

In the sections *Paths of Glory* and *Artistic Director's Choice*, Cinematik will present a rich selection of the best of contemporary world cinema

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The nineteenth edition of the Cinematik International Film Festival will be a six-day celebration of quality domestic and foreign cinema. A rich selection of attractive films awaits visitors to the festival in Piešťany from 10 to 15 September 2024, including the popular sections *Paths of Glory* and *Artistic Director's Choice*. They include new releases by directors such as Yorgos Lanthimos, Paolo Sorrentino, Viggo Mortensen and the winner of the Grand Prix at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival.

The *Paths of Glory* section at the Cinematik International Film Festival annually presents new foreign films that have already won awards and recognition from prestigious festivals around the world. One of them this year will be the cheeky comedy **Kneecap** (2024) from British-Irish director Rich Peppiatt. It's a true story of the formation of Northern Irish hip-hop group Kneecap, which earned an audience award at Sundance and also starred Michael Fassbender. This extraordinary cinematic experience has already been nominated for an international Oscar for Ireland.

The headliner of the section will be the new film by Yorgos Lanthimos, **Kinds of Kindness**, 2024, which consists of three remarkable stories. In the first, a man who has no other choice attempts to take control of his own life. In the second, a policeman reunites with his wife, who has disappeared at sea without a trace, but who he suspects is in fact someone else entirely. The third story follows the fate of a woman determined to find a man with special abilities who is destined to become a spiritual leader. The film also stars Emma Stone, Willem Dafoe and Jesse Plemons, who won the Best Actor award from the Cannes Film Festival for his performance.

The unconventional action-crime film by Rose Glass **Love Lies Bleeding**, 2024. Sundance, Berlinale, Karlovy Vary and now Cinematik. Director Rose Glass delivers an irresistibly subversive thriller that will get your heart rate up and endorphins flowing. Late 80s, a rural wasteland. Loner gym operator Lou (Kristen Stewart) falls head over heels in love with Jackie (Katy O'Brian), a buxom bodybuilder who is about to win the Las Vegas championship. Passionate love and German steroids infuse the central pair with a huge dose of energy in their veins. In an uncontrollable haze, they set out to find their demonic father Lou (Ed Harris) to avenge old wrongs once and for all. This explosive, electrifying film is sure to fill the largest cinema in Slovakia, *Dom umenia* in Piešťany.

In the same section, audiences will also see **Tatami** (2023), an evocative sports drama that follows Iranian judoka Leila and her coach Maryam on their way to the World Championships with the aim of bringing home Iran's first gold medal. However, they face opposition and threats from the regime in their home country. The film, directed by the duo of Guy Nattiv and Zar Amir Ebrahimi, was shot secretly in 2022 in Tbilisi, Georgia. It premiered at the Venice Film Festival.

Cinematik will also host the winner of the Cannes Grand Prix - the drama **All We Imagine as Light** (2024) directed by Payal Kapadia. Cinematik regulars could see her film *A Night of Knowing Nothing* at the previous edition. The protagonists of the new film are two nurses in hectic Mumbai, where they share one small apartment and relationship problems. The younger Anu wonders how she can extricate herself from an arranged marriage, while the older Prabha has long since lost touch with her husband living in Germany. They find the lost peace during a trip to a small seaside village.

The Artistic Director's Choice section will also be full of exceptional films from around the world that are not to be missed. Among them, for example, will be Paolo Sorrentino's **Parthenope** (2024) - a spectacular film about human beauty, but also a love letter from the director to his hometown. For the first time, the Oscar-winning filmmaker puts the female protagonist, the enchanting Parthenope (the city of Naples, however, used to bear the same name in the past), at the centre of the action, whose fate he brings to life in chapters spanning from the 1950s to the present day.

The section also attracts the western novel **The Dead Don't Hurt** (2023) - the second directorial effort of actor Viggo Mortensen, who presented it in person at Cannes and Karlovy Vary. The film transports us to 1960s San Francisco, where free-spirited Vivienne (Vicky Krieps) falls in love with brooding carpenter Holger (Viggo Mortensen). Together, they journey through the picturesque landscape of Nevada's canyons and forests to find their dream home. However, the Civil War interferes with their destiny.

In **Confidenza** (2024), director Daniele Luchetti unravels the saga of the relationship between a renowned professor and his former student. When, now both renowned professors, they meet again after many years, the aging Pietro is overcome by the fear that Teresa will reveal the secret he confided to her years ago during a night spent together. The film, which had its world premiere at the Rotterdam IFF, also stands out for its enigmatic musical score by Thom Yorke and its haunting screenplay.

The Greek co-production **Animal** (2023) by Sofia Exarchou will bring another compelling story to the *Artistic Director's Choice* section. Its protagonist is Kalia, an experienced animator, under whose guidance a team of young seasonal workers at a Greek holiday resort is to prepare an entertaining programme for the guests. Kalia discovers that she may be too old for this lifestyle. But can she change her life? This atmospheric film had its world premiere at the Locarno Film Festival.

The section's varied programme will also include an American independent comedy - **Between the Temples**, 2024, directed by Nathan Silver. The satirical title follows the fate of a chazan, Ben, who loses his faith along with his voice, and his singing teacher, Carly, who is searching for hers. The bittersweet film, packed with satire, was also screened at the Sundance, Berlinale and Karlovy Vary festivals before Cinematik.

The Spanish title **Volveréis** (2024) is certainly worth noting. Directed by Jonás Treuba, the film is a comedy drama about a couple who, after ending their 14-year relationship, decide to throw a celebration of their own. The film, about a tangled journey to find the imaginary dot of one love, premiered at Cannes, where its director won the Directors' Fortnight: Europa Cinemas Label award.

The nineteenth edition of the Cinematik International Film Festival will bring nearly a hundred exceptional film experiences divided into competition sections, retrospectives and thematic shows. In addition, its visitors, as usual, can also look forward to quality workshops, lectures, events and meetings with interesting guests. Accreditations for the 19th edition of the Cinematik International Film Festival are on sale on the official website of the festival www.cinematik.sk.

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