



2nd Russian Film Festival in London 18-28 September, Apollo West End

PRESS RELEASE

The official main programme of the 2nd Russian Film Festival in London has been announced!

Academia Rossica and Sovexportfilm are proud to present 10 theatrical premieres of the best award winning Russian films produced in 2007-2008. In showcasing inspiring and provocative work of internationally established and debut filmmakers the festival will demonstrate the multifaceted nature of contemporary Russian cinema. It will provide the British audience with a chance to see very recent, high-quality works in the full diversity of their genres, themes and styles.

The Festival will serve as a platform for inter-cultural dialogue between Russian and UK audiences and filmmakers. Leading directors and actors will be introducing their films, participating in Q&A sessions and offering master-classes.

Programme

Live to Remember

Russia, 2008, 100 min

Dir. Alexander Proshkin

Officially selected to open 19th Sochi film festival Kinotavr 2008, this film is an adaptation of Valentin Rasputin's short story.

Terra Nova

Russia, 2008, 140 min

Dir. Alexander Mel'nik

It is 2013. The entire world has abolished capital punishment. Prisons are overcrowded with ex-convicted men. The international community decides to launch an experiment entitled 'Terra Nova'.

12

Russia, 2007, 153 min

Dir. Nikita Mikhalkov

12 characters, 12 truths. A story of 12 jurors discussing the verdict to pass on an 18-year old Chechen boy accused of the 1st degree murder of his step father, an officer of the Russian army.

Simple Things

Russia, 2007, 110 min

Dir. Alexei Popogrebsky

A tender, subtle and nuanced portrayal of simple everyday life, 'Simple Things' is the first solo work from one of the creators of 'Roads to Koktebel'. The film swept the board of awards at Kinotavr 2007.

Wild Field

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. 'Wild Field' tells the story of a young doctor called Dmitri who is sent to the Kazakh steppe.

Best of Times

Russia, 2007, 93 min

Dir. Svetlana Proskurina

The narrative in Svetlana Proskurina's latest film is deceptively simple. Two middle-aged women, Katia and Valia, are looking back on a distant youth in which, together with a man called Valentin, they formed a tragic love triangle.

Cruelty

Russia, 2007, 90 min

Dir. Marina Liubakova

Zoya is a successful but lonely business woman in her thirties. Vika is a teenage girl longing for independence. Her favourite pastime is photographing the life in the windows of a neighbouring house. One day, her photograph captures an intimate encounter between Zoya and her married lover.

20 Cigarettes

Russia, 2007, 90 min

Dir. Alexander Gornovsky

This dynamic and ironic work comes from the award winning scriptwriter of Pavel Lungin's 'The Island'. The film follows a day in the life of Moscow businessman Andrei, as events take ever more dramatic turns with each cigarette that he smokes.

Nirvana

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.

Yuri's Day

Russia, 2008, 137 min

Dir. Kirill Serebrennikov

Liubov, a world famous opera diva, arrives in her native town of Youriev-Polskii in order to show it to her teenage son before they both leave Russia for Europe. During a visit to the local Kremlin, Liubov's son mysteriously disappears.

The programme of documentary, shorts and animation films as well as screening times will be announced shortly.

Symposium

On 29 September prominent Russian and British film professionals will participate in a symposium focusing on the following subjects:

- Film and Politics
- Russia and Britain – Film-making Collaboration

Publication

A special issue of ROSSICA will accompany the Festival. Its overarching theme is a comparison of the way in which Russia perceives itself and its cinema, and how these are perceived in the West. It is well known that the same events and works of art can be interpreted in extremely different and often directly contradictory ways in Russia and in the West. The publication will explore these differences in reception and interpretation, celebrating the centenary of Russian cinema by drawing on examples from 100 years of Russian cinematic production.

Venue

The Apollo West End Cinema, with its 5 screens and stylish bar will play host to the festival. We recommend booking tickets well in advance. Priority will be given to Rossica Film Club members, ROSSICA journal subscribers and to members of Apollo Cinemas.

Organisers

The Festival is organised by Academia Rossica, in partnership with the Russian Ministry of Culture, the Russian Embassy in London, Sovexportfilm (Moscow), The Boris Yeltsin Foundation (Moscow), VTB Bank (Moscow/London) and Peter Hambro Mining (London).

Tickets will be available for purchase from **5 September** at <http://www.apollocinemas.co.uk/index.php>

To receive updates on the Russian Film Festival please sign up to our **e-news**
<http://www.academia-rossica.org/en/signup>

For press registration please go to our **Press registration** page

<http://www.academia-rossica.org/en/film/russian-film-festival/press6>

For industry delegate registration please go to our **Industry registration** page:

<http://www.academia-rossica.org/en/film/russian-film-festival/industry>

RFF organisers contact

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