

Cinematik will screen the winners from IFFs Cannes and Karlovy Vary in Slovak premieres

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The Cinematik International Film Festival will open its 18th year on 12 September in Piešťany. It will be a unique opportunity for lovers of quality cinema to enjoy almost a hundred exceptional films on the big screen - for example, in the Paths of Glory and Art Director's Choice sections, which are traditionally packed with award-winning and original titles from all over the world. This year, for example, they will include winning films from recent editions of the prestigious IFFs in Cannes and Karlovy Vary.

The **Artistic Director's Selection** offers Cinematik visitors an ingeniously compiled collection of new foreign films that Slovak audiences will not come across in classic cinema distribution. Sometimes they are unusual in their subject matter, sometimes in their artistic treatment. However, as always, these are exceptional experiences that are not to be missed.

This is also true for legendary director Wim Wenders' **Perfect Days** (2023). In May, it made its world premiere in the main competition at IFF Cannes, where its lead actor Kodji Yakusho won the award for his performance. In this poetic yet funny drama, he plays a Tokyo public toilet cleaner who uncovers pieces of his past after a series of unexpected encounters.

Rapito (2023), on the other hand, tells the true story of an Italian Jewish boy who was secretly baptized without his parents' consent in the mid-19th century and then taken away from his parents to an environment of strict Catholic upbringing. The case had both political and legal ramifications, and Steven Spielberg reportedly considered filming it. In the end, however, it was Italian Marco Bellocchio who succeeded, and he also presented the film for the first time at Cannes.

At the same festival, the Turkish film **Burning Days** (2022) had its world premiere - it appeared in the Un Certain Regard section. In the film's plot, director Emin Alper sends a young prosecutor, accustomed to life in the city, to a daunting rural environment full of corruption and manipulation. The gripping thriller won the Best Editing award and a Lux Audience Award nomination at the European Film Awards.

Fogo-Fátuo / Will-o'-the-Wisp (2022) was up for the Queer Palm Award at Cannes. A romantic sci-fi comedy with elements of a musical set in Portugal in 2069. Besides the love affair between a prince and a fireman, it also talks about the climate crisis. The film was nominated for a Lux Audience Award.

Another extraordinary experience is (not only) the visually powerful drama **Shttl** (2023) by Ady Walter, set in a Jewish border village at the time of the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. The drama won a jury award at the Berlin Jewish Film Festival.

The Belgian-French comedy *Le syndrome des amours passées / (Ex)perience of Love* (2023) by the director duo Ann Sirot and Raphaël Balboni brings relief in the form of relationship therapy through sex with ex-partners. The unconventional title premiered at the Cannes Film Festival.

The latest short film by award-winning Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar is also a catch in the festival programme. The western tale **Extraña forma de vida** (2023), about two old friends who meet after twenty-five years, has been nominated for the Queer Palm at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

At this year's Tribeca Film Festival in the US, the comedy Irish-British title **The Miracle Club** (2023) by veteran director Thaddeus O'Sullivan had its world premiere. The story takes us back to 1967, when in the small Irish village of Ballygar, the local women dream of escaping the traditional domestic drudgery. However, they have the chance to win tickets for a pilgrimage to the French holy city of Lourdes and experience the best escape of their lives. The extraordinary Kathy Bates excels in one of the lead roles in this intelligent comedy.

A great example will be this year's screening of the current Palme d'Or winner from Cannes, **Anatomie d'une Chute** (Anatomy of a Fall, 2023). Sandra Hüller plays a woman accused of her husband's murder in this crime drama by German director Justine Triet. The only witness is their son, who faces a difficult dilemma. Cinematik visitors will see the film in an exclusive Slovak premiere.

Italian filmmaker Alice Rohrwacher's adventure film **La Chimera** (2023), which invites the viewer into a black market environment with archaeological artefacts, also had its world premiere in the main competition at Cannes. The main roles were played by Josh O'Connor, Alba Rohrwacher, as well as Isabella Rossellini.

Jordanian director Amjad Al Rasheed's **Inshallah a Boy** (2023) scored again at Cannes as part of Critics' Week. The story of a widow in a country where only women with male offspring have the right of inheritance is full of emotions and unexpected twists. A unique and charismatic viewing experience, it is one of the highlights of the world film season. South Korean-Canadian filmmaker Celine Song's romantic drama **Past Lives** (2023) was a success at Sundance and in the main competition at this year's Berlinale. In the story, fate reunites childhood friends after all these years so that they can pick up the story of what was - or at least think about what could have been. According to critics around the world, this is one of the best films of the year.

The Canadian-French film **Temporaries** / Richelieu (dir. Pier-Philippe Chevigny, 2023) takes us back to the exploited seasonal workers and their translator. A drama about human rights, abuse and the immense pressure big companies put on their employees. This urgent and timely film was screened at both Tribeca and Karlovy Vary IFFs.

The gripping Bulgarian-German social drama **Urotcite na Blaga** (2023) focused on vulnerable and often overlooked seniors. Its protagonist, like many other pensioners, falls victim to con artists. However, this story has many twists and turns for the viewer and a quite unexpected finale. The film boasts a Grand Prix - the Crystal Globe, the Award for Best Actress for Eli Skorcheva in the lead role and the Ecumenical Jury Award from Karlovy Vary. Cinematik will also present this title in its Slovak premiere.

The ***Paths of Glory*** section will close with the meticulous Spanish-French drama **As Bestas** (2022), which has won nine Goya Awards. Director and screenwriter Rodrigo Sorogoyen has told a story with a rich range of emotions about a married couple who leave their comfortable life in France to find a fresh start in a remote rural part of Galicia. However, they are met with xenophobia from the locals and an undercurrent of unabated hostility. A gently paced genre mix of drama and thoughtful thriller, this is one of the highlights of this year's festival programme.

Accreditations for the 18th Cinematik International film Festival are on sale at the official website of the festival www.cinematik.sk.

Press release: Lucia Fajnerová & Peter Konečný

Phone number: +421 905 316 005

e-mail: peter.konecny@cinematik.sk

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