



European Union Film Festival 2018







Delegation of the European Union to India



Foreword

The EU Film Festival, I am happy to say, has become a part of the cultural calendar of many cities in India and it continues to win appreciation for bringing in the oeuvre of both established and new talents.

This year's festival has some unusual stories to tell: the lines of reality are blurred when the cyber world comes to life; a play done by a motley cast of antiheroes provides an opportunity for redemption; a man stuck in an unhappy marriage practices unusual ways to assert his freedom; a music critic finds his father irksome when they both begin to compete for the attention of an attractive psychotherapist; and three Kurdish siblings come together unexpectedly in a hair-raising journey during which they are pursued by angry relatives. These are just some of the curious themes of the European Union Film Festival of 2018.

My warmest thanks to the Directorate of Film Festivals, the EU Member States, and the film clubs in many cities which have all collaborated in bringing these recent films to you.

Happy viewing!

Tomasz Kozlowski Ambassador



AUSTRIA



LABYRINTHUS
BELGIUM



VIKTORIA

BULGARIA



CROATIA



BOY ON THE BRIDGE
CYPRUS



TIGER THEORY/TEORIE TYGRA

CZECHIA



WALK WITH ME/
DE STANDHAFTIGE
DENMARK



LAND OF MINE/ UNDER SANDET DENMARK



THE MAN WHO LOOKS LIKE ME/
MINU NÄOGA ONU
ESTONIA



UNEXPECTED JOURNEY
FINLAND







HOUSE WITHOUT ROOF/ HAUS OHNE DACH GERMANY



KISSING ? /
ONTOS FILIOUNTE ?
GREECE



HUNGARY



TARANTA ON THE ROAD



THE LESSON/
IZLAIDUMA GADS
LATVIA



WHEN YOU WAKE UP
LITHUANIA



A WEDDING/NOCES

LUXEMBOURG



A BRAVE BUNCH POLAND



MOTHER KNOWS BEST
PORTUGAL



LITTLE HARBOUR/
PIATA LOD'
SLOVAKIA



THE BRIDE/LA NOVIA

SPAIN



SWEDEN



THE NETHERLANDS







THE MAGIC OF CHILDREN

AUSTRIA









Its summer and "Circus Dimitri" has arrived in the Realm of Children. But where are the children? "There's nobody here", clown Leon declares sadly, and he sets off to find them. Mysterious things happen that day, and in the night, too. The children are summoned from their invisibility. The grown-ups are confined to their own world, in the "frames". Joyfully, the children unfurl their special powers and let their dreams become reality.







LABYRINTHUS

BELGIUM





Douglas Boswell



Bart Van Langendonck, Peter Bouckaert,
Floor Onrust



Fourteen-year-old Frikke knows his way around computer games but this one has a shocking surprise: its protagonists are real kids and real animals whose lives are mysteriously uploaded into the game's labyrinth. To play or not to play is the question, especially when the fate of loved ones is at stake in the cyberworld.







VIKTORIA

BULGARIA





Maya Vitkova





Maya Vitkova



Dreaming of the West, Boryana is determined not to have a child in communist Bulgaria. Nonetheless, her daughter Viktoria enters the world in 1979, curiously missing a belly button, and is declared the country's Baby of the Decade. Pampered by her mother state until the age of nine, Viktoria's decade of notoriety comes crashing down with the rest of European communism. But can political collapse and the hardship of new times finally bring Viktoria and her reluctant mother closer together?







COWBOYS

CROATIA



Tomislav Mrsic

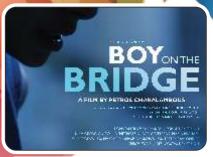
2013

Suzana Pandek

103 min

In an ordinary small town, a peculiar theatre company, an assembly of antiheroes, losers, drifting aimlessly & seemingly lost in space and time, is about to out up a play inspired by classic Hollywood Westerns. Guided by a disillusioned director, they'll be forced to fight their demons & overcome prejudices about each other

As they embrace the formulas of the Western genre - the fight between good and evil and civilization taming wilderness - the actors develop unexpected bonds of friendship and begin to experience the play as a metaphor for their own destinies. Not just a play anymore, suddenly it becomes an opportunity of a lifetime to all of them.







BOY ON THE BRIDGE

CYPRUS



Petros Charalambous

2016

Marios Piperides

85 min

Cyprus 1988. Twelve-year-old Socrates spends the hot summer days hurtling through the streets of his sleepy mountain village on his bicycle, setting off home-made firecrackers and tormenting the local residents. He wears his grandfather's military beret with pride, dreaming of being a war hero like he once was. His carefree life comes to an abrupt end when he finds out that the family of his cousin and best friend, Marcos, are being abused by their violent father Hambo. Infuriated by this discovery, Socrates decides to put his firecracker-making skills to use.

What starts as a naïve attempt to teach Hambo a lesson leads Socrates to the heart of a murder investigation and the exposure of a family secret. Confronted with a dilemma that will change his life forever, Socrates discovers the meaning of love, family loyalty and courage.







TIGER THEORY/ TEORIE TYGRA



CZECHIA



Radek Bajgar



Petr Erben



2016

【 101 min

This comedy is a story about a successful veterinary surgeon, almost 60, who tries to find a decent and painless way out of his marriage where he feels like a beast trapped in a cage. After the suicide of his father-in-law, who faced the same issues with his wife, Jan wants to control his own life again. His mother-in-law used to decide about everything in her husband's life and she gets to decide even now, after his death, in good faith that she is doing him a favour. Jan knows very well he is on the same boat. This destructive partnership strategy is his wife's family inheritance. His wife is also convinced that she is the one in charge of their happiness. Jan is aware of the fact that if he leaves it as it is he will meet his father-inlaw fate. So he keeps testing more and more peculiar methods to liberate himself and bring back his real self. The road he eventually decides to take is quite absurd, adventurous and very uncomfortable. It is the generality of this story that is guite captive, every day it is lived by many all over the world, men as well as women. Do men really have it that bad? Is it so difficult to work things out with women? Are real men now on the verge of extinction? And can you turn your life around at this late stage?







WALK WITH ME/ DE STANDHAFTIGE



DFNMARK



2016



🛚 105 min

Deployed on mission in Helmand, Afghanistan, 25-year-old Thomas is heavily wounded. At the local rehabilitation centre he meets Sofie, an ascending ballerina from the Royal Danish Ballet who is helping a relative regain strength after a long-term sickness. Thomas desperately wants to get back into the field and feels a growing impatience as he fails to progress as fast as he would like. When Sofie offers to help him with a more intense rehabilitation plan, he accepts. Despite their differences they develop a special bond and a mutual affection.







LAND OF MINE **/UNDER SANDET**

DFNMARK



Martin Pieter Zandvliet



2015



Mikael Christian Rieks



Taking place in May 1945 only a few days after the end of the war, the film tells the story of how a group of German prisoners of war were brought to Denmark and forced to disarm the two million land mines that had been scattered along the West Coast by the German occupying forces. In charge of the enfeebled young men performing the dangerous task is Sergeant Carl Leopold Rasmussen. Like so many of his fellow Danes, he has a deep hatred for the Germans after having suffered five years of hardships during the occupation. He lets his rage rain down on the prisoners, until one day a tragic incident makes him change his view of the enemy even if it may be too late.







THE MAN WHO LOOKS LIKE ME/ MINU NÄOGA ONU



ESTONIA



Andres Maimik, Katrin Maimik



2017



Maie Rosmann-Lill, Maario Masing



A music critic Hugo, suffering from post-divorce depression, is just about to rebuild his life when his jazz musician father Raivo arrives at his door unexpectedly. The spiteful old man announces that he will soon come to his end and expects his only son to take care of him. When an attractive psychotherapist enters the men's lives, the father and son duo begin to compete for her attention. The old prankster manages to create a number of embarrassing moments in an effort to ruin Hugo's romantic plans.

Andres Maimik's and Katrin Maimik's tragicomedy is an exploration of forced closeness, a pursuit of happiness and a road to forgiving through laughter, suspense and tears.







UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

FINLAND





Samuli Valkama



2017



S Jukka Helle, Rimbo Salomaa, Markus Selin



A modern road movie about friendship that breaks borders. Veikko is a prejudiced oldster who has ended up living in a suburban apartment block filled with a colourful section of refugees and immigrants. Kamal is a 17- year-old boy, who is fed up with life in Finland and dreams of moving to Nairobi to live with his father. The only problem is that he doesn't have the money to buy the flight ticket. When Veikko turns ill and decides to escape to his summer cottage, 300 km from Helsinki, he hires Kamal to help him get there – with a few unexpected turns on the way. On the road, Veikko and Kamal start to understand a bit more and both of them learn a lot from each other.







9 MONTH STRETCH /9 MOIS FERME



FRANCE



2013

ADCB Films, Manchester Films

▼ 82 min

Ariane Felder is pregnant. This is all the more surprising since this examining magistrate is an old-fashioned single person. But even more surprising is the fact that, according to DNA tests, the father is no other than Bob, a criminal prosecuted for atrocious assault and battery. Ariane, who does not remember anything, tries to understand what happened.





HOUSE WITHOUT ROOF/ HAUS OHNE DACH



GERMANY

Soleen Yusef

2014-16

Mitos Film

117 min

Three siblings born in the Kurdish part of Iraq who grew up in Germany – Liya, who performs as a singer in a night club; Jan, whose wife is expecting a child; and misfit Alan – return to their country of birth in order to fulfil their late mother's last wishes. She wanted to be buried in her home village next to her husband, who was killed during the war against Saddam's regime, but her relatives in Kurdistan are vehemently opposed to this. Wanting to fulfil their mother's wish, the squabbling siblings make off with the coffin and, pursued by their furious relatives, embark on a strenuous journey through a land in which the Peschmerga are battling IS terrorists.







KISSING?/ ONTOS FILIOUNTE?



GREECE

Yannis Korres

2016

(S) Yannis Korres, Alexis Pilos

77 min

Just before turning thirty, Danny and Stella belong to a generation that has not yet been defined. Probably because the events that form its identity are still under way... Achilles' visit to Danny's house sparks a discussion about what it means to live in today's reality while giving us an account of Danny's relationship with Stella, from its beginning until now. Using Danny as its key character, and through the comic or tragic situations that he finds himself in – or even creates- the film attempts to make a portrait of this generation both with the humour that suits it but also with the understanding it deserves.







KILLS ON WHEELS

HUNGARY



Attila Till

2016

S Judit Stalter

103 min

This is a meaningful action-comedy of a wheelchair-bound assassin gang. Driven by despair and fear of becoming useless, a 20 year-old boy, his friend, and an ex-fireman offer their services to the mafia. But things are not what they seem. The boundaries between reality and fiction blur and the story becomes a whirling kaleidoscope showing us gangsters and gunfights, but also the challenge of life in a wheelchair and the pain caused by a father's rejection.







TARANTA ON THE ROAD

ITALY





Andrea Petrozzi,
 Giacobbe Gamberini, Andrea Esposito



Aysel and Yasser, two North African immigrants, have just landed illegally on the shores of Italy and are in a hurry to make their way to other European destinations. But the day after their landing, there are more emergencies due to illegal disembarkations and every movement is fraught with difficulty. There is a great risk of their being caught and repatriated. Aysel and Yasser do not have anything in common, they don't know each other. Nonetheless, fate has not only decided to bring them together as soon as they land in Ialy, but has also placed them in the situation of having to pretend to be husband and wife in the eyes of the 'Evangelists', three musicians in their forties who have decided to help them to cross the borders of Italy. In fact, the musicians are mistakenly convinced that these two immigrants are a married couple in great difficulty who have the further burden of expecting a baby. And so, in a mix of drama and comedy, adventure friendship and love will harm the hearts and bring the souls of these characters together – these persons who are apparently so distant and yet so close to each other. These protagonists who have placed their very existence on standby to follow a dream, will manage to rediscover themselves and to sayour a taste of life







THE LESSON/ IZLAIDUMA GADS

LATVIA





Andris Gauja and Guna Stahovska, co-produced by Natalia Ivanova



A new teacher, Zane (Inga Alsina-Lasmane) tries to befriend the class she is mentoring, but she goes too far -- at Zane's parties and on her field trips, the border between the teacher and the students begins to blur and dissolve.

When one of her students falls in love with her, Zane finds herself in a tangled web of personal conflicts.







WHEN YOU WAKE UP

LITHUANIA



Ričardas Marcinkus

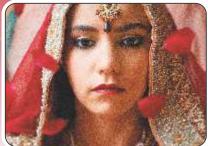
2014

③ Žilvinas Naujokas, Ričardas Marcinkus

100 min

The singer called Punk is no longer of much interest to anyone. After his brush with fame, it only took a few years of drugs and alcohol to reach rock bottom. After yet another small town concert, Punk ends up spending the night backstage, drunk and alone. When he opens his eyes in the morning, he sees a little girl, who introduces herself as his daughter. Two lost souls set out on a trip together — a trip which will not only change their lives, but will also bring them together to appreciate the joy it brings.







A WEDDING/NOCES

LUXEMBOURG



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Stephan Streker



Tarantula Luxembourg, Daylight (BE),
Formosa Productions (FR)



Zahira, 18, is close to her family until her parents ask her to follow Pakistani tradition to choose a husband.

Torn between family customs and her western lifestyle, the young woman turns for help to her brother and confidant Amir.







A BRAVE BUNCH

The Uprising Through Children's Eyes/ Fajna Ferajna: Powstanie oczyma dzieci **POLAND**



Tomasz Stankiewicz

2015

Monika Kowaleczko-Szumowska, **Zofia Pragowska**

▼ 30 min

When the Warsaw Uprising started in 1944, thousands of children lived in the city. Brave Bunch is about those who survived. A hybrid documentary by Tomasz Stankiewicz, the film tells the story of the heroic and tragic 63-day struggle to liberate Warsaw from Nazi Germany occupation during World War II from a child's perspective. A group of kids finds an authentic dairy from the Warsaw Uprising. Looking for its owner they stumble into the Warsaw Uprising Muzeum. Thanks to the diary's magical powers they meet their peers from 1944 who survived the complete destruction of Warsaw and the slaughter of its inhabitants.







MOTHER KNOWS BEST

PORTUGAL





Nuno Rocha





Pandora da Cunha Telles and Pablo Iraola



The family of Ana Luisa meets at home to celebrate her father's birthday. As the guests sit around the table they will share memories of the past, in which all have a common denominator: the late Josefa, Ana Luisa's mother. Hearing the stories, Ana Luisa realizes the impact that her late mother had on their life choices and imagines what would have happened if she had followed other paths, taken other options and said what was unsaid. At the same time, an event of unknown origin causes a change in space and time, enabling people all over the world the access to parallel universes. Ana Luisa will thus have the opportunity to change the past...







LITTLE HARBOUR/ PIATA LOD'

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SLOVAKIA





S Katarína Krnáčová, Iveta Grófová, Jiří Konečný



A story inspired by true events about two children whose innocent play will change their lives forever.

An adventure of children who feel safer in the streets than at home, children seeking out sturdy lifeboats that cross between the world of fantasy and the harsh reality of life. Jarka is one of these children. Ten years-old and living with a mother who is not yet ready to be a Mum, Jarka spends most of her time alone. Pushed by her desire to love and form a family, she finds herself giving shelter to two abandoned twin babies.







THE BRIDE/LA NOVIA

SPAIN



Paula Ortiz

2015

Get In The Picture Productions,
Mantar Film, Televisión Española

▼ 93 min

Based on Blood Wedding, the 1933 tragedy by Federico García Lorca. Leonardo, The Groom and The Bride have been an inseparable triangle since they were kids, but Leonardo and The Bride possess an invisible, ferocious, unbreakable thread. The years go by and she, in anguish, is getting prepared for her wedding with The Groom in the middle of the white desert where she lives with her father. The day before the ceremony, a beggar knocks on her door and offers her a present and a piece of advice: "Don't get married if you don't love him", while she gives her two crystal daggers. The Bride's body shudders as tragedy prepares to unfold...







ETERNAL SUMMER

SWEDEN



Andreas Öhman

2016

(S) Bonnie Skoog

X 107 min

Isak and Em meet for the first time on a summer night in Stockholm. BAM! They leave everything behind to embark on a road trip through the breathtaking landscape of Northern Sweden. But what starts off as a carefree adventure soon turns into a panic fueled chase. Eternal Summer is a road movie about finding that someone to be your universe - and what you're willing to do for that someone.







LETTER FOR THE KING

THE NETHERLANDS



Pieter Verhoeff

2008

Armada Productions,

Eyeworks Egmond and Heimatfilm

▼ 110 min

The film plays in Medieval times. A sixteen-year old boy, Tiuri, is nearly a knight, but he has to complete one last test before he is knighted. The test is to stay awake one night in the chapel without talking and without opening the door to anyone. But then, someone knocks at the chapel door and cries for help. Risking his knighthood, Tiuri opens the door. He is requested to deliver a letter to a knight in the forest which contains an important message for a befriended King. Will Tiuri accepts this mission? This moment embarks the adventurous journey of Tiuri, who risks his future as a knight to fulfil a promise, and in doing so discovers honour, valour and love.

CITIES	SCREENING DATES		
Delhi	18 - 24 June		
Chennai	25 June - 5 July		
Port Blair	1 - 7 July		
Pune	6 - 12 July		
Puducherry	15 - 23 July		
Kolkata	23 - 29 July		
Jaipur	1 - 5 August		
Visakhapatnam	1 - 7 August		
Thrissur	9 - 12 August		
Hyderabad	10 - 19 August		
Goa	19 - 31 August		

OUR PARTNERS





























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