

CinÉast 2019 – programme presentation

I. GENERAL PRESENTATION

Since 2008, the CinEast festival (the Central and Eastern European Film Festival in Luxembourg) has contributed significantly to cultural diversity in Luxembourg by presenting some of the best films and art that Central and Eastern European countries have to offer.

Since its first edition, the festival has grown considerably in its scope and diversity of programmes and has attracted a broader audience each year. In 2018, the festival screenings and other events attracted a total of around 10 400 people.

The festival programme is complemented by a variety of special events, bringing together different forms of art (music, photography, literature, etc.), thus promoting cultural exchange and friendship through meetings, debates, food and music. It also presents a rare occasion for audiences in Luxembourg to learn about and experience the cultures of the countries represented in a broader sense.

The festival is supported by several partners, including the City of Luxembourg, the Ministry of Culture, Cinémathèque, Neimënster, Kinopolis group, Film Fund Luxembourg, our main sponsors Docler Holding and Kulczyk Investments, as well as the embassies and cultural and film institutes of the countries represented.

II. KEY FEATURES IN 2019

The 12th edition of the CinEast festival will take place from 3 to 20 October 2019 and will feature over **120 screenings** (65 feature-length films and around 50 short films), as well as numerous accompanying events, including concerts, ciné-debates, two exhibitions, culinary events, special evenings and the CinEast Pro co-production forum.

Besides the **main festival venues** in the City of Luxembourg – the Cinémathèque, Neimënster and Ciné Utopia – screenings will also take place at the Ancien Cinéma in Vianden, and other cinemas around the country (Kulturfabrik in Esch-sur-Alzette, CNA in Dudelange, Rumelange and Mondorf-les-Bains). Several screenings will also be held at the Kino Achteinhalb cinema in Saarbrücken and special projections at Mudam and Banannefabrik (Trois C-L) are also planned. Furthermore, there will be several **school screenings** at the European Schools in Kirchberg and Mamer, the International School of Luxembourg, Lycée Technique in Luxembourg and Lycée agricole in Ettelbrück.

In 2019, the festival puts the spotlight on **Lithuania**, with a special focus including 5 feature films, guests and also a concert by the Lithuanian trio Baltic Balkan.

Currently, the festival covers films from all the former Communist countries that have become EU Members – Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia – as well as all the other countries of the former Yugoslavia, including Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo. Albania, Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia are also represented at the festival.

A **number of special events** will accompany the screenings, including a major photography exhibition at Neimënster entitled 'Down with Walls!', concerts and musical events at Melusina, Sang a Klang and Neimënster, as well as a ciné-concert (live soundtrack) at the Cinémathèque.

The festival will also host around **40 guests** (directors, actors, producers, experts etc.) who will attend screenings and engage in discussions with the audiences.

For the eighth time, the festival will organise a **co-production forum for film professionals** entitled 'CinEast Pro', which this year will take place at Neimënster, with a guided visit organised for the guests at Filmland in Kehlen. Organised in partnership with Film Fund Luxembourg, professional associations and film institutes, the aim of this forum is to develop CinEast as a platform for professionals from Luxembourg and Central and Eastern European countries to meet, present projects and foster collaborations.

III. FILM PROGRAMMING

The festival focuses on recent productions that may have won awards at big festivals, but film fans will also be able to watch some classics as well as films related to the '*Down with Walls!*' thematic cycle. In terms of genres, the vast majority of the films screened are feature-length fiction films, but a significant amount of screen time is also dedicated to documentaries and short films (fiction, animation and documentaries). With a few exceptions, the films will be screened as a Luxembourg premiere and several will have their Benelux and occasionally even international or world premiere.

É Official competition and jury

The **official competition** will consist of 7 selected films. The 2019 CinEast **Grand Prix** and the **Special Jury Prize** will be awarded by an **international jury**. A **Critics' Award** will also be presented by an independent **press jury** composed of film journalists (in cooperation with Association luxembourgeoise de la presse cinématographique). Audiences will have the chance to vote for the **Audience Award** for the best feature films, as well as three more audience awards to reward the best short documentary film, fiction film and animated film.

É Cinécycle

Several recent films and a number of older films will form part of the '*Down with Walls!*' thematic cycle. Celebrating 30 years after the fall of the Iron Curtain, the cycle will comprise a selection of films focusing on the physical walls that remain in Europe and elsewhere, as well as on the invisible barriers that still separate countries, communities and people. Some of these elements will also be at the heart of the traditional photography exhibition in the *Caves vouûtées* of Neimënster, realised in collaboration with Neimënster and the Pierre Werner Institute.

É Cinésections

The festival programme includes the following sections:

'*Official Competition*' (see above);

'*Cinéscope*': the most outstanding recent fiction films;

'*FunnyEast*': a selection of the best comedies from Central and Eastern European countries;

'*East Goes West*': a selection of films born somewhere between the "East" and the "West";

'*Cinédocs*': a selection of the best documentaries from Central and Eastern European countries;

'*Cinéshorts*': a selection of short fiction, animated and documentary films (see below);

'*Cinéspecials*': special screenings.

É Cinéfocuz

The festival will present a more detailed look at the work of the Bulgarian animation studio Compote Collective, the Romanian director Corneliu Porumboiu, the Czech production company Negativ, the Lithuanian cinematographer and director Vytautas Katkus and the Kosovar director Lendita Zeqiraj.

É Cinéshorts : short film marathons

Four **short film marathons** are planned at Neimënster and the Cinémathèque. Two will be dedicated to fiction shorts, one to animations and one to documentaries. Each of the marathons (110-170 min each) will be broken up by an interval during which free drinks and snacks will be served.

É Special evening events

The programme will be complemented by several themed evening events, including a Travellers' evening, a Skateboarding event, a Women's event, themed evenings "Times of Change" and "Immigrant's Life" and others. Special evenings devoted to several countries, with guests as well as snacks and typical drinks, are also foreseen – a Lithuanian evening (as part of the Focus on Lithuania), Serbian evening, Georgian evening, Slovak evening, Kosovar evening, Czech evening and Ukrainian evening.

É Cinéyouth: special programming for teenage, young and very young audiences

The 2019 programme includes several screenings aimed at children and teenagers. The '*CinEast meets Cinema Paradiso*' programme organised in collaboration with the Cinémathèque on three festival Sundays will bring a programme for the very young and a film for older children. A screening for the tiniest cinema-lovers – the traditional '*Kids shows*' with cartoons without dialogue for children from the age of 2 – will take place at Neimënster. As part of the Youth Screenings this year, CinEast will also host the avant-premiere of *Fritzi – A Revolutionary Tale* (Doghouse Films), as well as a festival premiere of *My Grandpa is an Alien* (Wady Films) – both films co-produced by Luxembourg.

A separate programme of special **school screenings** (reserved for pupils) will be organised in collaboration with Kinopolis as well as the two European Schools, the International School, the Lycée technique and the Lycée agricole in Ettelbrück.

IV. SPECIAL EVENTS

É Cinémusic (concerts)

As in previous years, the organisers have programmed a number of concerts accompanying the film programme:

- **Shantel and Bucovina Club Orkestar & Balkan Party** – one of the top ensembles mixing Eastern European sounds and club music, having collaborated also with Goran Bregović, Fanfara Ciocarlia, Mahala Rai Banda & dozens other musicians. The energetic selection of music presented by the 8-member group as part of their current *Disko Partizani* Years tour will be followed by a DJ set by DJ Shantel, at *Melusina* (04/10);
- **Ciné-concert** by the Romanian duo **Karpov not Kasparov** – live electronic music with oriental and jazz nuances to accompany the Soviet silent film *Happiness* (1934, by Aleksandr Medvedkin), at the *Cinémathèque*, followed by an afterparty in the nearby Rocas Café (10/10);
- **Slavic Night** with **Krambabula** (PL) – live music, short films, traditional food. A lively performance of the Polish folk-rock band at Sang a Klang and an after party with an eclectic set by the luxembourgish **DJ dr.gonZo** at Rocas Café (12/10);
- **Apero Jazz with Artur Dutkiewicz Trio** (PL) plays Hendrix & more - Jazzy Sunday morning in the company of one of the ambassadors of Polish jazz. Jazz reinterpretations of Hendrix's songs, as well as a selection of the trio's own compositions and film music tunes, *free entrance*, at *Neimënster* (13/10).
- **Closing Party** with **Malaka Hostel** (DE) and **Baltic Balkan** (LT) – two energetic shows for the official closing of the festival: the German band Malaka Hostel and the Lithuanian collective Baltic Balkan, at *Melusina* (19/10).

É Cinéart (exhibitions)

An extensive photography exhibition following the festival's main thematic cycle – "*Down With Walls!*" will be held at the Caves voûtées of Neimënster, showcasing over 100 photographs by German, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish and UK artists. The exhibition presents six projects dealing with physical and invisible barriers remaining in our societies and around the world. Another photography exhibition showcasing the works of the Bulgarian artist Ivan Bogdanov will be presented at the Ancien Cinéma Vianden.

É Cinédebates

Several debates with special guests will accompany our screenings.

- ciné-debate reflecting on the **30 years of transformation** and the remaining barriers after the fall of the Iron Curtain after the screening of the film *Good Bye Lenin!* by the German director Wolfgang Becker. In partnership with the Pierre Werner Institute (Neimënster, 9/10)

- ciné-debate on the topic “**Break Your Own Walls**” after the screening of the documentary *Little Star Rising* and in presence of the protagonist Nudžejma Softić, the first hijab-wearing woman in Europe to finish the Ironman triathlon, and the motivational speaker/ex-golf professional Caroline Mohr Larsson as a special guest (Women’s Event, Neimënster, 6/10)
- ciné-debate on **alternative and responsible tourism**, in the framework of the “Travellers’ Evening”, after the projection of the film *Trabant: There and Back Again* by Dan Pribáň, in the presence of the director and two Luxembourg-based travellers (diaries of) Neimënster 9/10)
- ciné-debate on **alternative ways of living** after the projection of the documentary film *Village of Swimming Cows* by Katarzyna Trzaska, in her presence. In collaboration with the cycle “Monde en doc” (Cinémathèque, 07/10)
- discussion on **the rights and discriminations of the LGBT community in Eastern and Western Europe**, after the screening of the film *Nina* by Olga Chajdas, in presence of the director of the film and other guests(Neimënster, 11/10)
- ciné-debate on **the risks of social media for teenagers** after the projection of the Hungarian film *Hope You’ll Die Next Time :)* by Michály Schwechtje, in presence of the director and an expert on the topics of grooming and cyberbullying (Neimënster, 05/10)
- ciné-debate on **skateboarding as a lifestyle** after the projection of the documentary film *King Skate* by Šimon Šafránek, moderated by Sébastien Vécrin and Dan Gantrel(Neimënster, 04/10)

É Cinégastronomy

As in previous years, the festival will also provide many occasions to taste the food of the countries represented:

- **Gastronomic evening** at *Bosso Restaurant* with a rich selection of dishes from the countries represented (8/10);
- **Gastronomic evening** at *Bovary Café* with a selection of dishes from Eastern Europe (16/10);
- **Slavic night** with Polish and other dishes & snacks at *Sang a Klang* (12/10);
- **Opening and closing parties** with a selection of traditional Eastern European dishes (*Melusina*);
- **Drinks and snacks** following numerous screenings;
- **Traditional refreshments** offered during the short film sessions;
- **Minibar** with traditional snacks & drinks during the whole festival at the *Cinémathèque*.

É Charity project

For the twelfth edition, the festival will support a project in Moldova aiming at buying instruments for a school. More details at www.cineast.lu

V. FILMS (selection)

During the 2019 edition, audiences will be able to see over 65 feature-length and 50 short films, many of which have received awards at major festivals.

- Honeyland** by Ljubomir Stefanov & Tamara Kotevska (Sundance 2019 – Grand Jury Prize, Special Jury Award for Impact and Change, Best Cinematography Award, Macedonia’s Oscar entry)
- Inhale-exhale** by Dito Tsintsadze (Shanghai 2019 – Grand Jury Prize & Best Actress)
- And Then We Danced** by Levan Akin (Director’s Fortnight in Cannes 2019, Sweden’s Oscar entry)
- Take Me Somewhere Nice** by Ena Sendjarević (Best Film at Sarajevo IFF 2019, Special Mention at Rotterdam IFF 2019)
- My Thoughts Are Silent** by Antonio Lukich (Special Jury Prize at Karlovy Vary IFF 2019, East of the West competition)
- God Exists, Her Name Is Petrunya** by Teona Strugar Mitevska (Berlinale 2019 Official Competition, LUX Film Prize 2019 finalist)
- Homeward** by Nariman Aliev (Cannes 2019 – Un Certain Regard, Grand Prix at Odessa IFF 2019; Ukraine’s entry for the Oscars)
- Monsters.** by Marius Olteanu (Berlinale 2019 – Forum, Best Feature at Sofia IFF 2019)
- Mr Jones** by Agnieszka Holland (Berlinale 2019 – Official Competition)
- Oleg** by Juris Kursietis (Cannes 2019 – Directors' Fortnight)
- Stitches** by Miroslav Terzić (Berlin IFF 2019 – Panorama, Europa Cinemas Label Award)
- The Painted Bird** by Václav Marhoul (Venice 2019 – Main Competition, Toronto 2019 - Special Presentations)

The Whistlers by Corneliu Porumboiu (Cannes FF 2019 – Official Competition, Romania’s Oscar entry)
Corpus Christi by Jan Komasa (Venice 2019 – Giornate degli Autori, Poland’s Oscar entry)
Forman vs. Forman by Jakub Hejna & Helena Třeštíková (Karlovy Vary Special Events, Cannes 2019 Classics)
and many more

More information: www.cineast.lu

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