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FESTIVAL
2017**

Welcome to the 13th annual European Union Film Festival in Toronto!

The program for this 2017 celebration of European film has been assembled to reflect the diversity and richness of European cinematic arts and to elicit your enjoyment.

By bringing European film and cultures closer to Canadians we are reaffirming the affinity that Canada and Europe share that goes beyond agreements, conventions, treaties etc.

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EUFF is rightfully proud of the European film community. With budgets that cannot match the mega-productions of Hollywood the creative output of European filmmakers matches that of any leading group.

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GOZO

Canadian Premiere



Drama | English | 80 min | 2016

Directed by Miranda Bowen

With Joseph Kennedy, Ophelia Lovibond, Daniel Lapaine, John Bowe, Nicky Henson

**Thursday
9 Nov
8:30PM**

Lucille and Joe have moved to Gozo, a tiny island in the Mediterranean Sea, off the coast of Malta. They have a nice car, a steady income, and a beautiful farmhouse. They seem to have it all. But when a young tourist goes missing, Joe's disquieted conscience begins to get the better of him. As the buried horrors of Lucille and Joe's past resurface, the cracks begin to show in their homespun paradise.

- *Raindance Film Festival - Best UK Feature*

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HOLDING HANDS

La tenerezza

Toronto Premiere



Friday
10 Nov
6:00PM

Drama | Italian | 103 min | 2017

Directed by **Gianni Amelio**

With **Elio Germano, Micaela Ramazzotti, Giovanna Mezzogiorno, Renato Carpentieri, Greta Scacchi**

Cesare is an old, cynical widower with two children. One day, the enigmatic Emma moves into his building, a woman married to a shady individual who doesn't seem compatible with her. Cesare suspects that there is something wrong; what he finds out about his neighbors, and about himself, are the essence of this terrific tale, where Cesare shows us the most ferocious cynicism and deepest humanity at the same time.

- *Golden Ciak Awards 2017 - Best Director*
- *Golden Globes Italy 2017 - Best Actor*

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POLAND

VOLTA

North-American Premiere



Friday
10 Nov
8:30PM

Comedy | Polish | 105 min | 2017

Directed by Juliusz Machulski

With Andrzej Zielinski, Olga Boladz, Aleksandra Domanska, Michal Zurawski, Jacek Braciak

The latest comedy from the iconic Polish director Juliusz Machulski (*Va Banque; Sexmission; Kingsize; Killer*). Aga is an attractive, smart young woman. Her relationship with Bruno, an intelligent lawyer, is under strain. Bruno promises to help Aga start her own restaurant, but soon changes his mind, making Aga dependent on Bruno. He provides a comfortable life, while controlling her every step but Aga's chance encounter with a new friend, Viki, will change their lives.

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SPAIN

THE CHESS PLAYER

El jugador de ajedrez

Toronto Premiere



Saturday
11 Nov
6:00PM

Drama | Spanish | 98 min | 2017

Directed by Luis Oliveros

With Marc Clotet, Melina Matthews, Alejo Sauras, Lionel Auguste, Stefan Weinert

In 1934 Diego Padilla wins the Spanish Championship of Chess and falls in love with French journalist, Marianne Latour. At the end of the Civil War, Marianne convinces Diego to live in France with their daughter, where shortly afterwards Diego is accused of spying by the Nazis and imprisoned in an SS prison. In prison, Diego tries to survive in a hostile environment thanks to Colonel Maier's passion for chess.

BELGICA



Drama | Flemish, Dutch | 126 min | 2016

Directed by **Felix van Groeningen**

With **Tom Vermeir, Stef Aerts, H el ene De Vos, Charlotte Vandermeersch, Boris Van Severen**

Saturday
11 Nov
8:30PM

Belgica is the story of two brothers: charismatic and temperamental Frank - a husband, father, and incurable womaniser - and his ambitious younger brother Jo, who owns a bar called Belgica. They become business partners and quickly Belgica becomes the place to be for great music, beautiful people, and debauched fun - until they learn that running a business is more complicated than they realised, and their relationships and personal lives suffer.

- *Sundance Film Festival 2016 - Best Director, World Cinema Dramatic section*



ADULT LIFE SKILLS

UNITED
KINGDOM



Sunday
12 Nov
6:00PM

Comedy | English | 72 min | 2016

Directed by Rachel Tunnard

With Jodie Whittaker, Alice Lowe, Edward Hogg, Lorraine Ashbourne, Brett Goldstein

A comedy about arrested development. Anna is stuck. Her greatest happiness was her relationship with her twin brother, but since his death, 18 months ago, she's on a downward spiral that includes returning to her home-town, abandoning hope of a sex life, and making the shed at the bottom of her Mum and Nan's garden her home. When her Mum serves her an ultimatum, Anna's life of emotional isolation becomes impossible to maintain.

- *Tribeca Film Festival 2016 - Nora Ephron Prize,*
- *London Critics Circle 2016 - Best Debut Feature Film*

Presented by



THE FURY

De Helleveeg

Toronto Premiere



THE NETHERLANDS



Drama | Dutch | 117 min | 2016

Directed by **André van Duren**

With **Hannah Hoekstra, Frank Lammers**

Sunday
12 Nov
8:30PM

Sharp-tongued Tini suffers from mysophobia and is close to her 6-year-old nephew, who becomes her confidante. When she marries Koos from Breda, the wedding reception goes out of hand, the honeymoon is canceled, and Koos demands a fertility test. The test clarifies that Koos is infertile; at least, according to Tini who herself fetches the results from the hospital. They end up having a marriage without children and Albert becomes their substitute son.

- *Netherlands Film Festival 2016 - Best Actress (Hannah Hoekstra)*
- *Montreal World Film Festival 2016 - Best Actress (Hannah Hoekstra)*

Playing with

ABOUT THE BIRDS AND THE BEES | By J.J. Vanhanen | Finland | 12 min

A quiet farmer and his son set out on a trip to the pharmacy after the teen has had a little accident with his girlfriend.

Provided by TAMK - Tampere University of Applied Sciences



THE WOLF FROM ROYAL VINEYARD STREET

Vlk z Královských Vinohrad

Canadian Premiere



Monday
13 Nov
6:00PM

Dramedy | Czech | 75 min | 2016

Directed by Jan Němec

With Jiří Mádli, Martin Pechlát, Táňa Pauhofová, Karel Roden

One of the country's home-grown filmmakers, Jan Němec (1936-2016) loosely adapted his final film from his own collection of quasi-autobiographical tales. The result is a particular kind of dramedy, an unsentimental reminiscence of a life story spanning the Sixties to the present, and a nonchalant settling of scores in punk regalia.

- *Karlovy Vary Film Festival 2016 - Special Recognition*

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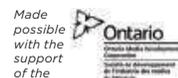




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LATVIA



Drama | Latvian, English | 106 min | 2016

Directed by **Renārs Vimba**

With **Elīna Vaska, Andžejs Lilientāls, Edgars Samītis, Zane Jančevska, Ruta Birgere**

Monday
13 Nov
8:30PM

After their father's death, abandoned by their mother, siblings Robis and Raja are left alone in their small family house in the countryside. Things change when their domineering grandmother suddenly dies. The teenagers face a tough choice: either report the death of their grandmother and submit themselves to the authorities, or hide the body and pretend as if nothing has happened.

- *Berlin International Film Festival 2016 - Crystal Bear Award*
- *Palm Springs International Film Festival 2017 - New Voices/New Visions Special Jury Prize*

Playing with

SCHOOLYARD BLUES | By Maria Eriksson | Sweden | 17 min

It's John's first day at school. Unexpectedly his eleven-year-old big brother Mika shows up to follow him to assembly. But Mika has plans other than just taking John to school.

Provided by *SADA Stockholms Dramatiska Högskola*



FINLAND

LITTLE WING

Tyttö nimeltä Varpu



Tuesday
14 Nov
6:00PM

Drama | Finnish | 100 min | 2016

Directed by **Selma Vilhunen**

With **Linnea Skog, Paula Vesala**

Linnea Skog as the 12-year-old Varpu longs to find her father she has never met. Paula Vesala in the role of her single parent mother Siru is reluctant to give much information, prompting an unauthorized solo road trip. Varpu is mature beyond her years and manages somehow to navigate the world of grown-ups. In the meantime, her mother has some growing up to do.

- *RiverRun International Film Festival 2017 - Audience Choice Award*
- *Palm Springs International Film Festival 2017*

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AMERIKA SQUARE

Πλατεία Αμερικής

Toronto Premiere



Drama | Arabic, Greek | 86 min | 2016

Directed by **Yannis Sakaridis**

With **Themis Bazaka, Ksenia Dania, Nikkos J. Frangos, Vassilis Koukalani, Kostas Kourtidis**

Tuesday
14 Nov
8:30PM

Tattoo artist Billy and unemployed Nakos are best friends from Athens. Old bachelor Nakos is racist, obsessed with the victim mentality, and completely frustrated with Greece's increasing immigrant numbers. Billy, however, is in favour of foreigners coming into the country. They meet in Amerika Square in Athens because of Syrian refugee Tarek.

- *Thessaloniki Film Festival 2016 - Special Youth Jury Award*
- *Los Angeles Greek Film Festival 2017 - Orpheus Award*

Playing with

SURIYAN | By Jonathan Bouillot | France | 14 min

Haunted by the death of his daughter, Jean-Marc comes face to face with a migrant despondently searching for his family. But is their meeting only a coincidence?

Provided by ESEC - Ecole Supérieure d'Etudes Cinématographiques



LUXEMBOURG

MAMMEJONG

Canadian Premiere



Wednesday
15 Nov
6:00PM

Drama | Luxembourgish, English | 85 min | 2014

Directed by Jacques Molitor

With Max Thommes, Myriam Muller, Maya Juric, Jules Werner, Christiane Rausch

In the wild nowhere of northern Luxembourg. Man-child 'Flëpp' (20) and his reclusive mother Sophie (45) live a strange symbiosis. Everything changes with the arrival of mysterious runaway Leena (19). Flëpp understands that if he wants to win Leena's heart, he will have to sever the umbilical cord that is suffocating him. But is he ready to be saved?

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CROATIA

LIFE IS A TRUMPET

Život je truba

Toronto Premiere



Wednesday

15 Nov

8:30PM

Comedy | Croatian | 92 min | 2015

Directed by **Antonio Nuić**

With **Bojan Navojec, Iva Babić, Zlatko Vitez, Mirela Brekalo, Goran Navojec**

Family gatherings are a constant source of information, especially if there is a wedding in sight. It is a great opportunity to observe the subtle clashes between different personalities, and to finally treat the skeletons from the closet as guests at the table while the cameras are rolling. *Life Is a Trumpet* has a loose jazz musician as the groom, a butcher as his father, and two families of different backgrounds whose members are not as different as one might expect.

- *Raindance Film Festival 2016*
- *Warsaw International Film Festival 2015 - World Premiere*
- *FEST – Belgrade International Film Festival 2016*

Playing with

A NIGHT IN TOKORIKI | By Roxana Stroe | Romania | 18 min

In an improvised night club called “Tokoriki” the whole village celebrates Geanina’s 18th birthday. Her boyfriend and Alin will give her a most surprising gift, one that nobody will ever forget.

Provided by EUNATC Universitatea Nationala de Arta Teatrala si Cinematografica “I.L. Caragiale”



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SAIL BEYOND BORDERS



THE TEACHER

Učiteľka



Thursday
16 Nov
6:00PM

Drama | Slovak | 100 min | 2016

Directed by Jan Hřebejk

With Zuzana Mauréry, Peter Bebjak, Zuzana Konečná, Csongor Kassai

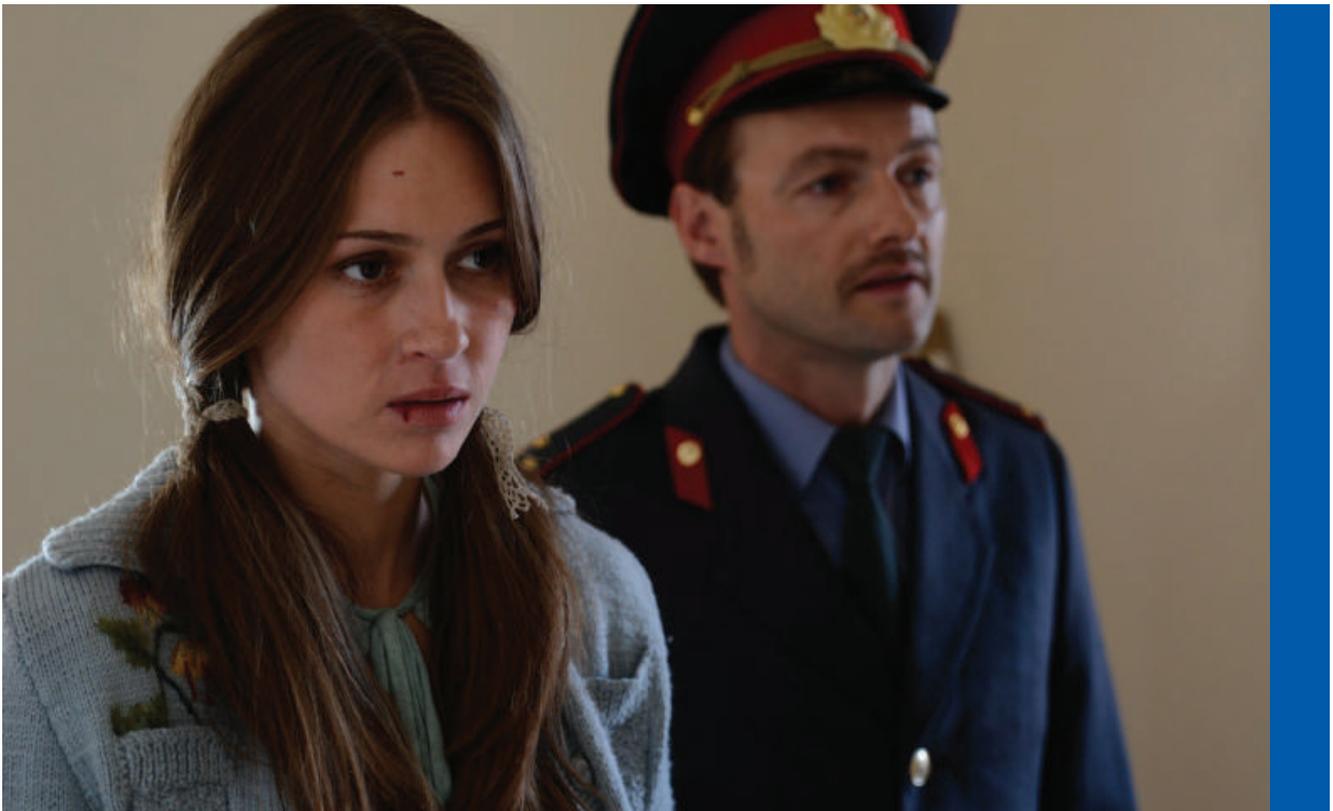
The arrival of a new teacher to a Bratislava suburban school in the year of 1983 causes sudden mayhem. The principal calls for an urgent meeting that will put the future of all the families at stake. The teacher's connections within the Communist Party makes everyone feel threatened, but they have to make a decision: will they dare to go against Miss Drazdechova and stand up for what they believe in at any risk, or will they just remain silent and let things be?

- *Czech Lion Awards 2017 - 9 nominations*
- *Gijon International Film Festival 2016 - Best Score*

EMILIA

Emilija

Toronto Premiere



Drama | Lithuanian | 120 min | 2017

Directed by Donatas Ulvydas

With Ieva Andrejevaitė, Darius Gumauskas, Tauras Čižas, Česlovas Stonys, Remigijus Vilkaitis

Emilia is about the fight for freedom in Soviet-repressed Lithuania - in a society where a more satiated life seems more important than honour, a clear conscience, or humanity. It is the spring of 1972, when young people take to the streets of Kaunas to demand freedom for Lithuania, and Emilia, guarding the greatest secret of her life, is marching with the protesting crowd towards the life of their dreams.

Thursday
16 Nov
8:30PM

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AUSTRIA

NIGHT OF A 1000 HOURS

Die Nacht der 1000 Stunden

Canadian Premiere



Friday
17 Nov
6:00PM

Drama | German | 92 min | 2016

Directed by Virgil Widrich

With Laurence Rupp, Amira Casar, Udo Samel, Elisabeth Rath, Barbara Petritsch

When the ambitious Philip takes over the running of the family business from his father, he finds himself confronted by the mysterious reappearance of his dead ancestors. In the course of a long night, during which there is a murder, an illicit love affair and a game with false identities, Philip uncovers a closely guarded family secret.

- *Busan International Film Festival 2016 - Flash Forward Audience Award*
- *Austrian Film Awards 2017 - Nomination for Best Screenplay*

SAINT GEORGE

São Jorge

Canadian Premiere



PORTUGAL



Drama | Portuguese | 112 min | 2016

Directed by **Marco Martins**

With **Nuno Lopes, Mariana Nunes, David Semedo, Jose Raposo, Beatriz Batarda**

Friday
17 Nov
8:30PM

In 2011, Portugal begins economic restructuring and debt among the Portuguese people reaches staggering new heights. Jorge is an unemployed boxer on the verge of losing his son and his wife, who has decided to return to Brazil. As a means of paying off his debt and persuading his wife to remain in Portugal, Jorge accepts a job with a debt-collection agency, which drags him into a world of violence and crime.

- *Venice International Film Festival 2016 - Best Actor Orizzonti Competition*

Playing with

A LONG SHOT | By Andrew Jordan | Ireland | 15 min

A couple struggling to pay the rent are tested when Larry bets on Ireland to win a football match against the world champions with Sarah's hard-earned rent money.

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Tschick

Canadian Premiere



Drama | German | 93 min | 2016

Directed by **Fatih Akin**

With **Tristan Göbel, Anand Batbileg, Alexander Scheer**

Saturday
18 Nov
6:00 PM

14-year-old Maik comes from a wealthy, albeit dysfunctional family. Deemed a bore and outsider at school, he doesn't stand a chance to get noticed by his secret love. His classmate Andrej Tschichatschow, called "Tschick", is also an outsider, but for different reasons: He's a migrant kid living in dire conditions and often causes trouble. Eventually, the two unlike boys become friends, and Tschick wants to take Maik on a trip.

- *German Film Critics Association Awards 2017 - Nominee*
- *Dublin International Film Festival 2017*
- *European Film Academy Young Audience Award 2017*

Presented by





THE CITIZEN

Az állampolgár

Canadian Premiere



Saturday
18 Nov
8:30PM

Drama | Hungarian | 109 min | 2016

Directed by **Roland Vranik**

With **Tibor Gáspár, Arghavan Shekari, Tünde Szalontay, Marcelo Cake-Baly, Ágnes Máhr**

The Citizen follows Wilson Ugabe, who, after losing his entire family in Guinea-Bissau to the horrors of war and making the perilous journey to Europe as a political refugee, settles for a sedate life as a security guard in a shopping center. However, Wilson is driven by a quest: to become a model Hungarian citizen and to do so at any cost.

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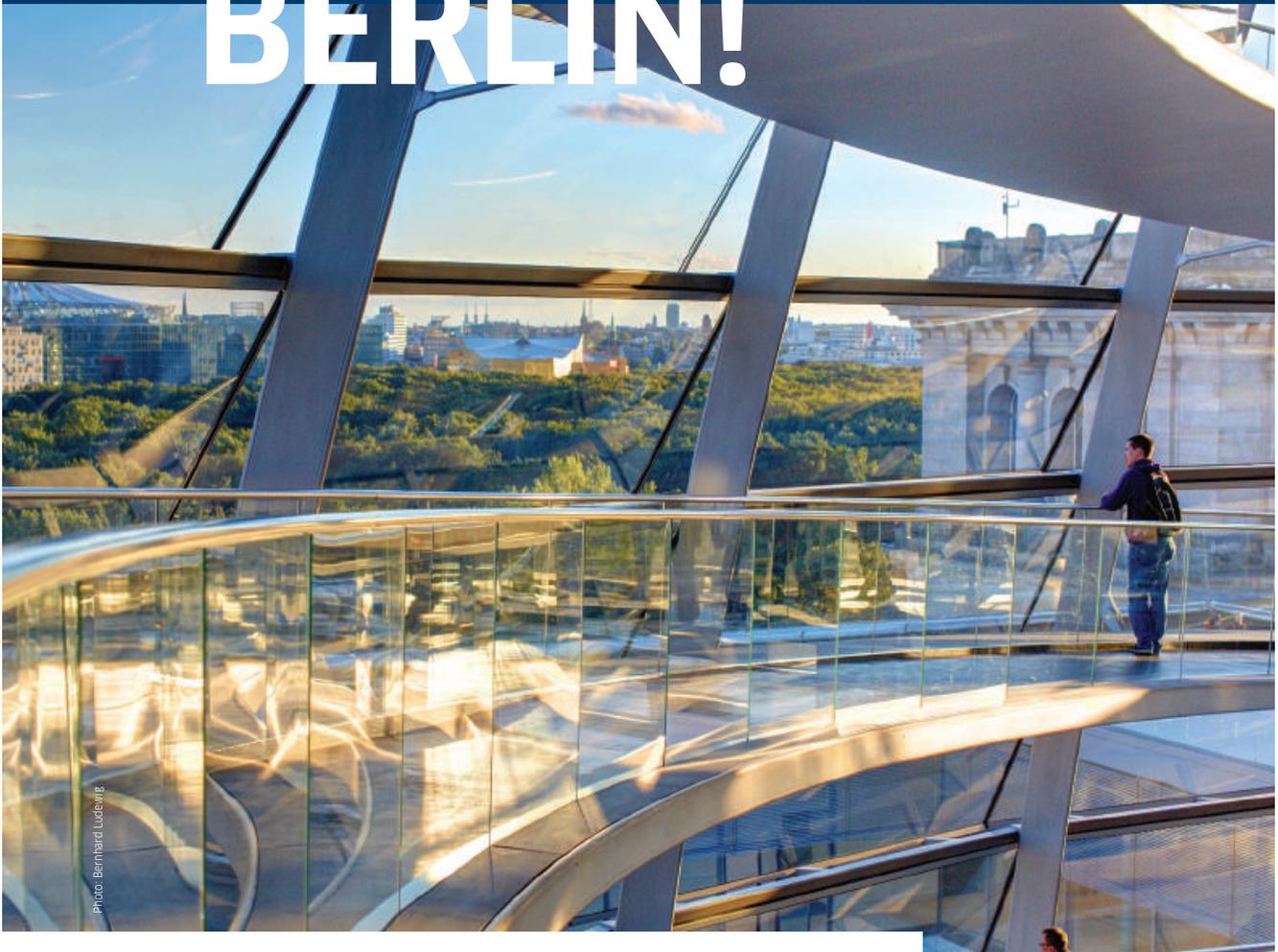


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HOLY MESS
En underbar jävla jul
Toronto Premiere



Sunday
19 Nov
6:00PM

Comedy | Swedish | 118 min | 2015

Directed by Helena Bergström

With Maria Lundqvist, Robert Gustafsson, Anton Lundqvist

Holy Mess is about a young couple; Simon and Oscar. Together with their girlfriend, Cissi, they have bought a house outside Stockholm. One room has top priority: the nursery, because Cissi is expecting. But who is the father – Simon or Oscar? Nevertheless, come what may, they're going to start a family. They haven't revealed the secret to their families yet but what better time to disclose the truth than Christmas night?

- *Scandinavian Film Festival L.A. 2017*

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**Inside
Out**

LES OGRES

Canadian Premiere



Drama | French | 142 min | 2015

Directed by **Léa Fehner**

With **François Fehner, Marion Bouvarel, Marc Barbé, Adèle Haenel, Inès Fehner**

Sunday
19 Nov
8:30PM

In Léa Fehner's exuberant feature *Les Ogres*, a struggling traveling theater company overcomes a painful past, unruly performers, and an invasion of bovines to keep performing in the fields and vacant lots of southwest France. Based on the director's own childhood and starring her father, mother, and sister along with movie greats Marc Barbé and Adèle Haenel, *Les Ogres* is a painfully intimate, authentic story with a joyful, ebullient sense of spectacle.

This screening is part of Young French Cinema, a program made possible with the support of UniFrance and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy.

- *Odessa International Film Festival 2016 - Special Jury Mention*
- *Rotterdam International Film Festival 2016*

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NIGHTLIFE

Nocno življenje

Toronto Premiere



Monday
20 Nov
6:00PM

Drama | Slovenian | 85 min | 2016

Directed by Damjan Kozole

With Pia Zemljic, Jernej Sugman, Marko Mandic, Peter Musevski, Jana Zupancic

One night, a high-profile attorney is found on the pavement along a main road through Ljubljana. He is barely conscious, lying in a pool of blood, and covered in dog bites. Doctors at the medical center fight to keep him alive while his wife, in shock, confronts her deepest fears. During the course of this night she will break every moral standard she has stood up for in her life.

- *Karlovy Vary IFF 2016 - Best Director*

MY NAME IS EMILY



IRELAND



Drama | English | 94 min | 2015

Directed by **Simon Fitzmaurice**

With **Evanna Lynch, Michael Smiley, Martin McCann, Deirdre Mullins, Cathy Belton**

Monday
20 Nov
8:30PM

Emily has been living in a foster home ever since her father was institutionalized after her mother's death. They keep in touch through birthday cards he sends her every year. When her father doesn't send a card on her 16th birthday, Emily decides to break her father out of the psych ward, with her friend Arden's help. Along their journey, Emily and Arden learn about life, love, loss, and letting go.

- *Galway Film Fleadh 2015 - Best Cinematography*
- *Audi Dublin International Film Festival 2016*



11TH A GRADE

11-ти "А"

Canadian Premiere



Tuesday
21 Nov
6:00PM

Comedy | Bulgarian | 84 min | 2015

Directed by Mihaela Komitova

**With Yana Marinova, Ralitsa Paskaleva, Daria Simeonova, Bashar Rahal
Nikolay Sotirov**

Lina Nikolova, a former dance competitor and teacher with little experience, was appointed as a replacement in an elite school. Surrounded by collegial distrust and wayward students, she quickly realized that standard methods of work would not be effective. Combining a fighting spirit, honest behavior and innovative ways, she manages to cope with the challenges of her students and wins them over to her side.

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BOY ON THE BRIDGE

ΑΓΟΡΙ ΣΤΗ ΓΕΦΥΡΑ

Canadian Premiere



CYPRUS



Drama | Greek | 90 min | 2016

Directed by Petros Charalambous

With Toni Dimitriou, Kika Georgiou, Constantinos Farmakas, Kostas Dimitriou, Maria Michael

Twelve-year-old Socrates' idyllic life is disrupted by a crime that claims his innocence. His carefree summer days of riding his bike in a Cypriot village come to an abrupt end when he finds himself at the center of a murder investigation, which exposes a dark family secret and changes his life forever.

- *Hellenic Film Academy 2017 - Best Newcomer*
- *Los Angeles Greek Film Festival 2017 - Best Performance*
- *Thessaloniki Film Festival 2016*

Tuesday
21 Nov
8:30PM

Co-presented by



CYPRIOUS COMMUNITY
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BACK HOME

Acasă la tata

Canadian Premiere



Wednesday Comedy | Romanian | 91 min | 2015

22 Nov

6:00PM

Directed by Andrei Cohn

With Andi Vasluianu, Mirela Oprisor, Florin Zamfirescu

Robert, a published poet and journalist from Bucharest, goes back home, to the village where he was born, which he hasn't visited since his mother's death. His relationship with his father is not a very good one, and the reconnection is not helped by the fact that the old man now lives with Iuliana. Over the next 24 hours, Robert will confront his past, in an outstanding effort to renegotiate his present.

- *Sarajevo Film Festival 2015*

THE COMMUNE

Kollektivet



Drama | Danish | 111 min | 2016

Directed by **Thomas Vinterberg**

With **Fares Fares, Ulrich Thomsen, Trine Dyrholm, Lars Ranthe, Julie Agnete Vang**

Wednesday
22 Nov
8:30PM

Anna is a television newswoman; her husband, Erik, teaches architecture at a university. When Erik's father passes away, the couple must decide what to do with Erik's childhood home. Erik prefers selling, but Anna longs for something new and suggests that they use this opportunity to experiment with communal living. Energized by the era's relaxed taboos, Anna and Erik assemble a crew of cohabitants and embark on a unique adventure.

- *Silver Bear 2016 - Best Actress*

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THE DISSIDENTS

Sangarid

North American Premiere



ESTONIA



Comedy | Estonian, Finnish, Swedish, Russian | 90 min | 2017

Directed by **Jaak Kilmi**

With **Märt Pius, Karl-Andreas Kalmet, Veiko Porkanen, Esko Salminen, Marika Barabanstikova**

Thursday
23 Nov
6:00PM

Three Estonian guys flee the Soviet Union, because they want to have a life in the free world as they've seen on TV. Swedes welcome the friends as real heroes, but eventually our dissidents discover that they've become nothing more than tedious immigrants who have to do something as lame as... work! But the boys are no quitters, so they come up with new crazy plans that guarantee success in the Western world.

Playing with

MY FRIEND THE GERMAN | By Bilal Bahadir | Germany | 12 min

1963 in West Berlin. The Turkish guest worker MAHMUT GUZEL wants to leave Germany, but the German government doesn't let him go.

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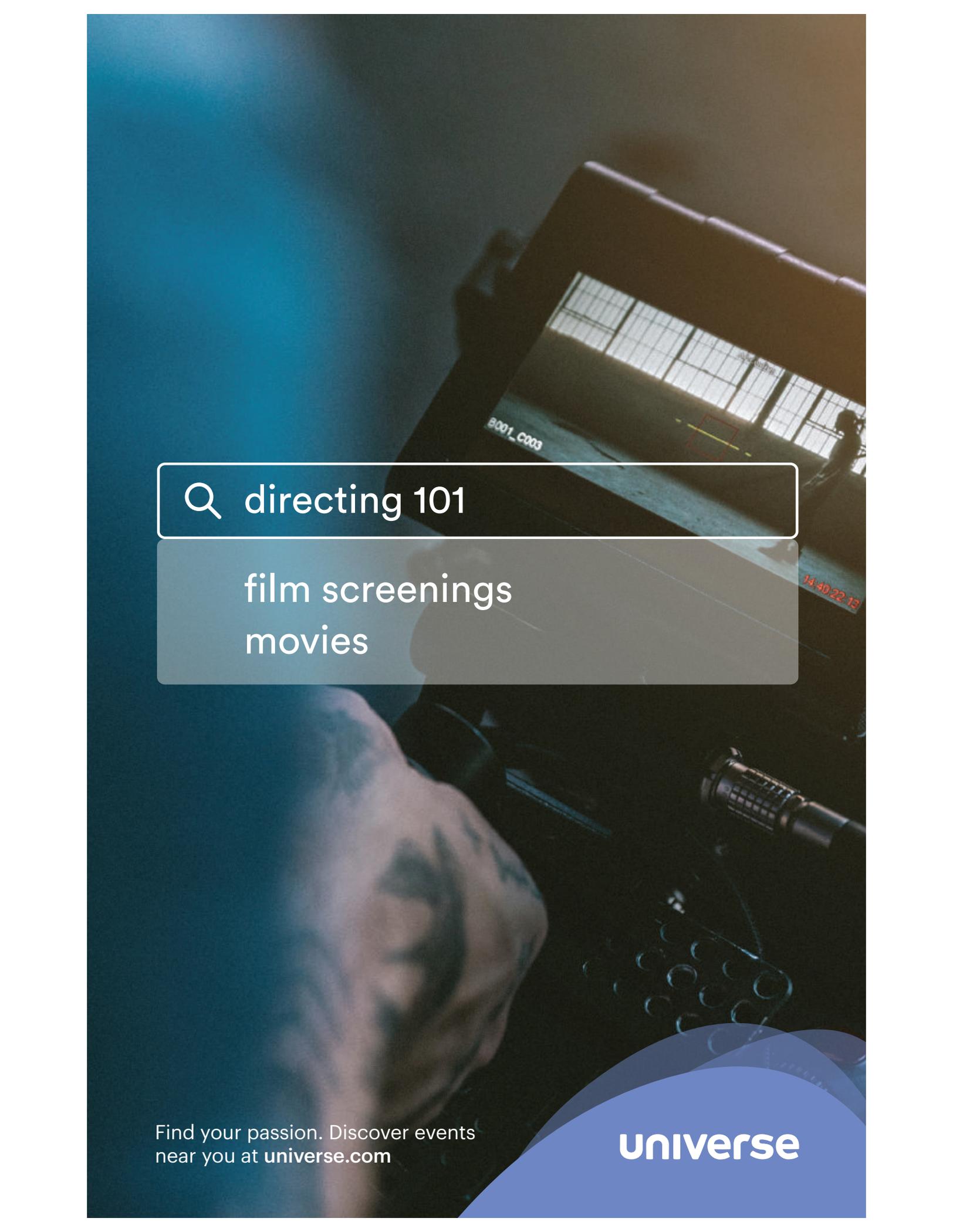
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