

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

22 JUN - 01 JUL

10 AWARD WINNING FILMS

20
18

CINEMA NOUVEAU : JHB | PTA | CPT

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I'm glad to introduce a new edition of the European Film Festival.

Last year, the European Union and South Africa celebrated ten years of our Strategic Partnership, which enhances our long diplomatic, trade and development support relationship, initiated in support of the victims of Apartheid and strengthened during democratic South Africa.

In 2018 we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu, two cultural icons that continue to inspire Europeans. We have for instance celebrated this anniversary in Europe during the recent European Development Days and the European tour of MIAGI Youth Orchestra 'Be the Legacy'! These cultural exchanges, much like this festival, underpin our strong partnership built on an increased understanding of each other.

2018 is also the year of European Culture Heritage, a culture of diversity and openness that this year's award winning, handpicked, film selection contributes to showcasing. I would finally like to thank the British Council for leading the coordination of the festival, the Embassies and High Commissions of participating EU Member States, the Curators and our partners; Ster Kinekor and the National Arts Festival for their hard work and support.

*Ambassador Marcus Cornaro,
Head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of South Africa*



The European Film Festival gives the opportunity to present outstanding cinematic productions, while at the same time promoting better understanding of Europe's diversity, and addressing current issues, such as migration, discrimination and terrorism, that are relevant not only in Europe but also globally.

*Dr. Geraldine Reymentants,
Chairperson of EUNIC ZA*



The European Film Festival is back in South Africa for the 5th year and diversity remains at the heart of what the festival offers and festival goers can expect to journey through a colorful and complex cinematic offering that traverses class, belonging, social media and the socio-cultural landscape of Europe.

As curator, the most exciting feat of this year's programme are the numerous new "voices" coming out of Europe. Intentional and bold in their undertaking, these first-time feature directors have firmly secured their seat at the table of visual storytelling. These new award-winning filmmakers are programmed alongside prolific and well-established auteurs, breathing freshness into an ever-evolving Europe.

I wish to thank my co-curator, Margherita Di Paola, who spent many hours, days and weeks wading through films with me to get to the 10 that will be on our big screen. In addition, I extend a special *thank you* to the EU Delegation, Ster Kinekor and most importantly to YOU, the audience, for your continued support.

We know you will enjoy the festival as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you!

Lesedi Oluko Moche, EUFF 2018 Curator



Wamkelekile, I am delighted to welcome you to the 5th edition of the European Film Festival in South Africa, set against the backdrop of 'interesting times' in all our countries. It is of course fascinating to watch how European filmmaking both reflects and conditions the times we live in, and the selection that you can see during this year's event is the very best on offer from some of the world's most talented artists.

I'm delighted that we have been able to work with our curators Lesedi Oluko Moche and Margherita Di Paola. Congratulations to them, and thanks to my colleagues Thabiso Mohare for his work as Festival Manager and Grace Meadows for her ambition and commitment.

Colm McGivern, Director South Africa, the British Council



Afterimage

Director Andrzej Wajda
Cast Boguslaw Linda, Bronislawa Zamachowska, Zofia Wichlacz
Genre Drama/Biography
Duration 98min | Polish with English Subtitles
Country Poland

This film by prolific filmmaker, Andrzej Wajda, celebrates the life and struggles of the Polish avant-garde artist Wladyslaw Strzemieski. A leading figure of Polish modern art, he was ostracized, isolated and reduced to poverty by the Stalinist regime for not adhering to the party aesthetic and ideological view. This homage to Constructivist art and its Polish leader is a fitting end note to Wajda's grand career. He passed away at the age of 90, leaving an extensive filmography devoted to telling cinematic stories on pivotal moments and major characters in the history of Poland.

Andrzej Wajda is a recipient of a Palme d'Or, an Honorary Oscar and Golden Lion award. Four of his films have been nominated for Best Foreign Language film, including Afterimage in 2017.

Awards Special Jury Prize: Polish Film Festival 2016

JHB – 24 June, 1 July | PTA – 26, 29 June | CPT – 23, 28 June



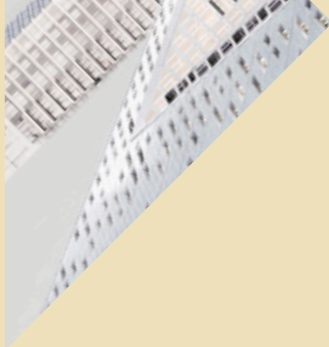
Amateurs

Director Gabriela Pichler
Cast Shada Ismaeel, Maria Nohra, Susanne Hedman
Genre Comedy
Duration 102min | Swedish with English Subtitles
Country Sweden

In an economically declining provincial town, two teenagers set out to showcase the communal heartbeat of their city. Set against the backdrop of the municipality's desires to pursue the construction of a multinational chain store, the film merges humour and social commentary as it humanises the people that have been long term residents as well as immigrants that have chosen to call this small town their home. Pichler's cinematic treatment cleverly makes use of "selfie" video techniques mixed with more standardized camera angles to illustrate the generational disconnection and sensibilities of this fictional towns residents.

Awards Dragon Award: Best Nordic Film, Göteborg FF 2018

JHB – 26, 29 June | PTA – 23 June, 01 July | CPT – 22, 24 June | NAF – 03 July



Big Time

Director Kaspar Astrup Schröder
Cast Bjarke Ingels, Ruth Otero
Genre Documentary
Duration 93min | Danish with English Subtitles
Country Denmark

Bjarke Ingels is named “one of architecture’s biggest stars” by The Wall Street Journal. His company is tasked with designing and building one of the skyscrapers that will replace the Twin Towers. The film follows his 5-year journey as he endeavours to complete his biggest project to date. Among Ingels’ noteworthy buildings are a Copenhagen power plant featuring a ski slope on its roof and the world’s tallest climbing wall, and the Danish Maritime Museum in Elsinore. Schröder’s intimate portrait brilliantly straddles the personal and professional in this well-crafted cinematic offering.

Awards Master of Art Film Festival: Best Documentary in Architecture and Design 2017

JHB – 27, 29 June | PTA – 26 June | CPT – 22 June



Find This Dumb Little B*tch And Throw Her Into A River

Director Ben Brand
Cast Wim Opbrouck, Yassine Kji, Steef Cuijpers
Genre Drama
Duration 87min | Dutch with English Subtitles
Country The Netherlands

Inspired by a true story, Brand's feature debut is a harrowing expose on the psychological effects of Social Media, mob thinking and the consequences of poorly thought out actions. Remco, a 15-year-old boy, lives with his sister and father in a low-income community. His father runs an illegal business selling puppies and his sister is auditioning in a singing competition as she wants to be "famous". In a bid to gain online popularity and bragging rights amongst his friends, Remco naïvely posts a video with his sister in it. He gets the clicks he wants but the consequences are disastrous. The viewer is left wondering the extent to which we mass mobilize based on what we see on social media and how we navigate through context in this "faceless" medium.

Awards New Director Award: Kosmorama Trondheim FF 2018

JHB – 26, 29 June | PTA – 23 June, 01 July | CPT – 22, 24 June | NAF – 03 July



I Am Not A Witch

Director Rungano Nyoni
Cast Maggie Mulubwa, Dyna Mufuni, Nancy Murilo
Genre Drama
Duration 93min | Bemba with English Subtitles
Country United Kingdom

This BAFTA Award-Winning film, set in a Zambian village, follows 9-year-old Shula as she is banished to a camp (and tourist site) for women accused of being witches. Cinematically bold and daring, the story tackles superstition and sexism. In her feature debut, Nyoni chose what she calls “cruel humour” to tell the story of existing witch camps and shine a spotlight on the absurdity of outdated traditions.

Awards BAFTA 2018: Outstanding Debut
Jury Prize: Sarasota Film Festival

JHB – 26 June, 1 July | PTA – 22, 24 June | CPT – 23, 26 June | NAF – 2 July



In The Fade

Director Fatih Akin
Cast Diane Kruger, Denis Moschitto, Numan Acar
Genre Crime/ Drama
Duration 106min | German with English Subtitles
Country Germany

Winner of the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film, this story is a moving portrait of the modern condition in Europe. A bomb attack changes the life of a woman and her family. As she goes through the process of grieving, the legal process reveals two young right-wing extremists are the cause of the attack. The film follows her journey to closure and life in the absence of her loved ones. Diane Kruger delivers a powerful performance as Katja – maintaining a balance of inner strength and heart-breaking vulnerability.

Awards Golden Globe: Best Foreign Language Film 2018
Best Feature Film and Best Screenplay: German Film Awards 2018
Best Actress: Cannes Film Festival 2017

JHB – 23, 30 June | PTA – 27 June | CPT – 29 June



Le Ciel Flamand

Director Peter Monsaert
Cast Sara Vertongen, Wim Willaert, Esra Vandebussche
Genre Drama
Duration 114min | Dutch/French with English Subtitles
Country Belgium

Monique runs a brothel that has been owned by her family for generations. This film poetically follows her as she navigates running the business and being mother to her six-year-old daughter, Eline. Not wanting her daughter to be exposed to the work she does, Monique tells her daughter “if someone needs a hug, they come to me”. With the innocence of a child we watch as these words collide in a life changing moment for the little girl, one that alters the lives of three generations of women in the family. This is a portrait of family life within the sex industry – uncomfortable as it may be, Monsaert delicately weaves in nuance into this devastating tale.

Awards Best Feature Film: Aubagne International FF 2017
Best Supporting Actor and Best Cinematography:
FF Oostende 2017

JHB – 24, 26 June | PTA – 27, 30 June | CPT – 23, 27 June



Let The Sun Shine In

Director Claire Denis
Cast Juliette Binoche, Xavier Beauvois, Philippe Katerine
Genre Drama/Romance
Duration 96min | French with English Subtitles
Country France

Juliette Binoche plays Isabelle, a middle-aged woman navigating through the complexity of post-divorce “singlehood” in Paris. As she takes on lover after lover, the film moves through sharp transitions that reflect the state of loneliness and the subtle complexities of dating flawed middle-aged men. Through Isabelle’s search for that which is meaningful, Denis crafts a film that brings us to the centre of romantic restlessness. A simple story of the search for love with all the broken pieces that come with it.

Awards International Cinephile Society Awards 2018
SACD: Cannes Film Festival 2017

JHB – 22, 30 June | PTA – 29 June | CPT – 24 June



Mademoiselle Paradis

Director Barbara Albert
Cast Maria Dragus, Devid Striesow, Lukas Miko
Genre Drama/History
Duration 97min | German/French with English Subtitles
Country Austria

Based on the true story of prolific 18th century blind Viennese pianist, Maria Theresia Von Paradis, this film charts the relationship between her and the physician tasked with restoring her sight. The story delves into the politics of class and gender during this period. The outstanding performance by Maria-Victoria Dragus as Mademoiselle Paradis brings texture in this exquisite period film on female subjectivity and healing.

Awards Best Supporting Actress, Best Costume Design,
Best Camera: Austrian Film Award 2018
Best Actress: Les Arcs European Film Festival 2017

JHB – 23, 28 June | PTA – 22, 28 June | CPT – 30 June | NAF – 4 July



Verano 1993

Director Carla Simón
Cast Laia Artigas, Paula Robles, Bruna Cusí
Genre Drama/Family
Duration Catalan with English subtitles
Country Spain

When six-year-old Frida loses her parents she moves in with her uncle and his wife who live in a country house in rural Spain. As she tries to adjust into her new adopted family, Frida finds solace in a mini-statue of the Virgin Mary where she speaks to her mother. A well-crafted and poignant debut feature story by Simón, the intimate setting of rural Spain provides the backdrop as the film eloquently journeys through loss and belonging, with superb performances from the two child actresses.

Awards Best Director, Original Screenplay: Gaudí Awards 2018
Goya Award 2018: Best New Director
Best First Feature and Jury Prize: Berlin Int. FF 2017

JHB – 22, 28 June | PTA – 23, 30 June | CPT – 01 July | NAF – 5 July

JOHANNESBURG

PRETORIA

CAPE TOWN

21 June
Thu*Opening Night*
By invitation
*I am Not A Witch***22 June**
Fri6pm Verano 1993
8pm Let the Sunshine In6pm Mademoiselle Paradis
8pm I Am Not A Witch6pm Big Time
8pm Amateurs**23 June**
Sat3pm Find This Dumb...
6pm Mademoiselle Paradis
8pm In The Fade6pm Verano 1993
8pm Amateurs3pm Afterimage
6pm Le Ciel Flamand
8pm I Am Not A Witch**24 June**
Sun3pm Le Ciel Flamand
6pm Afterimage3pm Find This Dumb...
6pm I Am Not A Witch3pm Let The Sunshine In
6pm Amateurs**25 June**
MonWWW.EUROFILMFEST.CO.ZA**26 June**
Tue3pm I Am Not A Witch
6pm Amateurs
8pm Le Ciel Flamand6pm Afterimage
8pm Big Time6pm Find This Dumb...
8pm I Am Not A Witch**27 June**
Wed6pm Big Time
8pm Find This Dumb...6pm Le Ciel Flamand
8pm In The Fade

8pm Le Ciel Flamand

28 June
Thu6pm Mademoiselle Paradis
8pm Verano 19936pm Find This Dumb...
8pm Mademoiselle Paradis

8pm Afterimage

29 June
Fri6pm Big Time
8pm Amateurs6pm Afterimage
8pm Let The Sunshine In6pm Find This Dumb...
8pm In The Fade**30 June**
Sat6pm In The Fade
8pm Let The Sunshine In6pm Verano 1993
8pm Le Ciel Flamand

8pm Mademoiselle Paradis

01 July
Sun3pm Afterimage
6pm I Am Not A Witch

3pm Amateurs

3pm Verano 1993



European Film Festival 2018 Team

British Council Connect ZA

Head of Arts Southern Africa and South Africa **Levinia Jones**, South Africa Programme Manager **Grace Meadows**, Project Manager **Thabiso Mohare**, Project Manager **Linda Khumalo**, Communications and Project Manager **Eduardo Cachucho**, Assistant Project Manager **Mpho Seoposengwe**, Assistant Project Manager **Victoria Lekone**.

Olu And Lime

Festival Curator	Lesedi Oluko Moche
Co-Curator	Margherita Di Paola
Traffic Manager	Mitchell Harper

Dreamcatcher Multi-media

Managing Director	Marang Setshwaelo
Publicist	Kabelo Collis

The Natural Agent

Graphic designer	Anthea Piater
Web developer	Llyod Piater

About the European Film Festival 2018

Back in South Africa for a 5th year, the European Film Festival runs from **22 June to 1 July 2018 at Cinema Nouveau: Rosebank, Brooklyn and V&A Waterfront** and will showcase ten award films selected from Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom – a collection of diverse worldly stories.

The European Film Festival 2018 is coordinated by the British Council South Africa and organised in partnership with the Delegation of the European Union to South Africa and 10 European cultural agencies or embassies in South Africa: the General Representation of the Government of Flanders and Belgium, the French Institute, the Goethe Institut (Germany), Austria, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Denmark and The British Council.

This is the best of European Cinema on the African screen.

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