

The 20th Bratislava International Film Festival 2018 Starts Today:

COME, SEE, EXPERIENCE!

Bratislava, November 29, 2018

The jubilee edition of the Bratislava IFF and its *Fiction Competition* will open with the Slovak premiere of the film *José*. Even though the celebrations will take place in a more intimate spirit, festival visitors can traditionally look forward to a rich and quality programme. The festival will take place between 29 November and 2 December 2018 in the Bratislava city cinemas Lumière and Mladost'. After last year's success, part of its programme will be screened even in cinemas outside of the capital: Kino Mier in Modra, Kino Záhoran in Malacky and ArtKino Metro in Trenčín.

The festival's backbone is again the *Fiction Competition*, focusing on directors' first and second feature films. Eight titles from around the world were selected for this year's competition. In the words of its compiler Nenad Dukic, "*Films of these eight directors are brave in focusing on problems young people around the world are dealing with today; they are strong in storytelling and very rich in the sense of film language. I think that's enough reasons to be seen by Bratislava audience, especially young audience.*"

The *Fiction Competition* will officially open with *José* (2018). The story of a young gay man, José, will acquaint the viewer with the current state, facts and life in one of the world's poorest and most dangerous countries, Guatemala. The film was awarded Queer Lion at this year's Venice IFF. It is the second film of the American director Li Cheng, who presented his debut *Joshua Tree* at Bratislava IFF 2014. The director will attend the Slovak premiere in person, along with the film's producer George F. Roberson.

The fans of documentary features can look forward to **Putin's Witnesses** (Svideteli Putina, d. Vitaly Mansky, 2018), **The Other Side of Everything** (Druga strana svega, d. Mila Turajlić), **Part-time Job: Mother** (Vedľajšie zamestnanie: matka, d. Eva Štefankovičová), or **Barefoot in the Kitchen** (Con la pata quebrada, d. Diego Galán, 2013)

Every year the festival tries to reflect contemporary social affairs and development in its thematic sections. This year's section *Lexicon* focuses on the so-called female gaze. This theme has also been reflected in the festival's visual identity and spot. Its representatives are, among others, the remarkable films **Beau travail** (d. Claire Denis, 1999) or **Pause** (Pafsi, d. Tonia Mishiali, 2018). Also part of *Lexicon: Female gaze* is the collection of short films *Know Your Body*.

In connection with the recent anniversary of the founding of the First Czechoslovak Republic, we decided to draw attention to the continuous cooperation between Slovak and Czech filmmakers. The programme will therefore present even films from Czech and Slovak production, such as **Winter Flies** (Všetchno bude, d. Olmo Omerzu, 2018), **King Skate** (d. Šimon Šafránek, 2018), **Breaking News** (Mimořádná zpráva, d. Tomáš Bojar, 2018), **Talks with TGM** (Hovory s TGM, d. Jakub Červenka, 2018), or **Domestique** (Domestik, Adam Sedlák, 2018). Many of the creators have accepted the invitation and will come to present their films personally. The *Made in SK/CZ* section will also screen a



collection of short student films by young filmmakers from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava.

Another co-production film involving Czech and Slovak filmmakers is the sixth feature film of the acclaimed Romanian director Radu Jude **“I Do Not Care If We Go Down in History as Barbarians”** (2018), a strong piece about the unpleasant stage of history we are trying to forget. It tells the story of a young artist and activist Mariana, seeking to create a reenactment of the ethnic cleansing committed by the Romanian army in 1941. Despite her sincere efforts, she’s failing to succeed. The viewer is thus sternly reminded of Romania's share in the Holocaust, as well as war crimes committed during the Second World War. The film premiered at the Karlovy Vary IFF, where it won the main prize.

The 20th edition of the Bratislava IFF 2018 will again bring a wide selection of remarkable films from this year’s season. Even this year, the audience will be able to vote on the best film of the festival, which will be awarded with the Bratislava IFF **Viewers’ Choice Award**.

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 or our official Facebook account at 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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