

CinEast 2020 – films in competition

CHARLATAN / ŠARLATÁN

(Czech Republic-Ireland-Poland-Slovakia 2020) by AGNIESZKA HOLLAND

Web: <https://filmsboutique.com/movies/charlatan/>

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OK2VypjntDc>

Jan Mikolášek, herbalist and healer, has dedicated his life to caring for the sick. A loosely inspired biopic, the film brings to a wider audience a cult Czech figure, whose patients span from local villagers to Nazi officers. A thorough and intriguing study of a nuanced character whose life spans several major political events of 20th century Europe.

DRITA / DRITA

(Kosovo-USA 2019) by DANIEL KRUGLIKOV

Web: <https://www.cineimage.ch/film/drita/>

clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0lBiNx_fkU

Flamur and Drita are in love, but he feels compelled to leave violence-ridden Kosovo while she prefers to stay. Their relationship takes a tragic turn. When Flamur returns to Pristina, Drita is gone. He knows who is to blame but not what to do with this disquieting knowledge. *Drita* is a haunting, cinematic poem about the destructive cycle of violence, wrestling with one's own traditions and the redeeming force of love. A riveting story of revenge.

FATHER / OTAC

(RS-FR-DE-HR-BA-SI 2020) by SRDAN GOLUBOVIĆ

Web: <https://www.the-match-factory.com/catalogue/films/father.html>

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCXUfzEhfKA>

When his wife, submerged in the depths of poverty and social neglect, commits a desperate act, Nikola is forced to surrender his children to foster care. This compelling road odyssey fuelled by despair, zooms in on a fight against injustice by the most vulnerable: a father fighting for his children, in the name of parental love.

MARE

(Switzerland-Croatia 2020) by ANDREA ŠTAKA

Web: <https://www.mare-film.com/>

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1hFaefRSnk&feature=emb_logo

Story of a middle-aged woman who realizes that there is more to life than taking care of her house and family. *Mare* offers a delicate study of solitude and quiet thirst for fulfillment. A modest, but elegantly crafted film, it is very strong on detail and impressive and powerful in its central performance.

OTTO THE BARBARIAN / OTTO BARBARUL

(Romania-Belgium 2020) by RUXANDRA GHIȚESCU

Web: <https://cineuropa.org/en/film/390569/#cm>

A 17-year-old punk finds himself entangled in the social services' investigation of his girlfriend's suicide. Between poetic video footage of his beautiful Laura and shoulder-camera travels with Otto through his angry and troubled days and nights, the youngster struggles to face others' expectations of him.

SERVANTS / SLUŽOBNÍCI

(Slovakia-Romania-Czech Republic-Ireland 2020) by IVAN OSTROCHOVSKÝ

Web: <https://www.loco-films.com/servants>

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqwX8tMrIWc>

1980s totalitarian Czechoslovakia. Juraj and Michal, two high-school friends, enter a theological seminary where every student faces the difficult decision of whether to conform and collaborate with the regime, or choose the path of resistance and become subject to draconian surveillance by the secret police. A well-crafted film-noirish drama of temptation, courage and faith.

SPIRAL / SPIRÁL

(Hungary-Romania 2020) by CECÍLIA FELMÉRI

Web: <https://librafilm.net/work/spiral/>

This slow-paced, beautifully filmed and strangely intense movie, with the impressive performance of Bogdan Dumitrache, the leading actor, tells the darkly gripping story of a love triangle, of letting-go of the past, reconciliation with the present, and finding peace of mind. Set in a small house by a quiet fishing pond, *Spiral* is a surprising and wonderfully accomplished feature film debut.

STORIES FROM THE CHESTNUT WOODS / ZGODBE IZ KOSTANJEVIH GOZDOV

(Slovenia-Italy 2019) by GREGOR BOŽIČ

Web: <https://cercamon.jimdo.com/new-films/stories-from-the-chestnut-woods/>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/356346879>

The time of WW2. A village on the Italian-Slovene border. Mario, an old widower, encounters Marta, a young chestnut seller who dreams of starting a new life abroad. A melancholic, poetic film about the haunting presence of

the past and the power of imagination. It has an intoxicatingly beautiful cinematography and the sad, languorous fluidity of a dream.

