



Media Release

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CINEMA NOUVEAU TAKES AUDIENCES ON CINEMATIC TOUR OF EUROPE

The 2010 European Union Film Festival will delight audiences with some of the finest European films of recent years, screened exclusively at selected Ster-Kinekor Cinema Nouveau Theatres across the country. The festival heads to Brooklyn Mall in Pretoria from this Friday, 20 August; and will also run at Cinema Nouveau Theatres in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban until the 13th of September. Cinemagoers can look forward to films from 9 EU Member States: the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Spain.

The films encompass a broad and eclectic range of subject matter: from gritty realism to fairytales to romance and horror. Film lovers will be treated to a selection of memorable and diverse films, each reflecting the unique, but also unquestionably European culture of its national origin.

The ever-popular genre of horror will keep viewers on the edge of their seats in the film **REC** (Spain), which introduces us to a television reporter, Ángela Vidal (Manuela Velasco), and her cameraman, Pablo (Pablo Rosso). They cover the night shift in one of Barcelona's local fire stations for a fictional documentary television series; as the gory events of the night unfold, it's all captured on film ...

The universal theme of the impact of history on our identity is seen in the film **AM ENDE KOMMEN TOURISTEN** (Germany) (literally translated as "in the end it's tourists coming"), which is a poignant film about how the abyss of the past transcends into the problems of the present. It is a story of trans-generation and trans-national relations that gain extra dynamics by the presence of the historical weight of the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Contemporary drama is also on offer with **THE WELTS** (Poland), which tells a profound story of inner struggle, revenge, forgiveness, understanding, and love. The film is about 12-year

old Wojciech who, following the death of his mother in '80s Poland, becomes the main punching bag for his sadistic father, who administers beatings with his belt for the slightest provocation. Another tragic drama O DELFIM (Portugal) is about a fascist of the late sixties who is a rich landowner and leads an idle life of hunting (animals and women), drinking and enjoying himself. An ambiguous triangle is formed by him, his wife and his manservant, and the tensions produced within it, have a tragic outcome.

On a lighter note, the EU Film Festival also boasts a selection of romantic films: TO VERDENER / Worlds Apart (Denmark), directed by Niels Arden Oplev, tells the story of Sara (from a family of staunch Jehova's Witnesses) who falls in love with Teis and is confronted with her most difficult choice in life. Teis is not a Jehovah's Witness, yet their love grows through stolen, secret meetings. Sara is torn between her conscience, faith and passion, and is forced to make a choice between her love and her family that are worlds apart.

There is also BEAUTY AND A BASTARD (Finland), a film about Finnish hip-hop culture and young love. In the film, boy meets girl; they come from different circumstances in life but fall in love. FIMFARUM 2 (Czech Republic) is a unique compilation of 4 short fairy-tales, full of rustic humour, profound wisdom and amiable understanding for all humans in this world.

Sporting enthusiasts will be pleased with the two films: PESI LEGGERI (Italy) and THE OTHER FINAL (Netherlands). PESI LEGGERI is a film which follows the lives of Nino, a talented boxer; Giuseppe, a gifted but violent young man, and their trainer Melis, who is a former European boxing champion. THE OTHER FINAL tells the story of the 2002 Football Game between Bhutan and Montserrat.

The EU Film Festival will be showcasing the best of European cinema at the following Cinema Nouveau theatres nationwide:

- Cinema Nouveau Brooklyn Mall (Pta): 20 – 23 August
- Cinema Nouveau Rosebank (Jhb): 27 – 30 August
- Cinema Nouveau Cavendish Square (CT): 03 – 06 September
- Cinema Nouveau Gateway (Dbn): 10 - 13 September

Tickets are free - subject to availability - and can be collected from the box-office one hour before each screening.

Full synopses for all the festival titles follow below.

Films Synopses:

REC (2007)

Spain

REC revolves around a television reporter, Ángela Vidal (Manuela Velasco), and her cameraman, Pablo (only his trainers are shown, Pablo Rosso), who cover the night shift in one of Barcelona's local fire stations for the fictional documentary television series "Mientras ustedes duermen (While You Sleep)". The firehouse receives a call from an apartment building about a woman who is trapped. When Manu (Ferrán Terraza) and Álex (David Vert) arrive, the police break down the door, with Ángela and Pablo recording their actions. The woman becomes extraordinarily aggressive and bites one of the policemen. Meanwhile, the terrified residents gather in the entrance hall, and look on as the police and military seal off the building.

THE WELT (Pregi) (2004)

Poland

Following the death of his mother in '80s Poland, 12-year-old Wojciech has become the main punching bag for his sadistic father. Administering beatings with his belt for the slightest provocation, Wojciech's father occasionally tries to bond with the kid but soon snaps back to abusive habits. Apart from Wojciech's friend, Bartek, no one does anything to help. Jump to present day, Wojciech is a furrow-browed journalist who spends most of his spare time spelunking alone. Just like his father, he has serious anger management issues. Fellow caver Tania feels inexplicably attracted to him but the love of a good woman may not be enough.

TO VERDENER / Worlds Apart (2008)

Denmark

Sara and her family proudly belong to Jehovah's Witnesses. In the local community they go from door to door and preach on Judgment Day and eternal salvation for Jehovah's chosen ones. But when Sara falls in love with Teis, she is confronted with her most difficult choice in life. Teis is not a Witness, yet their love grows through stolen, secret meetings. Sara is torn between her conscience, faith and passion, forced to make a choice between her love and her family that are worlds apart.

THE OTHER FINAL (2004)

Netherlands

This is the story of the 2002 Football Game between Bhutan and Montserrat. These two nations were on the bottom of the FIFA Ranking in 2002. But the actual game is only a small aspect in the movie. Both countries are introduced and their roads to the match are shown. Before the match the two nations never heard of one another. This cultural clash is also a very important aspect of the movie.

BEAUTY AND THE BASTARD (Tyttö sinä olet tähti) (2005)

Finland

A film about Finnish hiphop culture and young love; Sune is a hiphop DJ, no matter what. He comes from a ghetto and hiphop is all that matters. He makes beats to a rap group called Kärkiryhmä. For a labour job he is canning paint to fund his home studio. Nelli comes from a wealthy family. She is forced to study hard, but she daydreams about becoming an R 'n B star. When Sune and Nelli meet, it is the beginning of a relationship towards a record deal and romance.

FIMFARUM 2 (2006)

Czech Republic FIMFARUM 2 is compilation of 4 short fairy-tales, full of rustic humour, profound wisdom and amiable understanding for all humans in this world:

Tom Thumb is a hero that is the size of a thumb, but whose smartness beats brute force. Tom Thumb experiences many adventures alongside a random passer-by who turns out to be the King.

The Sea, Uncle, Why Is It Salty? This story is about two brothers and a magic grinder, that one brother received from Lucifer himself.

The Hunchbacks from Damascus - This story is about three hunchback brothers who look alike, the story centres around their break-up and return, and about Allah's sense of humour.

Three Sisters and One Ring is a modern fairy tale about three sisters who after finding a ring, decide to give it to the one that ridicules her husband the most.

O DELFIM (2002)

Portugal

In fascist Portugal of the late sixties a rich landowner leads an idle life of hunting (animals and women), drinking and enjoying himself. He owns everything and everybody around him - not only the objects, the horses, the dogs, the land and the lagoon but also the people like his servants and his own beautiful wife whom he keeps secluded inside his house like an

emulator of the old feudal lords. The triangle formed by him, his wife and his manservant is an ambiguous one and the tensions produced within it; end up in a tragic outcome.

AM ENDE KOMMEN TOURISTEN (2007)

Germany

AM ENDE KOMMEN TOURISTEN (literally: "In the end it's tourists coming") is a story of trans-generation and trans-national relations that gain extra-dynamics by the presence of the historical weight of the concentration camp of Auschwitz. The film has a very subtle way of mixing irony and cynicism, attention and ignorance, anger and joy, closeness and distance without making it feel constructed or misleading

PESI LEGGERI (2002)

Italy

This film about the amateur boxing circuit is set in Cagliari, Sardinia. The main characters are Nino, a talented boxer, and Giuseppe, a gifted but violent young man. Their trainer is Melis, a former European boxing champion and they are managed by Claudio. Maddi, Nino's girlfriend wants him to get a proper job, when he refuses, she starts going out with Giuseppe. The two boxers end up fighting over her and Melis throws Giuseppe out of the gym. Claudio refuses to abandon Giuseppe and finds him another trainer, Trudu. Trudu insists on setting up a fight between the former friends even though they belong to different categories. Claudio does everything in his power to avoid this happening, but all his efforts are in vain.

Online links:

- [Ster-Kinekor website](#)

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