

## 2nd Russian Film Festival

Following the success of the 1st Russian Film Festival in London, Academia Rossica is proud to present the 2nd edition of this unique cinematic event!

'For us the cinema is the most important of all arts' as Vladimir Lenin famously proclaimed in the early 1920's. Many years have passed since his statement, and Russia underwent various political, cultural and social changes, however, one thing remains intact – Cinema indeed continues to play an extremely important role in shaping the cultural identity of the Russian nation.

Having its roots in the great cinematic tradition of Eisenstein, Vertov, Donskoi, Kalatozov, and Tarkovsky, contemporary Russian cinema never ceases to evolve, and it continues to flourish with new talents. The Russian Film Festival in London aims to present Russia's vibrant, versatile and cultivated cinema scene, in showcasing very recent award-winning works of highest stylistic and thematic quality.

The year 2008 sees the centenary of Russian cinema. Join us at the Russian film festival to celebrate and honour the great cinematic tradition!

Pawel Pawlikowski, film director: "Russian film festival in London is a bracing experience. Russia may be in the grip of suffocating political conformism, but its cinema hasn't lost its anarchic vigour and bite and keeps surprising us with extraordinary works for which this festival is a great platform."

Svetlana Adjoubei, Founding Director of Academia Rossica: "These days Russian cinema is experiencing a spectacular revival. Emerging young talents overtake old masters and seek for new forms of expression. We are very privileged to be able to present this new wave of vibrant, award winning films at our festival."

## Organisers

**ACADEMIA ROSSICA** (London) is the organiser of the Russian Film Festival in London. The organisation seeks to present the best of Russian culture to the international audience in order to strengthen cultural and intellectual links between Russia and other countries.

Academia Rossica realises a diverse programme of projects including: Russian Literature Week, the Rossica Translation Prize, the participation of Russian literati in British literary festivals and London Book Fair, the publication of ROSSICA Journal, international review of Russian heritage and culture, and much more. Please visit [www.academia-rossica.org](http://www.academia-rossica.org) for further information.

**Sovexportfilm** (Moscow) is an independent organisation specialising in the promotion and distribution of Russian film internationally. Sovexportfilm have been supportive partners of the Russian Film Festival since its inception.

**The Boris Yeltsin Foundation** (Moscow) The First President of Russia B. Yeltsin Foundation is an independent charitable organisation. It strives to promote humanitarian and cultural cooperation and an open exchange of ideas and information between Russia and the West. [www.yeltsin.ru](http://www.yeltsin.ru)

**Ruskiy Mir Foundation** (Moscow) is a joint project of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Science created in 2007 to promote the Russian language, as Russia's national heritage and a significant aspect of Russian and world culture.

The Russian Ministry of Culture

The Russian Embassy in London

## Publication

A special issue of Rossica Journal will be published to mark the Centenary of Russian cinema.

The overarching theme of this issue is a comparison of how Russia perceives itself, and its cinema, and how it is perceived by the West. It is a well known fact that the same events and works of art are seen in Russia itself, and by the West, as bearing different, sometimes opposite meanings. ROSSICA explores these differences of interpretation taking examples from the 100 years of Russian cinema. The main points for exploration and evaluation are:

Differences in the interpretation of Russian cinema by the West and by Russia itself - its different heroes, differences in characteristics which appear positive, differences in ambitions. Both perspectives are creating their own mythology of Russian cinema, but why are they so different? Which is the more real?

New Russian cinema in relation to traditions - how Russia is trying to identify itself in the world of contemporary culture/cinema, relying on its traditional strengths. This will be discussed with particular reference to the films presented at 2nd Russian Film Festival, London. The book will include articles by distinguished film specialists, such as Ian Christie, Mikhail Yampolsky, Mike O'Mahoney, Andrey Plakhov, Evgeny Tsymbal and others. ROSSICA strives to maintain a high intellectual standard for its articles, while making an academic expertise available to wider audiences. It strives to be inspirational, engaging, playful and provocative as well as informative.

The book will be available from [academia-rossica.org](http://academia-rossica.org) and [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)

All Russian Film Festival screenings at the Apollo West End cinema, unless otherwise stated: 19 Lower Regent Street, London SW1 to book tickets visit [www.apollocinemas.co.uk](http://www.apollocinemas.co.uk) or call 0871 220 6000

Subscribe to AR E-news for Russian Film Festival updates and more Russia-related events happening in the UK.



The Russian Ministry of Culture

The Russian Embassy in London

## Partners

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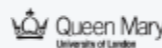
ArtKino

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ЛОНДОН INFO

РУССКАЯ МЫСЛЬ



# RUSSIAN

100 YEARS OF  
RUSSIAN  
CINEMA

# FILM

# FESTIVAL

"Russia is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma; but perhaps there is a key"... perhaps cinema is the key

Apollo West End  
19 Lower Regent Street, London SW1  
tickets 0871 220 6000

# 18-29 Sept 2008

[www.academia-rossica.org](http://www.academia-rossica.org)

above quote: Winston Churchill

cover image: still from Yuri's Day, dir. Kirill Serebrennikov



# RUSSIAN FILM FESTIVAL 2008

## PROGRAMME

We are proud to present the 2<sup>nd</sup> Russian Film Festival in London, showcasing inspiring and provocative work of internationally established and debut filmmakers, the festival provides British audiences a chance to see multifaceted nature of contemporary Russian cinema.

18/09 at 6:45 **Live to Remember**  
27/09 at 8:30 **Russia, 2008, 100 min dir. Alexander Proshkin**  
Officially selected to open the 19th Kinotavr film festival, this film is an adaptation of Valentin Rasputin's short story. Presented by stars Darya Moroz and Mikhail Evlanov and producer Ruben Dishdizhyan.

21/09 at 6:00 **Terra Nova**  
23/09 at 6:00 **Russia, 2008, 140 min dir. Alexander Melnik**  
2013, the entire world has abolished capital punishment, prisons are overcrowded. The international community decides to launch an experiment 'Terra Nova'. Presented by actor Andrei Feskov and director Alexander Melnik.

20/09 at 8:00 **12**  
22/09 at 8:00 **Russia, 2007, 153 min dir. Nikita Mikhalkov**  
12 characters, 12 truths. A story of 12 jurors discussing to pass the verdict on a Chechen boy, who murdered his step father, an officer in the Russian army. Presented by actors Sergei Garmash, Roman Madianov, Sergei Gazarov (tbc).

21/09 at 8:00 **Simple Things**  
22/09 at 6:00 **Russia, 2007, 110 min dir. Alexei Popogrebsky**  
A tender, subtle and nuanced portrayal of simple everyday life, this is the first solo work from one of the creators of 'Roads to Koktebel'. Presented by producer Roman Borisevich (tbc).

25/09 at 8:00 **Wild Field**  
26/09 at 6:00 **Russia, 2008, 104 min dir. Mikhail Kalatozishvili**  
A film created by the grandson of the great Mikhail Kalatozov, the only Russian director to ever win a Palme d'Or. Presented by actor Oleg Dolin, and director Mikhail Kalatozishvili.

28/09 at 6:00 **Best of Times**  
27/09 at 5:00 **Russia, 2007, 93 min dir. Svetlana Proskurina**  
The narrative of this film is deceptively simple. Two women, are looking back on a distant youth in which, together with a man called Valentin, they formed a tragic love triangle. Presented by director Svetlana Proskurina.

23/09 at 8:00 **Cruelty**  
24/09 at 6:00 **Russia, 2007, 90 min dir. Marina Liubakova**  
Vika is a teenage girl longing for independence. One day, her photograph captures an intimate encounter between Zoya (Renata Litvinova) and her married lover. Presented by director Marina Liubakova.

27/09 at 6:00 **20 Cigarettes**  
29/09 at 8:30 **Russia, 2007, 90 min dir. Alexander Gornovskiy**  
This dynamic and ironic work comes from the award winning scriptwriter of Pavel Lungin's 'The Island'. A day in the life of Moscow businessman. Presented by actor Ilya Lubimov, scriptwriter Dmitry Sobolev, producer Irina Smolko.

19/09 at 8:30 **Nirvana**  
20/09 at 6:00 **Russia, 2008, 93 min Dir. Igor Voloshin**  
A touching story about love and betrayal, and ultimately about a friendship between Alissa and Val - two girls living in one city. Presented by director Igor Voloshin, and actor Mikhail Evlanov.

28/09 at 7:00 **Yuri's Day**  
29/09 at 6:00 **Russia, 2008, 137 min dir. Kirill Serebrennikov**  
A world famous opera diva arrives in her native town of Youriev-Polskii to show it to her teenage son before they both leave Russia for Europe; Lubov's son mysteriously disappears. Presented by actress Xenia Rappaport.

19/09 at 6:00 **A Melody for German**  
**Russia, 2007, 26 min written and directed by Ivan Bolotnikov**  
A documentary film about an outstanding Russian filmmaker Alexei German. An honest and informal narrative told by the filmmaker about his life, his films and things that trouble him.

**Rock Monologue**  
**Russia, 2007, 69 min written and directed by Vladimir Kozlov**  
A documentary about the legendary musician Yuri Morozov, who created a subversive, rebellious new style of Eastern rock during the Brezhnev era. The film features previously unseen KG footage, as well as home-made videos of underground rock concerts. It was made under the creative patronage of Otar Iosseliani. Presented by director Vladimir Kozlov.

26/09 at 8:30 **The Drunken Sailor**  
**Russia, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Italy, 2007, 90 min written and directed by Sergei Bodrov**  
The RFF 2008 is proud to announce Sergei Bodrov's fascinating and personal documentary 'The Drunken Sailor'. Best known for his hugely successful Oscar-nominated epic 'The Mongol', this new work is dedicated to the legendary and controversial band 'The Tiger Lilies'.

25/09 at 6:00 **Virginity**  
Presented by **Vitaly Mansky**  
**Russia, 2008, 89 min Directed by Vitaly Mansky, text by Dmitry Bykov**  
Three teen girls, all over 18, make the journey from the provinces to Moscow in order to sell or barter the one possession they believe is of any value, their maidenhood.

**Documentary Fiction vs. Fictional Documentary**  
As part of the programme of documentaries, a round table conference between top Russian and British documentary filmmakers will be held. The conference will promote discussion on the contemporary borders between documentary and feature film.

Documentary film-making has always played a key role in Russian cinema. From Vertov's groundbreaking films to the latest success of Gai Germanika.



## DOCS

## DISCUSSIONS

The festival serves as a platform for inter-cultural dialogue – both between film professionals themselves and between film-makers and audiences. Leading directors and actors come to London to introduce their films, participate in discussions and master-classes.

**Documentary Fiction vs. Fictional Documentary**  
25/09 at 4:00 **Apollo West End**  
A roundtable discussion on the past, present and future of documentary filmmaking. Top Russian and British filmmakers and critics will discuss the changing boundaries between documentary and fiction in contemporary film. The discussion will be followed by a screening of a new film by Vitaly Mansky 'Virginity' (text by Dmitry Bykov).

**Archives and Films: Witnesses of Time Regained**  
27/09 at 4:00 **Apollo West End**  
A master class with Evgeny Tsymbal, a filmmaker and a historian, about the role of archives in cinema. He will be discussing the role of historical archives in the context of documentary and feature filmmaking. Evgeny Tsymbal is the only BAFTA-winning Russian film director. Little known to mainstream film goers, he is well respected in Russian and European artistic and intellectual circles as a documentary filmmaker, writer and film historian. Part of the Open Rehearsal programme.

**Film Festival: Art or Business?**  
28/09 at 4:00 **Apollo West End**  
Andrei Plakhov, leading Russian film critic and chairman of selection committee at the International Moscow film festival, will be in conversation with Tim Platt (tbc). Andrei Plakhov, a leading film critic and programmer for numerous national and international film festivals, will be discussing their remarkable careers and sharing their thoughts on the subject of cinema and film festivals.

**The Filmmaker and Humanitarian Values**  
29/09, 11:00am - 1:00pm **BAFTA 95 Piccadilly**  
This roundtable discussion of international experts from Russia, Italy, Germany and USA will focus on the following topics:  
• The Filmmaker and his Role in the Humanising and Dehumanising of Society  
• Governmental Support for Filmmakers  
• Film Licensing: Protectionism or obstacles removed?  
• Author's Rights and the Problems of Film Piracy

Russian participants include:  
Mikhail Shvidkoy, Special Representative of the President of Russia for Cultural Collaboration;  
Alexander Golutva, Deputy Minister for Culture of the Russian Federation  
Ekaterina Chukovskaya, Deputy Minister for Culture of the Russian Federation  
Andrei Plakhov, Vice-President of the International Film Press Federation  
Kirill Razlogov, Director of the Institute of Cultural Studies, Moscow.

Organised jointly by Academia Rossica and the Institute of International Expertise, Moscow. **Accreditation** to this event is essential – please write to films@academia-rossica.org

**International Film Collaboration & Co-productions**  
29/09, 2:00 - 4:00pm **BAFTA 95 Piccadilly**  
This part of the roundtable will focus on possibilities of international collaboration in film making. In particular with the involvement of Russian film makers.  
Leading Russian film producers will be taking part in this discussion.

25/09 at 2:00 **Cine Fantom**  
The legendary Moscow film club, founded by the brothers Igor and Gleb Aleynikov, present their special collection of short films – a collage of soviet news chronicles, conventional sketches and animations on the subject of constant revolution. **Tractors** USSR, 1987, 12 min. Fiction **Metastases** USSR, 1984, 16 min. experimental video **I'm Frigid/But it Doesn't Matter** USSR, 1987, 16 min. **Revolutionary Sketch** USSR, 1987, 7 min. **Boris and Gleb** USSR, 1988, 10 min.

21/09 at 4:00 **Art Kino**  
ArtKino is a Moscow film club whose aim is to revive the tradition of auteur cinema in Russia. It also organises a festival of short and documentary films. The ArtKino programme will present a selection of short documentary and fiction films, produced by the young filmmakers in the last two years.

23/09 at 6:00 **The Blue Noses**  
The Blue Noses, aka artists Alexander Shaburov and Vyacheslav Mizin, are one of the most internationally famous Russian art-groups. Taking part in all major contemporary art biennales and media-forums, the The Blue Noses work consists of video-art, performance and collage. Presented by Alexander Shaburov.

20/09 at 4:00 **Flash Smash: Russian Digital Animation**  
A show of animation produced by independent animators who create macabre atmosphere throughout their work. With full aesthetic confidence they present gripping narratives of imaginary worlds populated with elusive creatures and filled with fantastic visions. Their work is a commentary on our contemporary society and new cultural practices. Compiled and presented by Vlad Strukov

