived the brutal occupation of Hitler's Third Reich. And it reveals a powerful and lasting truth: to keep their hopes alive, ordinary people will endure hardship, imprisonment, even death, if they have someone to believe in.





**Original Title:** De Hel van '63

**Director:** Steven de Jong

**Cast:** Chris Zegers, Cas Jansen, Chava voor 't Holt, Lourens van den Akker

**Producer:** 2 Youngh Rights

**Running Time:** 105 minutes

**Released:** 2009



When conditions are right an infamous ice-skating race is held in the North of the Netherlands. The 200 km race must be completed by midnight and everyone who finishes receives a medal. This film is based on true facts of the fateful day in 1963 when, due to plunging temperatures and rough terrain, thousands of skaters suffered frostbite and shocking injuries. Only a small number would cross the finish-line, but for those who did, it was to be a life changing event!

## the hell of '63

NETHERLANDS



korczak

POLAND



**Original Title:** Korczak

**Director:** Andrzej Wajda

**Cast:** Wojciech Pszoniak, Ewa Dalkowska, Peter Kozlowski, Marzena Trybala, Wojciech Klato

**Producer:** Regina Ziegler, Janusz Morgenstern and Daniel Toscan du Plantier

**Running Time:** 113 minutes

**Released:** 1990

Account of the last days of life of the legendary Polish pedagogue Janusz Korczak and his heroic dedication to protecting Jewish orphans during the war. Jewish doctor Henryk Goldszmit, known also as Janusz Korczak, is a man of high principles. His orphanage, set up in a cramped school in the Warsaw ghetto, provides shelter to 200 homeless kids. Putting his experimental educational methods into practice, he installs a kind of children's self-government, whose justice is in a big contrast to what is happening in the outside world. In the end, he refuses to accept a Swiss passport and boards the train to Nazi concentration camp in Treblinka with his orphans.



**Original Title:** O Estranho  
Casos de Angélica

**Director:** Manoel de Oliveira

**Cast:** Pilar López de Ayala,  
Filipe Vargas, Ricardo Trêpa

**Running Time:** 97 minutes

**Released:** 2010

In this stylish exercise in magic realism, Isaac (Ricardo Trêpa) is a photographer who is contacted during a stormy night with an urgent assignment. Isaac is escorted to the estate of a wealthy family, where he's told of a recent tragedy -- the beautiful daughter of the household, Angélica (Pilar López de Ayala), died shortly after her wedding, before her bridal portrait could be taken. Her parents want a final photograph of Angélica, and they've brought Isaac to their home to take the pictures. Angélica has been laid out on a sofa in the living room, still wearing her wedding gown, and as Isaac looks at her through his viewfinder, he's struck by her beauty and thinks she looks as if she's just sleeping. Isaac is so effected by Angélica that he quickly falls in love with her, and when he looks at her through his camera, she comes to life, with her spirit as lively as ever in the photos he prints, though her body stubbornly stays lifeless.

## the strange case of angelica

PORTUGAL



vesna

SLOVENIA

**Original Title:** Vesna

**Director:** František Čap

**Cast:** Metka Gabrijelčič, Frane Milčinski, Olga Bedjanič, Metka Bučar, Mila Kačič, Stane Sever, Janez Čuk, Boris Kralj, Franek Trefalt, Elvira Kralj, Alenka Svetel

**Producer:** Triglav Film

**Running Time:** 95 Minutes

**Released:** 1953



The first comedy produced in Slovenia, it is a story about the lives of high-school students. In a jolly good mood three students who are to take "the abitur" examination, decide among themselves that Samo, one of them, will try to win the heart of Professor Cosinus' daughter and in this way try to get hold of the mathematics paper. When Samo comes to know Vesna a bit better, he seriously falls in love with her and refuses to hear anything about the papers. Vesna then learns from Samo's colleague about their plan...





**Original Title:** Five Star Existence

**Director:** Sonja Lindén

**Producer:** Sonja Lindén,  
Stina Gardell

**Running time:** 90 minutes

**Released:** 2011

# five star existence

FINLAND



With the accelerating pace of everyday life and our increasing virtual presence as individuals, the line between the real and the virtual self has begun to blur. In this personal and cinematic journey, the director observes the links between freedom and dependence in our time.



# BAFTA 2012 Short Film Nominees

## UNITED KINGDOM

### Category: Short Film Short Animation

**Abuelas** In a small apartment in Buenos Aires, an old woman eagerly awaits the birth of her grandchild. However, horrific circumstances mean she will be forced to wait over 30 years. (Director/ animator/ co-writer: Afarin Eghbal. Producer: Kasia Malipan. Duration: 9 minutes)

**Bobby Yeah** A petty thug who lightens his miserable existence by brawling and stealing stuff. One day he steals the favourite pet of some extremely dangerous individuals, and finds himself in deep trouble. (Director/writer/producer: Robert Morgan. Duration: 23 minutes)

**A Morning Stroll** When a New Yorker walks past a chicken on his morning stroll, we're left to wonder which one is the real city slicker. (Director/ writer: Grant Orchard. Producer: Sue Goffe. Duration: 7 minutes)

British Council Film and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) have teamed up to promote the best of British short filmmaking. The UK has a long tradition of producing world class short film, and this collection is made up of the 2012 nominees in both Best Short (Live Action) and Best Short (Animation) BAFTA categories.

### Category: Short Film Live Action

**Chalk** When a gymnast is selected for the National training camp she discovers something new about bodies, boys and friendship. (Director/co-writer: Martina Amati. Producers: Gavin Emerson, James Bolton. Writer: Ilaria Bernardini. Duration: 18 minutes)

**Mwansa the Great** An eight-year-old boy who aspires to be a hero embarks upon a journey to prove his greatness, with unexpected consequences. (Director/writer/producer: Rungano Nyoni. Co-writer/co-producer: Gabriel Gauchet. Duration: 23 minutes)

**Only Sound Remains** In the wake of the violent post-election protests in Iran, a man and his wife, Babak and Nahid, try to hide the devastating news from Babak's grandmother that his brother is missing. (Director/writer: Arash Ashtiani. Producer: Anshu Poddar. Duration: 15 minutes)

**Pitch Black Heist** Liam and Michael are professional safe crackers who meet on a simple job to relieve an office safe from its contents. The catch is a light-activated alarm system. (Director: Joe Maclean. Producer: Gerardine O'Flynn. Duration: 12 minutes)

**Two and Two** In a school governed by a strict regime, the pupils are informed that what they had always been taught as fact is no longer true. But when the incredulous students speak out, they are forced to question how far they will go to stand up for their beliefs. (Director/writer/producer: Babak Anvari. Co-producer: Kit Fraser. Co-writer: Gavin Cullen. Duration: 9 minutes)







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