

**GENE SISKEL
FILM
CENTER**
Chicago's Premier Movie Theater

a public program of the

SAIC

School of the Art Institute
of Chicago

MAR 2020

(COVERS MARCH 6 - APRIL 2)

GAZETTE ■ Vol. 48, No. 3

**CHICAGO
EUROPEAN
UNION
FILM
FESTIVAL ★**



MARTIN EDEN,
March 14, 18

**ALSO:
Premiere Runs; From Asia, With Love**

    164 N. State Street
www.siskelfilmcenter.org



THE TROUPE (Hungary), March 28, April 1

23rd Annual Chicago European Union Film Festival

From March 6 through April 2, the Gene Siskel Film Center welcomes you to our *23rd Annual Chicago European Union Film Festival*. We present four full weeks of Chicago premieres representing all 28 EU member nations, including a farewell selection of UK productions in this year of Brexit.

According to the tradition of our festival, the opening night is dedicated to the nation currently in the rotating presidency of the European Union. This year, Croatia has the honor. On Friday, March 6, the evening is hosted by Sanja Laković, Consul General of Croatia in Chicago. Our opening night presentation is the satirical comedy *COMIC SANS* by Nevio Marasović.

We are proud to announce that close to one-third of this year's films are directed or co-directed by women. They include Dutch filmmaker Claire Pijman's profile of a great cinematographer, *LIVING THE LIGHT: ROBBY MÜLLER*, and two Irish films—*ANIMALS* by Sophie Hyde and *THE LAST RIGHT* by Aoife Crehan—that bring a female gaze to the human comedy. On March 29, French director Nadège Trebal will present her gritty and romantic first feature *TWELVE THOUSAND*.

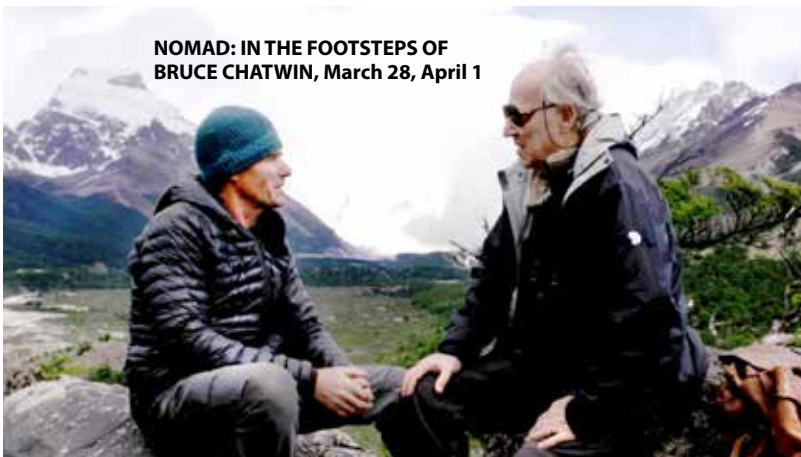
Guest filmmakers are still being confirmed as we go to press. On March 15 and 16, Polish director Piotr Szkopiak will be present to discuss *THE LAST WITNESS*, his noir-like thriller delving into a cover-up of the 1940 Katyn Massacre. Lithuanian director Tomas Vengris appears on March 21 with *MOTHERLAND*, about a woman who returns to Lithuania with her American-born son. Italian director Mimmo Calopresti will be here on March 29 with his drama of an isolated Calabrian village, *ASPROMONTE: LAND OF THE FORGOTTEN*.

The festival closes on April 2, with Czech director Jirí Mádln in person for *ON THE ROOF*, a bittersweet odd-couple drama laced with humor. A reception with a Czech theme follows the show.

The Gene Siskel Film Center thanks the consulates, the consuls general, and the cultural institutes of the European Union in Chicago, and their embassies in Washington, D.C., for their enthusiastic participation. We especially salute the efforts of all those who served as festival advisors.

—Barbara Scharres and Martin Rubin

**NOMAD: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
BRUCE CHATWIN, March 28, April 1**



Gene Siskel Film Center MOVIE CLUB

Everyone's in the club! Just by attending the monthly Movie Club film and participating in the conversation, you are in!

Join us for the Gene Siskel Film Center Movie Club, which will include a post-screening conversation and a complimentary beverage in the Gene Siskel Film Center's Gallery/Café (movie ticket required).

Wednesday, April 1, 6:00 pm

NOMAD: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BRUCE CHATWIN

(See description on p. 18.)

Facilitator TBD.

SUNDAY 1	MONDAY 2	TUESDAY 3	WEDNESDAY 4	THURSDAY 5	FRIDAY 6	SATURDAY 7
2:00 THE TIMES OF BILL CUNNINGHAM (Run) 2:30 I WAS AT HOME, BUT... (Run) 3:30 SEVEN AND A HALF (Iran) 4:30 BEANPOLE (Run) 5:00 WOMEN ACCORDING TO MEN (Iran)★	6:00 THE TIMES OF BILL CUNNINGHAM (Run) 6:00 GREGORY'S GIRL (Romance) 7:30 BEANPOLE (Run) 7:45 I WAS AT HOME, BUT... (Run)	6:00 SHOPLIFTERS (Asia)★ 6:00 BEANPOLE (Run) 8:30 THE TIMES OF BILL CUNNINGHAM (Run)	6:00 THE TIMES OF BILL CUNNINGHAM (Run) 6:00 I WAS AT HOME, BUT... (Run) 7:30 BEANPOLE (Run) 8:00 MY SUMMER OF LOVE (Romance)	6:00 TROUBLE (CATE), p. 22★ 6:00 BEANPOLE (Run) 8:15 THE TIMES OF BILL CUNNINGHAM (Run) 8:30 I WAS AT HOME, BUT... (Run)	2:00 BALLOON (EU/Ge), p. 11 2:15 THE BAREFOOT EMPEROR (EU/Be), p. 7 4:15 THE TIMES OF BILL CUNNINGHAM (Run), p. 20 4:30 I REMEMBER (EU/Pl), p. 16 6:00 COMIC SANS (EU/Cr), p. 5	2:30 BALLOON (EU/Ge), p. 11 3:15 THE TIMES OF BILL CUNNINGHAM (Run), p. 20 5:00 TALL TALES (EU/Hu), p. 12 5:00 JOAN OF ARC (EU/Fr), p. 10 7:45 BILLE (EU/La), p. 14 8:00 MO (EU/Ro), p. 16
See our website for descriptions of films playing March 1-5.						
DISCOUNT MATINEES FRIDAYS UNTIL 5:00 PM! \$8 GENERAL, \$5 MEMBERS/STUDENTS						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3:00 REAL LOVE (EU/Fr), p. 10 3:00 THE GROUND BENEATH MY FEET (EU/Au), p. 7 5:00 TOMMASO (EU/It), p. 14 5:15 THE TIMES OF BILL CUNNINGHAM (Run), p. 20	6:00 I REMEMBER (EU/Pl), p. 16 6:00 THE TIMES OF BILL CUNNINGHAM (Run), p. 20 7:30 TALL TALES (EU/Hu), p. 12 7:30 THE GROUND BENEATH MY FEET (EU/Au), p. 7	6:00 THE PIANO IN A FACTORY (Asia), p. 19★ 6:00 THE BAREFOOT EMPEROR (EU/Be), p. 7 8:00 THE TIMES OF BILL CUNNINGHAM (Run), p. 20	6:00 MO (EU/Ro), p. 16 6:00 THE TIMES OF BILL CUNNINGHAM (Run), p. 20 7:30 JOAN OF ARC (EU/Fr), p. 10 7:45 COMIC SANS (EU/Cr), p. 5	6:00 REAL LOVE (EU/Fr), p. 10 6:00 BILLE (EU/La), p. 14 8:00 TOMMASO (EU/It), p. 14 8:15 THE TIMES OF BILL CUNNINGHAM (Run), p. 20	2:00 ALL ABOUT ME (EU/Ge), p. 11 2:00 ONE LAST DEAL (EU/Fi), p. 9 4:00 LIVING THE LIGHT: ROBBY MÜLLER (EU/Ne), p. 15 4:00 EXTRA ORDINARY (Run), p. 20 6:00 SIBYL (EU/Fr), p. 10 6:00 EXTRA ORDINARY (Run), p. 20 8:00 THE WAITER (EU/Gr), p. 12 8:00 CARGA (EU/Pr), p. 16	3:00 YOUNG AHMED (EU/Be), p. 7 3:00 EXTRA ORDINARY (Run), p. 20 5:00 MARTIN EDEN (EU/It), p. 14 5:00 STORIES FROM THE CHESTNUT WOODS (EU/Sn), p. 17 7:45 ROUNDS (EU/Bu), p. 8 8:00 KOKO-DI KOKO-DA (EU/Sw), p. 18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
3:00 SIBYL (EU/Fr), p. 10 3:00 ALL ABOUT ME (EU/Ge), p. 11 5:00 THE LAST WITNESS (EU/Pl), p. 16★ 5:00 EXTRA ORDINARY (Run), p. 20	6:00 LIVING THE LIGHT: ROBBY MÜLLER (EU/Ne), p. 15 6:00 EXTRA ORDINARY (Run), p. 20 7:45 THE LAST WITNESS (EU/Pl), p. 16★ 8:00 CARGA (EU/Pr), p. 16	6:00 WILL YOU STILL LOVE ME TOMORROW? (Asia), p. 19★ 6:00 KOKO-DI KOKO-DA (EU/Sk), p. 17 8:00 EXTRA ORDINARY (Run), p. 20	6:00 YOUNG AHMED (EU/Be), p. 7 6:00 EXTRA ORDINARY (Run), p. 20 7:45 MARTIN EDEN (EU/It), p. 14 8:00 STORIES FROM THE CHESTNUT WOODS (EU/Sn), p. 17	6:00 ROUNDS (EU/Bu), p. 8 6:00 ONE LAST DEAL (EU/Fi), p. 9 8:00 THE WAITER (EU/Gr), p. 12 8:00 EXTRA ORDINARY (Run), p. 20	2:00 AS HAPPY AS POSSIBLE (EU/Fr), p. 10 2:00 WINDOW TO THE SEA (EU/Sp), p. 17 4:00 SWALLOW (Run), p. 21 4:00 EARTH (EU/Au), p. 7 6:00 ANIMALS (EU/Tr), p. 13 6:15 THE WEEPING HOUSE OF QALA (EU/Ma), p. 15 8:15 FIRE LILY (EU/Es), p. 9 8:15 SWALLOW (Run), p. 21★	2:30 QUEEN OF HEARTS (EU/De), p. 9 2:45 ANIMALS (EU/Tr), p. 13 5:00 MOTHERLAND (EU/Li), p. 14★ 5:15 SWALLOW (Run), p. 21 7:45 BY A SHARP KNIFE (EU/Sk), p. 17 8:00 MALI (EU/Cr), p. 8
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
3:00 WINDOW TO THE SEA (EU/Sp), p. 17 3:00 SWALLOW (Run), p. 21 5:00 GUNDERMANN (EU/Ge), p. 11 5:00 CHINATOWN: THE THREE SHELTERS (EU/Cy), p. 8	6:00 FIRE LILY (EU/Es), p. 9 6:00 SWALLOW (Run), p. 21 7:45 GUNDERMANN (EU/Ge), p. 11 8:00 THE WEEPING HOUSE OF QALA (EU/Ma), p. 15	6:00 THE WEDDING BANQUET (Asia), p. 19★ 6:00 BY A SHARP KNIFE (EU/Sk), p. 17 7:45 SWALLOW (Run), p. 21	6:00 AS HAPPY AS POSSIBLE (EU/Fr), p. 10 6:00 SWALLOW (Run), p. 21 8:00 MOTHERLAND (EU/Li), p. 14 8:00 CHINATOWN: THE THREE SHELTERS (EU/Cy), p. 8	6:00 EARTH (EU/Au), p. 7 6:00 QUEEN OF HEARTS (EU/De), p. 9 8:15 MALI (EU/Cr), p. 8 8:15 SWALLOW (Run), p. 21	2:00 ON THE ROOF (EU/Cz), p. 5 2:00 KIND HEARTS AND CORONETS (Run), p. 21 4:00 THE DAYS TO COME (EU/Sp), p. 17 4:00 TAKE ME SOMEWHERE NICE (EU/Ne), p. 15 6:00 BEATS (EU/UK), p. 18 6:00 KIND HEARTS AND CORONETS (Run), p. 21 8:00 THE LAST RIGHT (EU/Tr), p. 13 8:15 ZIZOTEK (EU/Gr), p. 12	3:00 NOMAD: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BRUCE CHATWIN (EU/UK), p. 18 3:00 KIND HEARTS AND CORONETS (Run), p. 21 5:00 SYSTEM CRASHER (EU/Ge), p. 12 5:00 THE DAYS TO COME (EU/Sp), p. 17 7:45 THE TROUPE (EU/Hu), p. 13 8:00 PÉTRUSS (EU/Lu), p. 15
29	30	31	APRIL 1	2	<h1>MARCH</h1> <p>★ indicates special guest appearance</p> <p>164 North State Street</p>	
2:00 ASPROMONTE, LAND OF THE FORGOTTEN (EU/It), p. 13★ 3:00 TAKE ME SOMEWHERE NICE (EU/Ne), p. 15 4:45 KIND HEARTS AND CORONETS (Run), p. 21 5:00 TWELVE THOUSAND (EU/Fr), p. 11★	6:00 THE LAST RIGHT (EU/Tr), p. 13 6:00 KIND HEARTS AND CORONETS (Run), p. 21 8:00 BEATS (EU/UK), p. 18 8:00 ZIZOTEK (EU/Gr), p. 12	6:00 ASPROMONTE, LAND OF THE FORGOTTEN (EU/It), p. 13 6:00 PÉTRUSS (EU/Ge), p. 15 7:45 SYSTEM CRASHER (EU/Ge), p. 12 8:00 KIND HEARTS AND CORONETS (Run), p. 21	6:00 NOMAD: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BRUCE CHATWIN (EU/UK), p. 18 MOVIE CLUB 6:00 KIND HEARTS AND CORONETS (Run), p. 21 8:00 TWELVE THOUSAND (EU/Fr), p. 11 8:00 THE TROUPE (EU/Hu), p. 13	6:00 ON THE ROOF (EU/Cz), p. 5★ 6:00 This Set of Actors Is a Mirror (CATE), p. 22★ 8:15 KIND HEARTS AND CORONETS (Run), p. 21		

Key to EU countries: Au = Austria, Be = Belgium, Bu = Bulgaria, Cr = Croatia, Cy = Cyprus, Cz = Czech Republic, De = Denmark, Es = Estonia, Fi = Finland, Fr = France, Ge = Germany, Gr = Greece, Hu = Hungary, Ir = Ireland, It = Italy, La = Latvia, Li = Lithuania, Lu = Luxembourg, Ma = Malta, Ne = Netherlands, Pl = Poland, Pr = Portugal, Ro = Romania, Sk = Slovakia, Sn = Slovenia, Sp = Spain, Sw = Sweden, UK = United Kingdom

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MAR 2020 3

European Union Film Festival

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23rd Annual Chicago European Union Film Festival

OPENING NIGHT FILM!



COMIC SANS

2018, Nevio Marasović, Croatia, 103 min.
With Janko Popović Volarić, Nataša Janjić

Friday, March 6, 6:00 pm
Wednesday, March 11, 7:45 pm

After a broken engagement leads to unwise erotic adventures, maverick ad-man Alan (Volarić) makes a dumb move that betrays his best friend and leaves a lucrative contract in flames. Licking his wounds, he heads to the picturesque island of Vis, where his estranged father is an artist. Setting up the genre expectations for a new-leaf sort of romantic comedy, director Marasović (GORAN) proceeds to defy them with his hero's dive into giddy self-destructive escapades. In Croatian, English, and Serbian with English subtitles. (BS)

Immediately following the Opening Night film and program, the audience is invited to a reception in our Gallery/Café generously hosted by Sanja Laković, Consul General of Croatia, Chicago.

Note: No blue passes or complimentary tickets valid for opening night.

CLOSING NIGHT FILM!



JIRÍ MÁDL IN PERSON!

ON THE ROOF

(NA STŘEŠE)
2019 Jirí Mádl, Czech Republic, 97 min.
With Alois Švehlík, Duy Anh Tran

Friday, March 27, 2:00 pm
Thursday, April 2, 6:00 pm

A crusty retired schoolteacher and a Vietnamese immigrant on the run find an unexpected synergy in this poignant comedy-drama. After talking Song (Tran) down from an intended suicide leap, Rypar (Švehlík) warily offers him shelter, and an odd-couple friendship develops. Director Mádl resists easy stereotypes and pat solutions when Rypar develops an ill-advised scheme to lure the pretty stranger down the hall into a green-card marriage with Song. In Czech and Vietnamese with English subtitles. (BS)

Director Jirí Mádl is scheduled to appear for audience discussion on Thursday. The audience is invited to a closing night reception in our Gallery/Café following the program.

Note: No blue passes or complimentary tickets valid for closing night.



23rd Annual Chicago European Union Film Festival

CEUFF DIRECTOR APPEARANCES



Piotr Szkopiak

THE LAST WITNESS

(Poland)

Sunday, March 15, 5:00 pm

Monday, March 16, 7:45 pm



Tomas Vengris

MOTHERLAND

(Lithuania)

Saturday, March 21, 5:00 pm



Mimmo Calopresti

ASPROMONTE:

LAND OF THE FORGOTTEN

(Italy)

Sunday, March 29, 2:00 pm



Nadège Trebal

TWELVE THOUSAND

(France)

Sunday, March 29, 5:00 pm



Jirí Mádľ

ON THE ROOF

(Czech Republic)

Thursday, April 2, 6:00 pm

For their generous assistance in obtaining films for the Chicago European Union Film Festival, the Gene Siskel Film Center thanks:

Belgium: Lisa De Rooster, Be For Films;

Bulgaria: Cosima Finkbeiner, Beta Cinema;

Croatia: Irena Jelic, Croatian National Film Center; Iva Jurlina, Propeler Film; **Cyprus:**

Chrysi Spanoudaki; **Czech Republic:** Irena Cajkova;

Monika Kristl, Galija Vajagic, Dawson Productions; **Estonia:** Aet Laigun, Meteorii;

Finland: Eli Ruiz, LevelK; **France:** Adeline Monzier, UniFrance;

Laurence Geannopoulos and Tanguy Accart, Cultural Services of the French Embassy; **Germany:** Petra Roggel

and Irmi Maunu-Kocian, Goethe-Institut Chicago; **Greece:** Liza Linardou, Greek Film Center;

Billy Montacchini, TVCO; Konstantinos Vassilaros, StudioBauhaus; **Hungary:** Zita Bencsik,

Rámona Pálinkás, Consulate General of Hungary, Chicago; **Ireland:** Ruby Rondina

WaZabi Films; Augusta Charlton, Great Point Media; **Italy:** Luca Di Vita and Mary Anne

Melchior, Italian Cultural Institute, Chicago; Barbara Klein, Italian Film Festival USA;

Francesca Delise, Minerva Pictures Group; **Lithuania:** Mantvydas Bekešius and Ieva

Dilyté, Consulate General of the Republic of Lithuania, Chicago; **Luxembourg:** Lélia Di

Luca, Samsa Film; **Malta:** Susan Ronald, Malta Film Commission; Mark Doneo; **Netherlands:**

Matthias Angoulvant, Wide/Wide House; Christina Liapi, Heretic Outreach; **Poland:**

Piotr Szkopiak; Rob Harrison, eOne; **Slovenia:** Sebastien Chesneau, Cercamon; **Spain:**

Alfonso Villanueva García, Avalon Distribución Audiovisual; **and also:** Mike Repsch, Dark

Star Pictures; Mika Kimoto, KimStim; Chris Wells, Kino Lorber Films; Kyle Westphal, Music

Box Films; Phil Miller, 7th Art Releasing; Mike Williams, Strand Releasing.



23rd Annual Chicago European Union Film Festival



AUSTRIA

EARTH

(ERDE)
2019, Nikolaus Geyrhalter, Austria, 115 min.

Friday, March 20, 4:00 pm
Thursday, March 26, 6:00 pm

Activist filmmaker Geyrhalter (OUR DAILY BREAD) visits seven high-tech mining and construction sites that are routinely ravaging vast swaths of the earth. From a leaking radioactive waste dump in Germany to mountain-leveling efforts in California and the extraction of marble in Italy, the director's signature use of long and overhead shots endows the gargantuan scope of each enterprise with a gravely frightening and yet strangely lyrical import. In English, German, Hungarian, Spanish, and Italian with English subtitles. (BS)



AUSTRIA

THE GROUND BENEATH MY FEET

(DER BODEN UNTER DEN FUSSEN)
2019, Marie Kreutzer, Austria, 108 min.
With Valerie Pachner, Pia Hierzegger

Sunday, March 8, 3:00 pm
Monday, March 9, 7:30 pm

Vienna-born Lola (Pachner) works a high-powered job as a consultant to struggling corporations. Driven to excel, she finds her carefully crafted public image threatened by a family crisis and long-held secret. The news that her schizophrenic sister Conny (Hierzegger) has attempted suicide sends her personal life as well as her career into a tailspin. Director Kreutzer cannily steers the film into thriller territory as Conny takes on the aspect of Lola's deranged mirror image. In German and English with English subtitles. (BS)



BELGIUM

YOUNG AHMED

(LE JEUNE AHMED)
2019, Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne, Belgium/France, 90 min.
With Idir Ben Addi, Myriem Akheddiou

Saturday, March 14, 3:00 pm
Wednesday, March 18, 6:00 pm

The Dardenne brothers, Europe's foremost social realists, tackle their most challenging subject yet with this story of a 13-year-old Belgian Muslim boy who has become radicalized. To the concern of his assimilated family, Ahmed (Addi) begins to criticize their lifestyle and attire, and he declares his longtime tutor Ines (Akheddiou) a heretic for dating a Jew. His shocking plan to act on his newfound prejudices leaves the audience directly in the path of a moral quandary. In French and Arabic with English subtitles. (BS)



BELGIUM

THE BAREFOOT EMPEROR

2019, Jessica Woodworth and Peter Brosens, Belgium/Netherlands, 99 min.
With Peter Van den Begin, Udo Kier, Geraldine Chaplin

Friday, March 6, 2:15 pm
Tuesday, March 10, 6:00 pm

An absurdist deadpan comedy for the age of Brexit, this offbeat follow-up to the mockumentary THE KING OF THE BELGIANS (shown in the 2017 CEUFF) imagines that the EU has dissolved and is reforming as a loose conglomerate of fragmented nation-states in search of a supreme leader. Side-plots galore, sight gags, and ritualized dance numbers lead up to the fateful day when the yet-to-be-named emperor is revealed to his constituency in a TV special. In English, Dutch, French, and German with English subtitles. (BS)

Chicago European Union Film Festival continues on next page



23rd Annual Chicago European Union Film Festival



BULGARIA

ROUNDS

2019, Stephan Komandarev, Bulgaria/Serbia, 106 min.
With Aleksandar Aleksiev, Ivan Barnev

Saturday, March 14, 7:45 pm
Thursday, March 19, 6:00 pm

In the dark streets of the capital, three sets of ethically compromised cops patrol on night duty in this episodic saga by director Komandarev (THE WORLD IS BIG AND SALVATION LURKS AROUND THE CORNER), a master of mixing dark humor and heartrending drama. Two cop partners engaged in an illicit affair squabble and face a personal turning point, while, across town, their colleagues are plunged into a maelstrom of temptation, corruption, and human perfidy. In Bulgarian with English subtitles. (BS)

Opening night film! Followed by reception on Friday.



CROATIA

COMIC SANS

2018, Nevio Marasović, Croatia, 103 min.
With Janko Popovic Volarić, Nataša Janjić

Friday, March 6, 6:00 pm
Wednesday, March 11, 7:45 pm

After a broken engagement, maverick ad-man Alan (Volarić) makes a dumb move that betrays his best friend and leaves a lucrative contract in flames. Licking his wounds, he heads to the picturesque island of Vis, where his estranged father is an artist. Setting up the genre expectations for a new-leaf sort of romantic comedy, director Marasović defies them with his hero's dive into giddy self-destructive escapades. In Croatian, English, and Serbian with English subtitles. **Note:** No blue passes or complimentary tickets valid for opening night. (BS)



CROATIA

MALI

2018, Antonio Nuić, Croatia, 90 min.
With Vito Dijak, Franjo Dijak

Saturday, March 21, 8:00 pm
Thursday, March 26, 8:15 pm

In Croatia's official Oscar submission, Frenki (Vito Dijak), a feisty drug dealer, fears losing custody of his middle-school son Mali (Franjo Dijak) to his straight-laced in-laws once his terminally ill wife dies. The bond between father and son runs deep, but director Nuić ratchets up the pressure on Mali, as Frenki's impromptu fortieth birthday party escalates into a boozy all-male, all-night bash that sends the boy on a path of no return. In Croatian with English subtitles. (BS)



CYPRUS

CHINATOWN: THE THREE SHELTERS

2018, Aiki Danezi-Knutsen, Cyprus/Greece, 91 min.
With Katerina Misichroni, Richard Ng, Themis Bazaka

Sunday, March 22, 5:00 pm
Wednesday, March 25, 8:00 pm

Elements of Hong Kong martial arts dramas, the atmosphere of Athens's Chinatown, and a revenge quest involving mystical powers are blended in this fanciful tale of twin girls born of a Cypriot mother and Chinese father. One infant is spirited away by the Chinese Mafia minutes after birth. The other (Misichroni), raised in a tranquil Cypriot village, seeks to avenge her beloved father's murder, under the tutelage of aged Chinatown chef and martial arts master Lin (Ng). In English, Mandarin, and Greek with English subtitles. (BS)



23rd Annual Chicago European Union Film Festival



CZECH REPUBLIC

ON THE ROOF

(*NA STŘEŠE*)
2019 Jiri Mádrl, Czech Republic, 97 min.
With Alois Švehlík, Duy Anh Tran

Friday, March 27, 2:00 pm
Thursday, April 2, 6:00 pm

A crusty retired schoolteacher and a Vietnamese immigrant on the run find an unexpected synergy in this poignant comedy-drama. After talking Song (Tran) down from an intended suicide leap, Rypar (Švehlík) warily offers him shelter, and an odd-couple friendship develops. Director Mádrl resists easy stereotypes when Rypar develops an ill-advised scheme to lure a pretty stranger into a green-card marriage with Song. In Czech and Vietnamese with English subtitles. **Note:** No blue passes or complimentary tickets valid for closing night. (BS)

Closing night film!
Director Jiri Mádrl
in person and post-
film reception on
Thursday.



DENMARK

QUEEN OF HEARTS

(*DRONNINGEN*)
2019, May el-Toukhy, Denmark, 122 min.
With Trine Dyrholm, Gustav Lindh

Saturday, March 21, 2:30 pm
Thursday, March 26, 6:00 pm

Denmark's Oscar submission is a dark, psychologically acute spin on the Mrs. Robinson trope. Dyrholm gives a fearless performance as Anne, a successful lawyer, wife, and mother who is attracted to her husband's recently arrived teenage son from a previous relationship. Friendship leads to flirtation and then to a torrid, reckless affair, but, when threatened with exposure, Anne will stop at nothing to preserve her power and privilege. **Note:** Contains explicit sexual content. In Danish and Swedish with English subtitles. (MR)



ESTONIA

FIRE LILY

(*TULILILIA*)
2018, Maria Avdjushko, Estonia, 90 min.
With Ingrid Istotaam, Eva Eensaar-Tootsen

Friday, March 20, 8:15 pm
Monday, March 23, 6:00 pm

Reeling from a bitter divorce and news of the pregnancy of her ex's new wife, Pia (Istotaam), infertile herself, feels like a stranger in her own body and in her new apartment. Following a series of bar hookups and an attempted rape, she begins to experience symptoms of pregnancy, along with the sensation that someone or something visits her in her sleep for nightly lovemaking. Director Avdjushko sidesteps inevitable comparisons with ROSEMARY'S BABY for a more subtle and open-ended story. In Estonian with English subtitles. (BS)



FINLAND

ONE LAST DEAL

(*TUNTEMATON MESTARI*)
2018, Klaus Härö, Finland, 95 min.
With Heikki Nousiainen, Pirjo Lonka

Friday, March 13, 2:00 pm
Thursday, March 19, 6:00 pm

Art dealer Olavi—widowed, about to retire, estranged from his daughter—yearns for a spectacular coup to close out his otherwise narrow life. That chance arrives in the form of an unsigned painting that is tantalizingly evocative of the Russian master Ilya Repin. Staking everything he has, Olavi sets out to prove the provenance of his find and wrest it from the grasp of more powerful rivals. ONE LAST DEAL is an engrossing art-history detective story and a moving quest for redemption. In Finnish and Swedish with English subtitles. (MR)

Chicago European Union Film Festival continues on next page



23rd Annual Chicago European Union Film Festival



FRANCE

AS HAPPY AS POSSIBLE

(RÊVES DE JEUNESSE)
2019, Alain Raoust, France, 96 min.
With Salomé Richard, Estelle Meyer

Friday, March 20, 2:00 pm
Wednesday, March 25, 6:00 pm

This deceptively modest film evokes the spirit of a lost generation. Going back to the small town she had left ten years earlier, Salomé (Richard) takes a summer job as caretaker of a remote garbage dump. Her isolation is broken by the abrupt arrival of Jessica (Meyer), an off-course contestant from a *Survivor*-like TV show, and, later, by the brother of Salomé's late onetime boyfriend. Along with some other misfits, they form the nucleus of a micro-society united by a kind of soulful anarchy. In French with English subtitles. (MR)



FRANCE

JOAN OF ARC

(JEANNE)
2019, Bruno Dumont, France, 137 min.
With Lise Leplat Prudhomme

Saturday, March 7, 5:00 pm
Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 pm

Following his eccentric musical *JEANNETTE: THE CHILDHOOD OF JOAN OF ARC*, Dumont returns to the fifteenth century with this stand-alone feature detailing Joan's arrest, trial, and execution. This comparatively somber sequel is another left turn for the director, incorporating a suite of synthesizer ballads by acclaimed French songwriter Christophe and wringing pathos from ten-year-old Prudhomme's tremendous performance as a young woman whose faith remains unwavering under fire. In French with English subtitles. (CW)



FRANCE

REAL LOVE

(C'EST ÇA L'AMOUR)
2018, Claire Burger, France, 99 min.
With Bouli Lanners, Justine Lacroix

Sunday, March 8, 3:00 pm
Thursday, March 12, 6:00 pm

In this wise, warm comedy-drama about letting go and moving on, bull-headed, big-hearted Mario (Lanners) is in limbo: his wife Armelie has recently moved out (not without reason), leaving him to care for their two teenage daughters. Still clinging to the hope of reconciliation, he auditions for a workshop production at the theater where Armelie works, becoming more involved in his role as he reluctantly faces the fact that she has left for good and his maturing daughters will soon follow. In French with English subtitles. (MR)



FRANCE

SIBYL

2019, Justine Triet, France, 101 min.
With Virginie Efira, Adèle Exarchopoulos

Friday, March 13, 6:00 pm
Sunday, March 15, 3:00 pm

Although Parisian psychiatrist Sibyl (Efira) is unloading her patients in order to concentrate on writing her first novel, she responds to a desperate phone call from Margot (Exarchopoulos), a young movie actress caught in a messy triangle with her co-star and her director. Director Triet (*AGE OF PANIC*) juggles the film's shifts between past and present, comedy and drama, and fact and fiction with Resnais-like fluidity and a distinctive lack of moralism. In French, English, and German with English subtitles. (MR)



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FRANCE

TWELVE THOUSAND

(DOUZE MILLE)
2019, Nadège Trebal, France, 107 min.
With Arieh Worthalter, Nadège Trebal

Sunday, March 29, 5:00 pm
Wednesday, April 1, 8:00 pm

Director Nadège Trebal in person on Sunday.

This auspicious debut takes a gritty proletarian tale out of the Dardenne/Loach playbook and infuses it with vibrant doses of eroticism, romanticism, poetry, and dance. Living a lusty but cash-strapped existence, passionate lovers Franck (Worthalter) and Maroussia (Trebal) calculate that they need 12,000 francs to start a new life together. Franck sets off to take a job in a distant city, but will the twin temptations of lust and greed lead him astray? **Note:** Contains explicit sexual content. In French with English subtitles. (MR)



GERMANY

ALL ABOUT ME

(DER JUNGE MUSS AN DIE FRISCHE LUFT)
2018, Caroline Link, Germany, 96 min.
With Julius Weckauf, Luise Heyer

Friday, March 13, 2:00 pm
Sunday, March 15, 3:00 pm

Oscar-winning director Link (NOWHERE IN AFRICA) scored the biggest German box-office hit of the year with this episodic childhood memoir of comedy star Hape Kerkeling. Growing up in the Ruhr Valley in the early 1970s, pudgy, redheaded nine-year-old Hape (Weckauf) soon learns that comedy is a useful tool for dealing with all sorts of things—embarrassment, bullies, and even tragedy, when a botched operation sends his mother (Heyer) into a spiral of depression. In German with English subtitles. (MR)



GERMANY

BALLOON

(BALLON)
2018, Michael Bully Herbig, Germany, 125 min.
With Friedrich Mücke, Karoline Schuch

Friday, March 6, 2:00 pm
Saturday, March 7, 2:30 pm

This exciting adventure-thriller tells the true story of two East German families that plot to escape the GDR by secretly building a hot-air balloon. After an attempt that left crucial evidence behind, they try again, struggling to keep their work undetected as the Stasi closes in. Thomas Kretschmann (THE PIANIST) is outstanding as the formidable chief investigator whose methodical detective work becomes as absorbing as the fugitives' painstaking efforts to fly their way to freedom. In German with English subtitles. (MR)



GERMANY

GUNDERMANN

2018, Andreas Dresen, Germany, 128 min.
With Alexander Scheer, Anna Unterberger

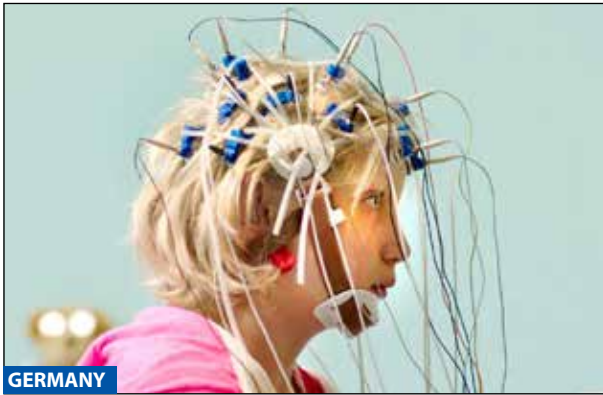
Sunday, March 22, 5:00 pm
Monday, March 23, 7:45 pm

This superbly crafted biopic dominated the 2019 German (aka Lola) Film Awards, taking six prizes, including Best Picture, Director, Screenplay, and Actor. Singer-composer Gerhard Gundermann was a cult figure in East Germany both before and after the fall of the Wall, compared to Dylan and Springsteen for his anthem-like songs that combine a poetic sensibility with strong social consciousness. After reunification, he was revealed to have been a prolific informer for the Stasi secret police. In German with English subtitles. (MR)

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GERMANY

SYSTEM CRASHER

(SYSTEMSPRENGER)
2019, Nora Fingscheidt, Germany, 120 min.
With Helena Zengel, Albrecht Schuch

Saturday, March 28, 5:00 pm
Tuesday, March 31, 7:45 pm

Nine-year-old Benni (Zengel) is a “system crasher”—a severely traumatized child whose treatment tests the capabilities of child protective services. Her mother is loving but unable to deal with Benni’s bursts of unrestrained fury, which have also rendered her unacceptable to foster parents, schools, and group homes. Germany’s Oscar submission offers no easy solutions; neither does it routinely indict the system, whose representatives at times display almost superhuman patience and devotion. In German with English subtitles. (MR)



GREECE

THE WAITER

2018, Steve Kriskris, Greece, 104 min.
With Aris Servetalis, Yannis Stankoglou

Friday, March 13, 8:00 pm
Thursday, March 19, 8:00 pm

Greek cinema’s “weird wave” strikes again with this deadpan tale of a staid waiter (Servetalis) who waits tables in an upscale patisserie and otherwise keeps to himself. One day, the man across the hall is replaced by a stranger who claims to be a house-sitter. He makes chummy overtures of friendship, including an invitation to dinner. A gourmet meal of unknown provenance and the meeting with a compliant femme fatale lead to a sinister ménage à trois. In Greek with English subtitles. (BS)



GREECE

ZIZOTEK

2019, Vardis Marinakis, Greece, 92 min.
With August Lambrou-Negreponyis, Dimitris Xanthopoulos

Friday, March 27, 8:15 pm
Monday, March 30, 8:00 pm

A single mother abandons her nine-year-old boy among the crowds at a rural music festival. Frightened, Jason (extraordinary first-time actor Lambrou-Negreponyis) wanders through the woods and breaks into a cabin belonging to Minos (Xanthopoulos), a rugged mute hermit who makes his living by smuggling refugees. Balanced between realism and myth, ZIZOTEK charts the growing love between two outcasts whose future as a pseudo-family will be shadowed by the fantastical presence of a bear. In Greek with English subtitles. (BS)



HUNGARY

TALL TALES

(APRÓ MESÉK)
2019, Attila Szasz, Hungary, 112 min.
Tamas Szabó Kimmel, Vica Kerekes

Saturday, March 7, 5:00 pm
Monday, March 9, 7:30 pm

In 1945 Budapest, Hankó (Kimmel) plies a heartless con among the mothers, widows, and sweethearts of men missing in action by posing as their loved one’s best friend from the front. Director Szasz (ETERNAL WINTER) gives a gripping noirish cast to this romantic thriller, as the action moves to a remote rural area where the imposter begins an uneasy friendship with Judit (Kerekes), whose husband, presumed dead in the war, unexpectedly returns to brutally reclaim his wife. In Hungarian with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)



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HUNGARY

THE TROUPE

(VÁNDORSZÍNÉSZEK)
2018, Pál Sándor, Hungary, 112 min.
With Gerő Botond, Jazmin Gonzales

Saturday, March 28, 7:45 pm
Wednesday, April 1, 8:00 pm

A young soldier embarks on a rollicking adventure when he joins a ragtag company of traveling players in nineteenth-century Hungary. The newcomer shows promise under the tutelage of a woman of experience, but one of the troupe runs away with all of their scripts. Left in disarray, the group faces internal melodrama, as adultery, betrayal, secret romance and disputed paternity divide them. Veteran director Sándor keeps it colorful and comic, even with the addition of a duel and a murder. In Hungarian with English subtitles. (BS)



IRELAND

ANIMALS

2019, Sophie Hyde, Ireland/UK, 109 min.
With Holliday Grainger, Alia Shawkat

Friday, March 20, 6:00 pm
Saturday, March 21, 2:45 pm

Based on the novel by Emma Jane Unsworth, ANIMALS is the rowdy but affecting tale of the party-girl friendship of would-be writer Laura (Grainger) and roommate Tyler (Shawkat). The pair share frequent night-crawling adventures followed by massively hungover mornings, enjoying an adolescence that seems giddily endless. A meet-cute encounter in a bar leads to serious romance for Laura and a major rift in their friendship, but the lure of copious quantities of wine, cocaine, and erotic escapades yet to come still beckons. In English. (BS)



IRELAND

THE LAST RIGHT

2019, Aoife Crehan, Ireland, 106 min.
With Michiel Huisman, Niamh Algar, Colm Meaney

Friday, March 27, 8:00 pm
Monday, March 30, 6:00 pm

On his way to Ireland for his mother's funeral, New York-based lawyer Daniel (Huisman) is tricked into being designated the next of kin when an elderly passenger dies en route. New complications abound while Daniel juggles that unwanted obligation with the future of his teenage autistic brother Louis (Samuel Bottomley). In the way of a tall tale, Daniel, Louis, and winsome mortuary assistant Mary (Algar) end up on the semi-sweet journey of a lifetime, with a blustery police inspector (Meaney) in hot pursuit. In English. (BS)

Followed on Friday by the critics' panel discussion *Fresh Views*.



ITALY

ASPROMONTE: LAND OF THE FORGOTTEN

(ASPROMONTE—LA TERRA DEGLI ULTIMI)
2019, Mimmo Calopresti, Italy, 86 min.
With Valerio Bruni Tedeschi, Marcello Fonte

Sunday, March 29, 2:00 pm
Tuesday, March 31, 6:00 pm

As isolated Calabrian villagers resolve to build a road to the outside world, a newly arrived teacher (Bruni Tedeschi) teaches the children standard Italian that will integrate them with the rest of the country. Director Calopresti invests the film with epic sweep and a sense of tragic irony: the very means that will improve the village might pave the way for an exodus that will leave it a ghost town. In Italian and Calabrian dialect with English subtitles. (MR)

Director Mimmo Calopresti and (tentatively) actor Marcello Fonte in person on Sunday.

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ITALY

MARTIN EDEN

2019, Pietro Marcello, Italy, 128 min.
With Luca Marinelli, Jessica Cressy

Saturday, March 14, 5:00 pm
Wednesday, March 18, 7:45 pm

This adventurous adaptation of Jack London's 1909 novel garnered praise, controversy, and awards at major film festivals (including Best Actor at Venice for rising star Marinelli). London's semi-autobiographical tale traces the artistic and political development of an uneducated seaman who makes a hard climb to self-education and literary success, only to be undone by the widening gulf between his socialist ideals and his commitment to rugged individualism. In Italian, Neapolitan dialect, and French with English subtitles. (MR)



ITALY

TOMMASO

2019, Abel Ferrara, Italy/UK/USA/Greece, 118 min.
With Willem Dafoe, Cristina Chiriac, Anna Ferrara

Sunday, March 8, 5:00 pm
Thursday, March 12, 8:00 pm

Against a daily grind of teaching acting workshops and attending AA meetings, filmmaker Tommaso (Dafoe) begins to suspect his much younger wife is having an affair, pulling him into a series of fantasies and daydreams that run the gamut from erotic to suicidal. Best known for his cinematic studies of self-destructive personalities living in New York, the now Rome-based Ferrara (BAD LIEUTENANT) returns with this fictionalized self-portrait, filmed with the intimacy of a home movie. In English and Italian with English subtitles. (CW)



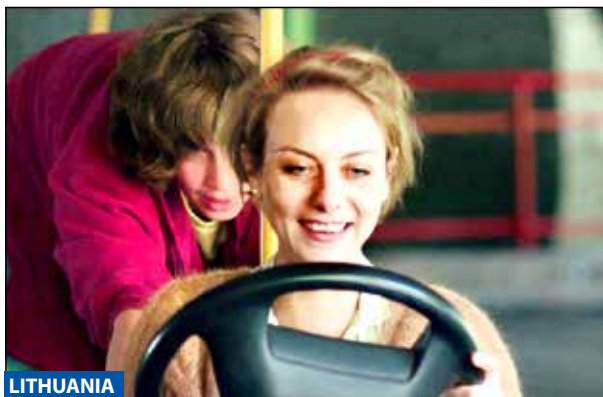
LATVIA

BILLE

2018, Inara Kolmane, Latvia, 114 min.
With Ruta Kronberga, Elina Vane

Saturday, March 7, 7:45 pm
Thursday, March 12, 6:00 pm

Based on the autobiography of Nobel-nominated author Vizma Belševica, BILLE is the bittersweet chronicle of a child of the Great Depression. A gifted child noticed by teachers and other adults but disdained by her angry mother and stern grandmother, plain but precocious Bille is the apple of her drunkard father's eye. The ethnic German family of her best friend is preparing to leave town for good, hinting at the political changes that loom at the edge of Bille's insular world. In Latvian with English subtitles. (BS)



LITHUANIA

MOTHERLAND

(GIMTINE)
2019, Tomas Vengris, Lithuania, 97 min.
With Severija Janušauskaitė, Matas Metlevski

Saturday, March 21, 5:00 pm
Wednesday, March 25, 8:00 pm

A coming-of-age story is colored by the upheavals of recent Lithuanian history in this visually impressive first feature. Set in 1992, the film is told from the perspective of American-born 12-year-old Kovas (Metlevski). With her marriage collapsing and Lithuania gaining independence, the boy's mother (Janušauskaitė) returns to her homeland in the hope of reclaiming the family property, now occupied by Russian immigrants who have no intention of giving it up. In Lithuanian, English, and Russian with English subtitles. (MR)

Director Tomas Vengris in person on Saturday.



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LUXEMBOURG

PÉITRUSS

2019, Max Jacoby, Luxembourg, 93 min.
With Peri Baumeister, Maarten Heijmans

Saturday, March 28, 8:00 pm
Tuesday, March 31, 6:00 pm

The cliffhanging streets and parks of Luxembourg City are the fittingly atmospheric setting for this noir-inflected crime thriller laced with dark eroticism. The body of a young girl is found in a heavily wooded park. She was one of the charges of Lara (Baumeister), a newly divorced social worker. Lara is being stalked by her jealous ex, a police detective on the case, who targets her mysterious new lover (Heijmans) as the possible killer. In English, German, and Luxembourgish with English subtitles. (BS)



MALTA

THE WEeping HOUSE OF QALA

(HEMM DAR IL-QALA)
2018, Mark Doneo, Malta, 85 min.
With Lawrence Buontempo, Louise Doneo

Friday, March 20, 6:15 pm
Monday, March 23, 8:00 pm

This intense ghost-story-cum-psychological-drama is loosely based on a novel by Nobel-winner Elfriede Jelinek. Documentary filmmaker Aaron (Buontempo) sets out to shoot a film in the desolate mansion where the last residents, a woman and her three children, had disappeared forty years ago. The crew arrives to spend the night in search of poltergeists on the very anniversary of the disappearance, and tension mounts to the breaking point with the belated arrival of the film's angry ex-producer. In Maltese with English subtitles. (BS)



NETHERLANDS

LIVING THE LIGHT: ROBBY MÜLLER

2018, Claire Pijman, Netherlands/Germany, 86 min.

Friday, March 13, 4:00 pm
Monday, March 16, 6:00 pm

Revered Dutch cinematographer Robby Müller is profiled in this documentary based largely on his own visual material. Known for his evocative use of natural light, Müller was as obsessive in recording images from his private life as he was on set for directors including Wenders, Jarmusch, von Trier, and Handke. Director Pijman, a cinematographer herself, had extensive access to Müller's home movies, film sketches, video diaries, and Polaroids prior to his 2018 death. In English, German, Dutch, and French with English subtitles. (BS)



NETHERLANDS

TAKE ME SOMEWHERE NICE

2019, Ena Sendjarevic, Netherlands/Bosnia and Herzegovina, 91 min.
With Sara Luna Zoric, Lazar Dragojevic

Friday, March 27, 4:00 pm
Sunday, March 29, 3:00 pm

Young Alma (Zoric), motivated as much by the restless need for a change of scenery as by the desire to find the dying father she never knew, takes off alone from Amsterdam to Sarajevo. Director Sendjarevic aims for an edgy air of slacker adventure in this semi-autobiographical homage to Jim Jarmusch's STRANGER THAN PARADISE. Hooking up with her jerk of a cousin Emir and his best friend Denis, Alma tests her mettle in a series of bizarre travel incidents. In Bosnian, Dutch, and English with English subtitles. (BS)

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POLAND

I REMEMBER

(NIEPAMIETNIK)
2019, Kamila Jozefowicz, Poland, 68 min.

Friday, March 6, 4:30 pm
Monday, March 9, 6:00 pm

Director Jozefowicz creates a framework of mournful lyricism around the testimonies of the elderly residents of a Polish farm town, who recall a time when some families hid their Jewish neighbors and others assisted in slaughtering them. In villages throughout pre-war Poland, Jewish families owned shops, plied trades, and sent their children to the local school. That life filled with Jewish friends and classmates changed horrifically when the Germans came and the synagogue was set ablaze. In Polish with English subtitles. (BS)



POLAND

THE LAST WITNESS

2018, Piotr Szkopiak, Poland/UK, 97 min.
With Alex Pettyfer, Robert Wiekiewicz

Sunday, March 15, 5:00 pm
Monday, March 16, 7:45 pm

The search for the devastating truth behind the 1940 Katyn Massacre of 22,000 Polish soldiers is a personal quest for director Szkopiak, whose grandfather was one of the victims. The fact-based, thriller-tinged plot unfolds in 1947 in Bristol, England, where reporter Stephen Underwood (Pettyfer) investigates the suspicious deaths of men from the nearby internment camp. The reporter is soon endangered by official stonewalling, lies, and the betrayal of a lover, while he continues to pursue damning clues. In English. (BS)

Director Piotr
Szkopiak in person
at both screenings.



PORTUGAL

CARGA

2018, Bruno Gascon, Portugal, 113 min.
With Michalina Olszanska, Victor Norte

Friday, March 13, 8:00 pm
Monday, March 16, 8:00 pm

A transport semi disgorges its illegal cargo: women and children smuggled from Eastern Europe. These passengers, including stoic but frightened Viktoriya (Olszanska), are delivered into the hands of human traffickers. Director Gascon divides this brutally realistic chronicle between Viktoriya's harrowing bid for freedom and guilt-ridden truck-driver António's (Norte) efforts to extricate himself from bondage to Russian mobsters. **Note:** Contains sexual violence. In English, Russian, and Portuguese with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)



ROMANIA

MO

2019, Radu Dragomir, Romania, 77 min.
With Dana Rogoz, Răzvan Vasilescu, Mădălina Craiu

Saturday, March 7, 8:00 pm
Wednesday, March 11, 6:00 pm

Two female college students conspire to cheat on an exam but are caught by the stern male professor Ursu (Vasilescu). Boldly rebellious Mo (Rogoz) and her more reticent friend Vera (Craiu) are wary but hopeful when Ursu seems to offer a chance for amnesty, and invites the pair for a home-cooked meal. In the best tradition of the contemporary Romanian cinema, a savage dissection of ethics is at the heart of the plot as the susceptible students fall into a trap. **Note:** Includes sexual violence. In Romanian with English subtitles. (BS)



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SLOVAKIA

BY A SHARP KNIFE

(OSTRÝM NOZOM)
2019, Teodor Kuhn, Slovakia, 89 min.
With Roman Luknár, Ela Lehotská

Saturday, March 21, 7:45 pm
Tuesday, March 24, 6:00 pm

A family is torn apart by grief and guilt when their only son is murdered. Based on a high-profile 2005 murder in Bratislava that exposed Mafia influence at the highest levels, this drama becomes a gripping psychological study of a father-son conflict and the father's belated contrition in the search for justice for his murdered boy. The case would seem clear-cut, but, to the family's dismay, the skinhead perpetrators are protected by authorities, who seek to put the blame on the victim. In Slovak with English subtitles. (BS)



SLOVENIA

STORIES FROM THE CHESTNUT WOODS

(ZGODBE IZ KOSTANJEVIH GOZDOV)
2019, Gregor Božič, Slovenia/Italy, 81 min.
With Massimo De Francovich, Ivana Rošćić

Saturday, March 14, 5:00 pm
Wednesday, March 18, 8:00 pm

Rich colors enhance this magic-realist view of a post-WWII village on the Slovenian-Italian border, as first-time director Božič evokes the legacy of directors including Sergei Parajanov and Emir Kusturica. The fate of the village carpenter, a recently widowed skinflint, intersects with that of a desperate woman who makes her living by gathering the region's plentiful chestnuts. Within this loose narrative, ancient customs prevail, dreams come to life, and visions burst forth. In Slovenian and Italian with English subtitles. (BS)



SPAIN

THE DAYS TO COME

(ELS DIES QUE VINDRAN)
2019, Carlos Marques-Marcet, Spain, 101 min.
With Maria Rodríguez Soto, David Verdaguer

Friday, March 27, 4:00 pm
Saturday, March 28, 5:00 pm

During the filming of Marques-Marcet's ANCHOR AND HOPE (2018 CEUFF), actors Rodríguez Soto and Verdaguer conceived a child, which inspired the conception of this film. Blurring the line between documentary and fiction, THE DAYS TO COME follows the lives of Vir (Rodríguez Soto) and Lluís (Verdaguer) during the term of the actress's real-life pregnancy. The stunningly intimate camerawork captures not only the physical effects of pregnancy but also its emotional effects on a couple's relationship. In Catalan with English subtitles. (MR)



SPAIN

WINDOW TO THE SEA

(UNA VENTANA AL MAR)
2019, Miguel Ángel Jiménez, Spain, 105 min.
With Emma Suárez, Akilas Karazisis

Friday, March 20, 2:00 pm
Sunday, March 22, 3:00 pm

Emma Suárez (JULIETA) delivers a moving performance as Maria, a 55-year-old Bilboa woman who learns she has advanced cancer. Before starting treatment, she takes a trip to Greece with two gal pals, but her mood remains guarded until they visit the small island of Nisyros. Seduced by its simplicity and serenity, she impulsively decides to stay on by herself. Exploring the isolated beaches and rediscovering passion with a local sponge fisherman, Maria keeps postponing her departure. In Spanish and Greek with English subtitles. (MR)

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SWEDEN

KOKO-DI KOKO-DA

2019, Johannes Nyholm, Sweden, 86 min.
With Leif Edlund, Ylva Gallon

Saturday, March 14, 8:00 pm
Tuesday, March 17, 6:00 pm

A happy family vacation that ends badly. Another vacation, three years later. A trio of grotesque sadists. A ferocious dog. A white cat. A catchy, sinister song. A silhouetted puppet show. A smorgasbord of alternative outcomes à la GROUNDHOG DAY. These are the ingredients of KOKO-DI KOKO-DA's ingenious, puzzle-like structure. Discovering how the pieces come together is essential to the impact of this offbeat psychological horror film with a haunting emotional payoff. In Swedish and Danish with English subtitles. (MR)



UNITED KINGDOM

BEATS

2019, Brian Welsh, UK, 102 min.
With Cristian Ortega, Lorn Macdonald

Friday, March 27, 6:00 pm
Monday, March 30, 8:00 pm

The time is 1994, the setting is a dead-end Scottish town, and the heart of this acclaimed film is the bromance between two 15-year-olds: gangly, gonzo Spanner (Macdonald) and short, serious Johnno (Ortega), whose family is about to move to the suburbs. Though temperamentally opposed, the boys share a love of techno music. Sensing their friendship is coming to an end, they head for an epic illegal rave party, with the police and Spanner's abusive older brother in hot pursuit. In Scottish-accented English with English subtitles. (MR)



UNITED KINGDOM

NOMAD: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BRUCE CHATWIN

2019, Werner Herzog, UK, 90 min.

Saturday, March 28, 3:00 pm
Wednesday, April 1, 6:00 pm

Filmmaker Werner Herzog and author Bruce Chatwin were close friends and kindred spirits—restless adventurer-artists who admired and were influenced by each other's work. NOMAD is a deeply felt memoir of their friendship. Roving the globe, Herzog explores some of the key sites that inspired Chatwin—the caves of Patagonia, the stone circles of Avebury, the Outback of Australia—mixing awesome vistas and insightful interviews with those who knew, studied, and loved him. In English, Aboriginal, and German with English subtitles. *The Wednesday screening is a Movie Club event (see p. 3).* (MR)

Vote for the Audience Award! Enter to Win a Free Membership!

Vote for the Chicago European Union Film Festival's Audience Award, and your ballot may be selected for the grand prize of a year's membership to the Gene Siskel Film Center! Ballots are available in the lobby.

Past winners of the award include I'M NOT SCARED (2004), COLOSSAL SENSATION! (2005), CLEAN (2006), AFTER THE WEDDING (2007), THE UNKNOWN WOMAN (2008), THE BEACHES OF AGNÈS (2009), THE WORLD IS BIG AND SALVATION LURKS AROUND THE CORNER (2010), DESERT FLOWER (2011), THE WELL-DIGGER'S DAUGHTER (2012), BROKEN (2013), BICYCLING WITH MOLIÈRE (2014), THE DARK VALLEY (2015), LAND OF SONGS (2016), TRUMAN (2017), THE CITIZEN (2018), and AS NEEDED (2019).

FROM ASIA, WITH LOVE

Contemporary Cinema from Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, and China

Lecturer: Jennifer Dorothy Lee

From Jan. 24 through May 5, we offer *From Asia, With Love: Contemporary Cinema from Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, and China*, a series of fourteen programs with weekly Tuesday lectures by Jennifer Dorothy Lee, Assistant Professor of East Asian Art at SAIC. The series is presented in cooperation with the SAIC Dept. of Art History, Theory, and Criticism. Additional screenings of the films on Fri. or Sat. do not include Prof. Lee's lecture. Admission to all *From Asia, With Love* programs is \$5 for Film Center members; usual prices for non-members.

—Martin Rubin

This series will examine how new uses of moving image and sound in cinema from Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, and China demonstrate the intense preoccupations of their filmmakers. Themes of national loss and cross-border tensions, of seeking revenge and settling debts, and of transcending the unbearable present in the fantastical will be explored. In what ways do contemporary filmmakers from Asia negotiate devastating histories and memories, all the while performing on a globalizing stage for international viewerships?

—Jennifer Dorothy Lee



THE PIANO IN A FACTORY

(GANG DE QIN)
2010, Zhang Meng, China, 106 min.
With Wang Qian-yuan, Qin Hai-lu

Tuesday, March 10, 6:00 pm

This poignant comedy centers on a former steel worker who contrives to build a piano in the abandoned factory as a means of holding on to his musical-prodigy daughter. In Mandarin with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)



WILL YOU STILL LOVE ME TOMORROW?

(MING TIAN JI DE AI SHANG WO)
2013, Arwin Chen, Taiwan, 107 min.
With Richie Jen, Mavis Fan

Tuesday, March 17, 6:00 pm

A seemingly contented Taipei family man has his suppressed gay identity stirred up by a handsome flight attendant from Hong Kong. In Mandarin, Min Nan, and Korean with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)



THE WEDDING BANQUET

1993, Ang Lee, Taiwan/USA, 106 min.
With Winston Chao, May Chin, Mitchell Lichtenstein

Tuesday, March 24, 6:00 pm

A New York-based real-estate entrepreneur struggles to conceal his gay relationship from his Taiwanese parents when they arrive for his bogus wedding. In Mandarin and English with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)

Upcoming films in *From Asia, With Love*

(Friday and Saturday dates are subject to change. Please check the relevant month's *Gazette* and website.)

April 3 and 7

TAIPEI STORY

1985, Edward Yang, Taiwan, 119 min.

April 10 and 14

POLICE STORY

1985, Jackie Chan, Hong Kong, 100 min.

April 17 and 21

POLICE STORY 2

1988, Jackie Chan, Hong Kong, 122 min.

April 24 and 28

SHAOLIN SOCCER

2001, Stephen Chow, Hong Kong/China, 87 min.

May 1 and 5

TBA

CHICAGO PREMIERE!

The Times of Bill Cunningham

2018, Mark Bozek, USA, 74 min.
Narrated by Sarah Jessica Parker

This chronicle of the creative journey of *New York Times* "On the Street" photographer and fashion historian Bill Cunningham (1929-2016) might well bear the alternate title "Tales of Lost New York." The evolution of the city as the cradle of great personalities, fascinating eccentrics, and true originals is compellingly woven through Cunningham's story, based on an extended 1994 interview conducted by director Bozek and accompanied by hundreds of stunning photos, many never before made public. DCP digital. (BS)



"A wonderfully New York-centric story... never less than charming, imbued with genuine fondness for its subject."

—David Rooney, *Hollywood Reporter*

TWO-WEEK RUN!

February 28—March 5

Fri., 2/28 at 2 pm and 6:15 pm;
Sat., 2/29 at 7:45 pm;
Sun., 3/1 at 2:00 pm;
Mon., 3/2 at 6 pm;
Tue., 3/3 at 8:30 pm;
Wed., 3/4 at 6 pm;
Thu., 3/5 at 8:15 pm

March 6—12

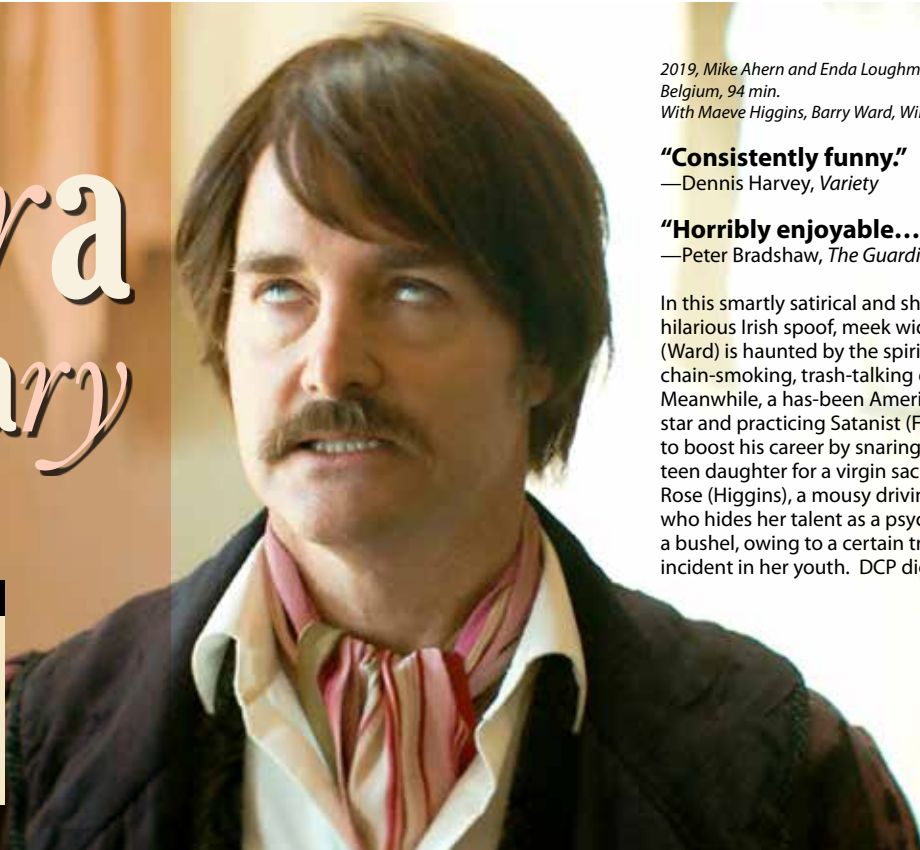
Fri., 3/6 at 4:15 pm;
Sat., 3/7 at 3:15 pm;
Sun., 3/8 at 5:15 pm;
Mon., 3/9 at 6 pm;
Tue., 3/10 at 8 pm;
Wed., 3/11 at 6 pm;
Thu., 3/12 at 8:15 pm

CHICAGO PREMIERE!

extraordinary

March 13—19

Fri., 3/13 at 4 pm and 6 pm;
Sat., 3/14 at 3 pm;
Sun., 3/15 at 5 pm;
Mon., 3/16 at 6 pm;
Tue., 3/17 at 8 pm;
Wed., 3/18 at 6 pm;
Thu., 3/19 at 8 pm



2019, Mike Ahern and Enda Loughman, Ireland/Belgium, 94 min.
With Maeve Higgins, Barry Ward, Will Forte

"Consistently funny."
—Dennis Harvey, *Variety*

"Horribly enjoyable... A treat."
—Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*

In this smartly satirical and shamelessly hilarious Irish spoof, meek widower Martin (Ward) is haunted by the spirit of his chain-smoking, trash-talking dead wife. Meanwhile, a has-been American rock star and practicing Satanist (Forte) seeks to boost his career by snaring Martin's teen daughter for a virgin sacrifice. Enter Rose (Higgins), a mousy driving instructor who hides her talent as a psychic under a bushel, owing to a certain traumatic incident in her youth. DCP digital. (BS)

SWALLOW

CHICAGO PREMIERE! CARLO MIRABELLA-DAVIS IN PERSON!

2019, Carlo Mirabella-Davis, USA/France, 94 min.
With Haley Bennett, Austin Stowell

"A staggering accomplishment in its storytelling, visuals, and performance."

—Lena Wilson, *The Playlist*

A stunning, slow-burning tale of a woman's journey to regain control of her body, her mind, and her past, *SWALLOW* reaches for a different experience in feminist storytelling. New bride Hunter (Bennett), married to a rising young executive (Stowell), is treated by her husband as mere arm-candy. Languishing in a picture-perfect home overlooking the Hudson, newly pregnant Hunter begins to ingest strange and dangerous little trophies of rebellion. It starts with a pretty glass marble... DCP digital.

Director Carlo Mirabella-Davis is scheduled to appear for audience discussion at 8:15 pm on Friday. (BS)

March 20—26

Fri., 3/20 at 4 pm
and 8:15 pm;
Sat., 3/21 at 5:15 pm;
Sun., 3/22 at 3 pm;
Mon., 3/23 at 6 pm;
Tue., 3/24 at 7:45 pm;
Wed., 3/25 at 6 pm;
Thu., 3/26 at 8:15 pm

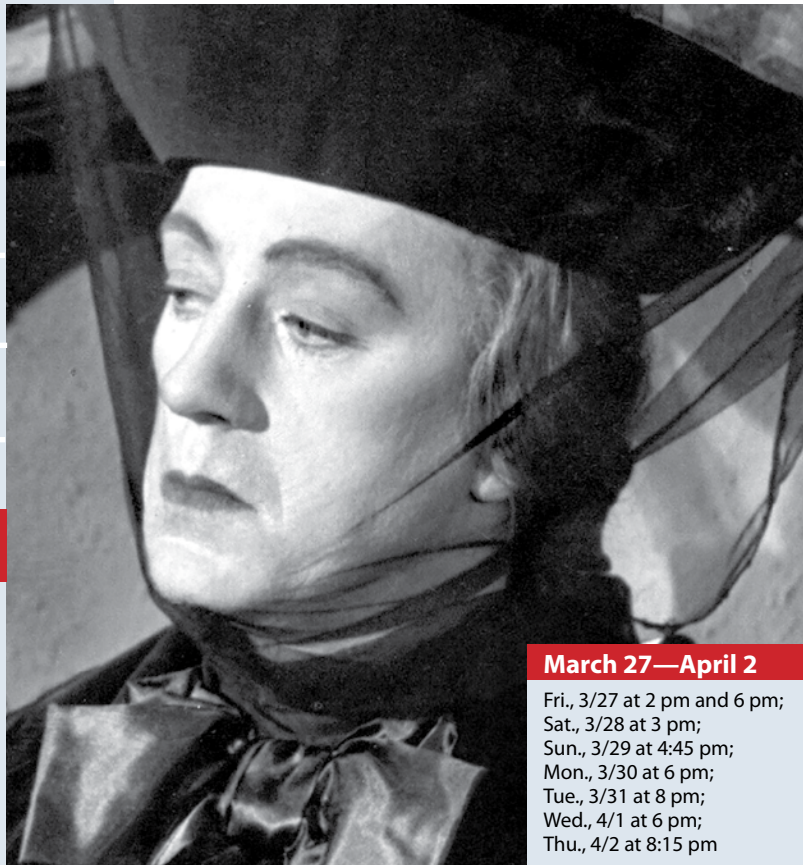
NEW 4K RESTORATION!

KIND HEARTS AND CORONETS

1949, Robert Hamer, UK, 106 min.
With Dennis Price, Alec Guinness

"Nothing funnier ever came out of Ealing...a model of silky malice."—Anthony Quinn, *The Independent*

Set in Edwardian times but quite modern in its sensibility, this wicked black comedy is a masterpiece of tonal precision and subtlety. The massively resentful anti-hero Louis Mazzini (Price), whose high-born mother was spurned by her family, sets out to prune the family tree of the eight heirs who stand between him and the coveted dukedom. All eight of the designated victims are famously played by Guinness—each one distinctively different, each one a swift gem of character acting. New 4K DCP digital restoration. (MR)



March 27—April 2

Fri., 3/27 at 2 pm and 6 pm;
Sat., 3/28 at 3 pm;
Sun., 3/29 at 4:45 pm;
Mon., 3/30 at 6 pm;
Tue., 3/31 at 8 pm;
Wed., 4/1 at 6 pm;
Thu., 4/2 at 8:15 pm

conversations at the edge

experimental media series



TROUBLE, March 5

Conversations at the Edge is a weekly series of screenings, performances, and talks by groundbreaking media artists. The program is organized by the Department of Film, Video, New Media, and Animation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in collaboration with the Gene Siskel Film Center and the Video Data Bank.

For more, visit www.saic.edu/cate.

Mariah Garnett in person!

TROUBLE

2019, Mariah Garnett, UK/USA, 83 min.

Thursday, March 5, 6:00 pm

In this extraordinary documentary, Los Angeles-based artist and filmmaker Mariah Garnett revisits her father's early life during the Troubles in 1970s Northern Ireland and reenacts a 1971 BBC documentary about his controversial interfaith relationship on the streets of present-day Belfast.

Beatrice Gibson in person!

Beatrice Gibson: Two Sisters

2018–19, Beatrice Gibson, France/UK, ca. 50 min.

Thursday, March 12, 6:00 pm

Incorporating experimental music, poetry, and improvisation, the award-winning films of London-based artist Beatrice Gibson are shape-shifting explorations of social and political turmoil. She presents two new works, *I HOPE I'M LOUD WHEN I'M DEAD* (2018) and *DEUX SOEURS QUI NE SONT PAS SOEURS (TWO SISTERS WHO ARE NOT SISTERS)* (2019). *Presented in partnership with the Onion City Experimental Film and Video Festival, a project of Chicago Filmmakers.* **Note:** **This screening will take place at Chicago Filmmakers, 5720 N. Ridge Ave., Chicago. For tickets, visit saic.edu/cate.**

Ian Cheng in person!

An Evening with Ian Cheng

2014–20, Ian Cheng, USA, ca. 75 min.

Tuesday, March 24, 6:00 pm

Ian Cheng's practice draws upon principles of video game design, improvisation, and cognitive science to explore the nature of mutation and the capacity of humans to relate to change. *Presented in partnership with SAIC's Visiting Artists Program.*

Note: **This screening will take place at The Art Institute of Chicago, Rubloff Auditorium, 230 S. Columbus Dr. Free, non-ticketed.**

This Set of Actions Is a Mirror

2016–19, Multiple directors, USA, ca. 75 min.

Thursday, April 2, 6:00 pm

Referencing a phrase from Carolyn Lazard's video *A RECIPE FOR DISASTER* (2018), *This Set of Actions Is a Mirror* gathers together works by Christine Sun Kim, Thomas Mader, Alison O'Daniel, and Carolyn Lazard that challenge the sensory hierarchies implicit in media and, by extension, society at large.

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siskelfilmcenter.org/rentals for details.

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BENEFITS: Pay \$6 admission to each screening (\$5 to each spring and autumn screenings/lecture series program); receive our monthly schedule, the Gazette, in the mail; \$10 discount on an Art Institute of Chicago membership; four free popcorns; sneak preview passes to major motion pictures and other special offers.

PANORAMA
LATINX

PANORAMA LATINX is an initiative of the Gene Siskel Film Center dedicated to year-round Latin American film programming.

We engage the dynamic Latinx community of greater Chicago through showcasing the work of emerging and established Latinx filmmakers, educational screenings and community partnerships





c/o 37 S. Wabash Avenue
Chicago, IL 60603

The Gene Siskel Film Center is a public program of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is located at 164 North State Street. Main Office: 312-846-2600.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Location: 164 North State Street. **Tickets:** Visit our website for online ticket purchasing information. **For showtimes:** visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org or call 312-846-2800.

Discount Parking for Film Center Patrons!
Park at the InterPark Self-Park at 20 E. Randolph St. and pay only \$18 for sixteen hours with a rebate ticket obtained from the Film Center box office.

Take the CTA!
The Gene Siskel Film Center is located one-half block south of the State/Lake L (brown, green, orange, pink, and purple lines), and just outside of the Lake red line subway stop. We are also located on a number of State Street buslines.

Ticket prices:
\$12 General Admission;
\$7 Students;
\$6 Members.
Unless otherwise noted.

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**SIBYL (France),
March 13, 15**

NEW FILMS BY

- Claire Burger
- Mimmo Calopresti
- Jean-Pierre Dardenne
- Luc Dardenne
- Bruno Dumont
- Nikolaus Geyrhalter
- Klaus Härö
- Werner Herzog
- Stephan Komandarev
- Caroline Link
- Jirí Mádľ
- Nevio Marasović
- Pietro Marcello
- Pál Sándor
- Attila Szasz
- Piotr Szkopiak
- Justine Triet
- And many more!