

***Bratislava International Film Festival Inspires and Helps  
20 Years of Quality Films from Domestic and Foreign Production at Bratislava IFF***

*Bratislava, November 26, 2018*

**This year again, the 20th edition of the Bratislava International Film Festival, which will take place between 29 November and 2 December 2018, will bring its visitors a varied spectrum of events in both festival programme and accompanying events. In its programme framework, the festival will present films by such renowned directors as Steve McQueen, Julian Schnabel or Vitaly Mansky, starring actors such as Willem Dafoe, Robert Redford, Mads Mikkelsen or Martin Huba, but also debuts by yet little-known filmmakers. At the same, it will introduce the current student production through films from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, as well as a new Christmas fairy tale *Mimi & Líza: Christmas Lights Mystery*, whose screening proceeds will be donated to the Slovak Blind and Partially Sighted Union. The common denominator for all these is quality.**

The festival visitors can look forward to the biographical film by the American director Julian Schnabel *At Eternity's Gate* (2018). The film is a look at the final, dark years of the painter Vincent van Gogh, which he spent in Arles and Auvers-sur-Oise in France. The main character is played by Willem Dafoe, whose faithful performance in the role of an artist with difficult mental issues was awarded Best Actor Award at the 75th Venice Film Festival. The film selection will also please the fans of Mads Mikkelsen, Mathieu Almaric, Rupert Friend, Oscar Isaac, Louis Garrel and others. Julian Schnabel is well-known for his previous films such as *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* (*Le scaphandre et le papillon*, 2007), which earned him the award for best director at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival, *Before Night Falls* (2000) or *Basquiat* (1996).

In addition to high-quality films, the visitors can choose from several accompanying events. On the very first day of the festival, 29 November at 8:00 p.m., Bohéma bar will be hosting a discussion **"I just popped out to get some tangerines... but Bohéma was hosting a party with a discussion"**. The Bratislava IFF and the online film magazine *Kinečko* have teamed up to organize an opening party with a discussion chaired by Eva Krížiková, editor-in-chief of *Kinečko*. Her guests, the film professionals Jana Vlčková (editor), Radka Šišuláková (director of photography) and Barbora Námerová (screenwriter) will talk about the issue of the female gaze – in society, in life, but also in cinema. Together, they will try to determine whether it's still true that the male and female gaze in the world of film stand on opposite shores.

The Bratislava IFF also cooperates with the Slovak film Agency (SFA). They have prepared a panel of lectures and discussions for film professionals titled **Green Screen - greening of the audiovisual industry**, whose aim is to provide the public with information on the possibilities of changes in the audiovisual industry and encourage filmmakers to introduce environmental practices in their production. The lecturer, Tim Wagendorp, is a sustainability coordinator at the Flanders Audiovisual Fund. The visitors can also meet with Pavel Ballo, a Slovak zoologist from Tatra National Park, who will try and tackle the question **Who owns the Tatra skies?** as well as with Jopy Hečko from Skyeeye company, who will talk about shooting dynamic images from a bird's eye view for films (*The Line*, *Candidate*, *Angel of the Lord*, *The Interpreter*), series (*Secret Lives*, *Marco Polo*, *Wild Wine*) and commercials. He will share his experience and warn about the pitfalls of this work in the lecture **Use of drones for film purposes**.



## **20th BRATISLAVA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

Efforts to help bring people together. With this motto in mind, the Bratislava IFF is organising a charity screening of the film **Mimi & Líza: Christmas Lights Mystery** by the Slovak animators Katarína Kerekesová and Ivana Šebestová. Parents as well as children have known the pair of friends already since 2013 when Radio and Television of Slovakia started broadcasting this series of stories about the blind Mimi and her roguish friend Líza. **Mimi & Líza** met with huge success all over the world – in Brazil, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Belgium, the Czech Republic, but also in France, where a suggestion originated that the authors of the series about this inseparable friendship and selflessness create a Christmas-themed film. And so, this time, Mimi and Líza will travel in time so that the holidays associated with lots of light don't remain in the dark. By purchasing a ticket to the screening, the audience will support the Slovak Blind and Partially Sighted Union White Crayon, which improves the lives of those who have found themselves in a difficult life situation. The screening will take place on 2 December 2018 at 1:30 p.m. in Kino Mladost' cinema.

This year's collection of short *Student films: Academy of Performing Arts Bratislava* will be represented by **The Trip** (Daniel Rihák), **Extraction** (Kateřina Hroníková) **Vampire Sushi** (Jakub Cheban, Marek Fischer and Michaela Hošková), **Journey** (Marek Jasaň) and **Therapy by Travelling** (Michal Baránek). In the course of an hour and a half, the audience will have a chance to get acquainted with how the current students of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava see the world.

The Bratislava International Film Festival acts as a platform where the general viewing public, cinephiles as well as film professionals from Slovakia and abroad meet and interact. Ever since its establishment in 1999, it has been developing its identity of a young cinema festival and event aiming to discover new names and future stars of contemporary film.

For the latest updates on the programme of the 20th Bratislava International Film Festival, please visit our official website at [www.bratislavaiff.sk/en](http://www.bratislavaiff.sk/en) or our official Facebook account at [www.facebook.com/bratislavaiff/](https://www.facebook.com/bratislavaiff/).

**20th BRATISLAVA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**  
**29 November - 02 December 2018**

**Kino Lumière, Kino Mladost'**  
**Kino MIER Modra, Kino Záhoran Malacky, Artkino METRO Trenčín**

Main Organiser: **Partners Production**

The Bratislava International Film Festival is held with the generous financial support of: **Slovak Audiovisual Fund, the Bratislava Self-Governing region**

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