



MARCH-MAY 2011

Laugh like a European!!!



MUMBAI | NEW DELHI | CHANDIGARH | HYDERABAD | KOLKATA | CHENNAI | THRISSUR





GET READY TO 'LAUGH LIKE A EUROPEAN' AT THE 16TH EUROPEAN UNION FILM FESTIVAL!

The 16th edition of the European Union Film Festival will be held from March to May 2011 covering 7 cities in India: Mumbai, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chennai and Thrissur. Representing European cinema primarily from the comic genre, this year's selection includes 19 films from EU Member States; films that provide something for everyone - situational comedies, relationship faux pas, animation and children's films to musicals and comic action thrillers.*

Humour is the litmus paper of a culture. The sense of humour in Europe differs across national borders. Using comedy as the main theme for this year's Film Festival, we seek to showcase this aspect of European cultural diversity within the context of EU unity.

The EU Film Festival in India comes to you as a result of collaboration with EU Member States and Indian organizations including the Federation of Film Societies of India, National Centre for the Performing Arts (Mumbai), India Habitat Centre (New Delhi), Cine Central Calcutta (Kolkata), Indo-Cine Appreciation Foundation (Chennai), Thrissur Chalachitra Kendram and Corporation of Thrissur.

*Please note that the films from Italy and Portugal are not comedies.





BELGIUM



A CHICKEN IS NO DOG

Original Title

Firmin

Director

Dominique Deruddere

Cast

Chris Van den Durpel, Jan Declair, Said Assissi, Annick Christiaens, Catherine Kools, Frank Focketyn, Peter Van den Begin

Producer

Dominique Deruddere, Chris Van den Durpel and Peter Marx

Running Time

90 min

Date of Release

2007

When the woman who broke his heart more than 25 years ago suddenly reappears, a former boxer seizes every chance to regain both his true love and sporting honour. Their passionate relationship came to an abrupt end when, during the 1979 Belgian Championship fight, his opponent claimed that he had made love to his girl. That evening, our naïve boxer not only lost the championship, but also the love of his life. But now that she's back, he's more than ever determined to regain her love and to show the world that he's no loser. A heartwarming comedy by the director of the Oscar-nominated Everybody Famous that will Firminize you totally!



European Union
Film Festival

CZECH REPUBLIC



WRONG SIDE UP

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Original Title | Pribehy obycejneho silenstvi |
| Director | Petr Zelenka |
| Cast | Ivan Trojan, Zuzana Sulajova, Miroslav Krobot, Nina Diviskova |
| Producer | Milan Kuchynka |
| Running Time | 100 min |
| Date of Release | 2005 |

Sure to set you smiling wide, *Wrong Side Up* is an eccentric comedy that dives into the common daily insanities of post Communist life in the Czech Republic. Peter works at the freight terminal of an airport and his girlfriend Jana has just left him for someone with a far more interesting job. Peter hopes to win his ex-girlfriend back although most of his encounters with her don't go exactly as planned. Finally, a touch of black magic sets the wheel of insanity into uncontrollable comedy.

THEME: **COMEDY**





DENMARK



SUNSHINE BARRY AND THE DISCO WORMS

Original Title

Disco Ormene

Director

Thomas Borch Nielsen

Cast

Peter Frödin, Lars Hjortshøj, Birthe Neumann,
Peter Hesse Overgaard, Trine Dyrholm,
Helle Dolleris, Troels Lyby, Henning Jensen,
Niels Anders Thorn

Producer

Nina Crone

Running Time

78 min

Date of Release

2008

It's not easy to be Barry. An earthworm gets no respect. He lives at the bottom of the food chain. But one day, an old disco record turns his life upside down. Suddenly he sees before him his own destiny, the star of the world's greatest disco band: Sunshine Barry & The Disco Worms! Okay, he's got no arms, no rhythm and no band. But as Barry says: "We'll do it anyway!"



European Union
Film Festival

FINLAND



RICKY RAPPER

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Original Title | Risto Rappääjä |
| Director | Mari Rantasila |
| Cast | Niilo Sipilä (Ricky Rapper), Mimmi Lounela (Nelly Butterfly), Annu Valonen (Serena Rapper), Ulla Tapaninen (Fanny the Freezer), Martti Suosalo (Lennart Lindberg) |
| Producer | Lasse Saarinen, Risto Salomaa |
| Running Time | 78 min |
| Date of Release | 2008 |

Ricky is a ten-year-old boy who likes to play the drums. He lives in an apartment building with his aunt Serena Rapper, a telemarketer, and dreams of performing live one day. Serena, on the other hand, dreams of Mr Lennart Lindberg who lives downstairs. A girl named Nelly Butterfly moves into their building, and Serena encourages Ricky to get to know her, but Ricky is too shy. He does not understand how he could make friends with a girl. Serena writes a love letter to Lennart Lindberg, but the letter ends up in Nelly's hands. The misunderstanding caused by the letter is later clarified, and Ricky and Nelly become friends. But then comes a twist: Serena breaks her leg and can no longer cook and clean. Her cousin, Fanny the Freezer, moves in to take care of the household. For her, the two most important things in life are order and cleanliness. She cannot tolerate drumming or other loud noises. Ricky's and Nelly's friendship deepens when Fanny confiscates Ricky's drum. That's when the adventure begins...

THEME: **COMEDY**





FRANCE



COPACABANA

Original Title

Copacabana

Director

Marc Fitoussi

Cast

Isabelle Huppert, Lolita Chammah, Aure Atika,
Noémie Lvovsky, Chantal Banlier, Jurgen
Delnaet, Magali Woch

Producer

Avenue B Productions

Running Time

107 min

Date of Release

2010

Happy in her carefree little bubble, Babou has never bothered about climbing the social ladder. But when her daughter is too ashamed to invite her to her wedding she is given cause to re-evaluate her lifestyle. In fact, so wounded is she that she resolves to sell her timeshare apartments in Ostend. To win back her daughter's esteem, Babou decides to give her the wedding present she truly deserves...



European Union
Film Festival

GERMANY



BELOVED BERLIN WALL

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Original Title | Liebe Mauer |
| Director | Peter Timm |
| Producer | Nina Crone |
| Running Time | 107 min |
| Date of Release | 2009 |

Berlin, 1989. Sascha is a young East German border guard; Franzl a lively young West German woman who has just moved into a flat next to Sascha's watchtower at the Berlin Wall. It takes only a slight mishap and a selfless act of chivalry – and the two fall in love. But soon the Stasi believes they are witnessing the start of a revolt - after all, this is the time of mass protests and East Germans taking refuge in the West German embassy in Prague. Franzl and Sascha have to find their ways to stand up for their love and strive for the impossible – to bring down the wall...

THEME: **COMEDY**





HUNGARY



MADE IN HUNGARIA

Original Title

Made in Hungária

Director

Gergely Fonyó

Cast

Tamás Szabó Kimmel, Tünde Kiss, Éva Vándor, Tamás Dunai, Géza Kaszás, Péter Scherer, Iván Fenyő, Géza Hegedűs D., Lehel Kovács, Péter Puskás

Producer

Ádám Neményi, József Cirkó, András Poós, Géza Kaszás

Running Time

108 min

Date of Release

2009

At a time when everybody else would like to escape to the West, an adolescent boy returns home from America to spread rock'n'roll... In the spring of 1963 Miki and his parents leave behind the American dream and after four years away return to Budapest. Back in Hungary revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries alike regard Miki's jobless father with suspicion, while Miki - who is a great guitarist and singer with dreams of becoming the next Jerry Lee Lewis - is not accepted by his former friends whose new leader, Róné is referred to as the "Kingfisher". His first love, Vera, now has a new boyfriend. Miki is left with but one choice: to apply to a talent show and prove to everybody that he has a place in this old-new world. He is a great success and with his American music he casts a spell on his young audience. As the final is approaching it becomes clearer and clearer to Miki that with his victory he can gain his friends' appreciation, win back his love and even save his father's life.



European Union
Film Festival

IRELAND



THE COMMITMENTS

Director

Alan Parker

Cast

Robert Arkins, Michael Aherne, Angeline Ball
and Maria Doyle Kennedy

Producer

Nina Crone

Running Time

118 min

Date of Release

1991

The film is based on the first of Booker award winner Roddy Doyle's 'Barrytown Trilogy' about the lives of the Rabbitt family. Jimmy Rabbitt, just a tick out of school, gets a brilliant idea: to put a soul band together in Barrytown, his slum home in north Dublin. First he needs musicians and singers: things slowly start to click when he finds three fine-voiced females virtually in his back yard, a lead singer (Deco) at a wedding, and, responding to his ad, an aging trumpet player, Joey "The Lips" Fagan. Song by song, gig by gig, The Commitments start their climb to the top: Dublin gets soul. But internal strife also builds: Deco is insufferable, Joey's a Casanova, and Jimmy may lack the seasoning to hold things together.

THEME: COMEDY





ITALY



THE PHYSICS OF WATER

Original Title

La Fisica Dell'acqua

Director

Felice Farina

Cast

Claudio Amendola, Paola Cortellesi, Stefano Dionisi, Lorenzo Vavassori, Lorenzo Pavanello, Fabio Ferrari, Anita Zagaria

Producer

Felice Farina

Running Time

76 min

Date of Release

2010

Alessandro, the seven year old protagonist of this story, lost his father when he was very little and after years his uncle Giulio comes back to the family house where Ale lives with his mother, Giulia, a swimming teacher. He feels an instinctive dislike to Claudio and he ends up sabotaging the brakes of Claudio's car. But something goes wrong: he sees his mother leaving with his uncle Claudio and starts running after them, terrified, screaming. He can't stop the accident. Ale is shocked. A police officer, who proves to be a very special person, takes custody of the child. Crying, Alessandro confesses the sabotaging of the car brakes that caused the accident. Like a young detective he is forced to dig into his past, deep into the blocks of his memory, until the true tragic motives of his dislike for his uncle are unveiled.



European Union
Film Festival

LUXEMBOURG



THE UNEMPLOYMENT CLUB

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Original Title | Le Club des Chômeurs |
| Director | Andy Bausch |
| Cast | Thierry van Werveke, Myriam Muller, André Jung, Luc Feit, Fernand Fox, Christian Kmiotek |
| Producer | Iris Productions (LU), Fama Film (CH) |
| Running Time | 97 min |
| Date of Release | 2001 |

To be a member of this exclusive gang, you must be unemployed, swear not to look for employment, commit to remain unemployed at all costs, stay off the books forever; and work harder at remaining out of work than you did to remain employed...





NETHERLANDS



LOVE IS ALL

Original Title

Alles is Liefde

Director

Joram Lürsen

Cast

Michiel Romeyn, Thomas Acda, Anneke Blok, Carice van Houten, Jeroen Spitzenberger, Wendy Van Dijk, Daan Schuurmans, Paul de Leeuw, Peter Paul Muller, Chantal Janzen

Producer

Motel Films

Running Time

120 min

Date of Release

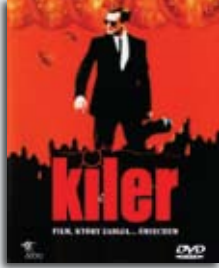
2007

Love is like Santa Claus: you have to believe in it, otherwise it will not work. Following her husband's infidelity with their son's teacher, Klaasje falls for a teenage Don Juan. Her best friend Simone seems happy with her own husband but her tenacious striving for perfection is beginning to take its toll on the marriage. Kiki is in love too, and enjoying her fling with Prince Valentijn, the most eligible prince within the Dutch royal family. Kees, an undertaker, and lifeguard Victor are in love. They intend to get married soon, but now Kees seems to be holding back. All the story-lines within this romantic comedy are linked to a greater or lesser degree. But sooner or later, every character ends up meeting Jan, the hero of this film, who, in his role of deus ex machina, sees to it that, in the end, love conquers all.



European Union
Film Festival

POLAND



KILER

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Original Title | Kiler |
| Director | Juliusz Machulski |
| Cast | Cezary Pazura, Jerzy Stuhr, Katarzyna Figura, Marek Kondrat |
| Producer | Jan Kaczmarek |
| Running Time | 109 min |
| Date of Release | 1997 |

A cast of Poland's most popular contemporary actors highlights this action comedy, which became the biggest hit in that country's history. Being in the wrong place at the wrong time can get a person into trouble, so can being framed for a crime one did not commit. A hapless taxi driver is mistaken for a contract killer and arrested by police. It all started because the taxi driver's name is Jurek Kiler, and kiler is the word for hitman in Polish. After the mafia helps secure his release from jail, Kiler becomes seduced by his new identity.

THEME: COMEDY





PORTUGAL



CALL GIRL

Original Title

Call Girl

Director

Antonio-Pedro Vasconcelos

Cast

Soraia Chaves, Ivo Canelas, Nicolau Breyner,
Joaquim De Almeida, José Raposo, José Eduardo

Running Time

145 min

Date of Release

2007

Maria, a high-class call girl, is hired to seduce Meireles, the mayor of Vilanova, in an attempt to obtain his permission to build a luxury resort on protected land. Meanwhile the cops Madeira and Neves come upon the case and begin an investigation on the politician. But when Madeira finds out that Maria, the bait that will force Meireles to accept the offer, is his long lost love, everything becomes somewhat more complicated.



European Union
Film Festival



ROMANIA



KINO CARAVAN

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Original Title | Caravana cinematografica |
| Director | Titus Muntean |
| Cast | Mircea Diaconu, Doru Boguta, Iulia Lumanare, Nicolae Urs |
| Producer | Libra Film |
| Running Time | 100 min |
| Date of Release | 2010 |

Romania, early 60's. An old truck transformed into a "Kino Caravan" is visiting a remote, isolated mountain village from Transilvania to screen Russian propaganda films. It's the first official propaganda job for our young hero(Tavi) and he's trying his best to fulfill it.





SLOVAKIA



MOSQUITOES TANGO

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Original Title | Tango s Komármí |
| Director | Miloslav Luther |
| Cast | Roman Luknár, Vladimír Hajdu, Tereza Nvotová, Tereza Brodská, Diana Mórová, Zuzana Fialová |
| Running Time | 97 min |
| Date of Release | 2009 |

Two emigrants return for a brief visit to Slovakia after spending long years abroad. Karol needs to get divorced because he wants to remarry. His well-to-do fiancée, Lucia, is afraid that Karol might fail in his intentions, and so she hires a second-rate actor, Rudo, to keep an eye on him. Their mission gets unpredictably complicated after they arrive in Bratislava. Their past has been waiting for them and now they must show who they really are. However, they are not the only ones wanting to gain their point. An ironical mosaic of a few days uncovers the secrets of a number of different stories. They could end tragically, but they turn out to be more embarrassing and funny, sometimes bitter misunderstandings. The tango is a unique expression of human emotion – it embodies passion, tension, conflict as well as harmony of the two sexes, irritation and pain – like a bite of a mosquito, which persistently demands the drop of blood to survive. Mosquitoes' Tango has been made for the perceptive spectator, who can have fun watching the troubles of the characters, maybe comparing them to his own.





SLOVENIA



CHEESE AND JAM

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Original Title | Kajmak In Marmelada |
| Director | Branko Djuric |
| Cast | Branko Djuric, Tanja Ribic, Dragan Bjelogrdic, Igor Samobor, Vlado Novak, Rene Bitorajac, Uros Furst |
| Producer | Janez Jauh |
| Running Time | 90 min |
| Date of Release | 2002 |

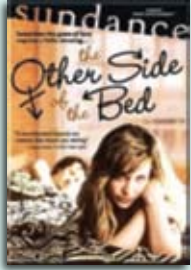
In this charming but off-kilter comedy, Bozo (Branko Djuric) is a scruffy but well-meaning loser from Bosnia who goes into an emotional tailspin after his Slovenian girlfriend, Spela (Tanja Ribic), gives him his walking papers. Determined to win her back, Bozo wants to prove that he can support her both emotionally and financially, and toward the latter goal, he starts working with his pal Goran (Dragan Bjelogrdic), who fixes Bozo up with a number of dubious jobs, from impersonating famous cartoon characters to transporting illegal aliens across the border. In time, Spela takes Bozo back, but he starts having second thoughts about their relationship. Kajmak & Marmelada proved to be a massive hit in Slovenia, where it became the biggest homegrown box-office success of all time, and the third top-grossing film overall.

THEME: **COMEDY**





SPAIN



THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BED

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Original Title | El Otro Lado De La Cama |
| Director | Emilio Martínez-Lázaro |
| Cast | Paz Vega, Ernesto Alterio, Guillermo Toledo, Natalia Verbeke |
| Producer | Tomás Cimadevilla |
| Running Time | 114 min |
| Date of Release | 2002 |

Love, lies, bed-hopping and mistaken identities abound in this pop musical-comedy set in Madrid. The gorgeous Paula breaks up with her boyfriend Pedro in order to continue her affair with Javier. However the immature Javier is unwilling to break up with his current girlfriend Sonia, or confess their affair to Pedro, who happens to be his best friend. The cheated Pedro tries to find who is the secret lover of Paula, and hires a private eye... In short, an engaging story about two couples who get off with each other's partners. The Other Side of the Bed was a huge favourite at the Toronto International Film Festival, 2002. What makes it great is that it is a very human story, and only occasionally (usually unexpectedly) interrupted by big choreographed musical numbers.



SWEDEN



BALLS

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Original Title | Farsan |
| Director | Josef Fares |
| Cast | Jan Fares, Torkel Petersson, Hamadi Khemiri, Nina Zanjani, Juan Rodriguez, Anita Wall |
| Producer | Memfis Film AB |
| Running Time | 98 min |
| Date of Release | 2010 |

Aziz (Jan Fares) is a middle aged Middle Eastern expatriate living in Sweden. Life treats him well: he likes his job, has good friends, is a splendid cook and his son and daughter-in-law are soon to make him a grandfather. He is also an appreciated advice-giver to his pals from work – Jorgen, who thinks his wife is cheating on him, and Juan who is concerned with the failing health of his dog. However, when Aziz, a widower since many years, starts wooing women in the search for the perfect grandmother, not much goes his way. Balls is a warm comedy about love, friendship and the art of being a man. The film was an official selection at the 2010 Traverse City Film Festival.

THEME: COMEDY





UNITED KINGDOM



FOUR LIONS

Director

Christopher Morris

Cast

Riz Ahmed, Arsher Ali, Nigel Lindsay,
Kayvan Novak, Adeel Akhtar

Producer

Mark Herbert, Derrin Schlesinger

Running Time

97 min

Date of Release

2010

In a British city, four men have a secret plan. Omar is disillusioned about the treatment of Muslims around the world and is determined to become a soldier. This is the most exciting idea Waj has ever heard. Better still it's a no brainer because Omar does his thinking for him. Opposed to Omar and everyone else on earth is the white Islamic convert Barry. He'd realize he joined the cell to channel his nihilism - if he had half the self knowledge of a duck. Faisal is the odd man out. He can make a bomb - but he can't blow himself up just now coz his sick dad has "started eating newspaper". Instead he's training crows to fly bombs through windows. This is what Omar has to deal with. They must strike a decisive blow on their own turf but can any of them strike a match without punching himself in the face? Four Lions tells the story of a group of British jihadists who push their abstract dreams of glory to the breaking point. As the wheels fly off, and their competing ideologies clash, what emerges is an emotionally engaging (and entirely plausible) farce. In a storm of razor-sharp verbal jousting and large-scale set pieces, Four Lions is a comic tour de force; it shows that-while terrorism is about ideology-it can also be about idiots.



European Union
Film Festival



MUMBAI (7 – 18 March)

Tata Theatre, Alliance Francaise

NEW DELHI (8-18 March)

India Habitat Centre, Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre

CHANDIGARH (24 March – 5 April)

Govt. Museum Auditorium

HYDERABAD (23 March – 5 April)

Prasads Cinema, Prasad Film Lab Preview Theatre

KOLKATA (11-20 April)

Nandan II

CHENNAI (11-20 April)

South Indian Film Chambers

THRISSUR (24 April – 1 May)

K.T.Mohammed Memorial Hall

Schedules are subject to change.



EUROPEAN UNION

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