



## Hottest news of contemporary world cinema in less than one month at the 10th IFF Bratislava

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### PRESS RELEASE

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Bratislava, November 5, 2008 – **Hottest news of contemporary world cinematography, interesting guests, and rich accompanying programme – this will be the contribution of the 10th International Film Festival Bratislava (IFF Bratislava), which will begin in less than one month in Bratislava. The Festival will take place from November 28 to December 5, 2008 in Palace Cinemas in Aupark. Five of its theatres will offer approximately 220 films from 36 countries in 9 programme sections. The jubilee year will also bring along several novelties.**

The main change occurred in the highest position of the IFF Bratislava - the position of Executive Manager of the Festival, which was taken by Ing Mária Reháková in summer of this year. In short time she introduced several new ideas and visions, among them also expansion of the Festival into metropolises of the Central and Eastern Slovakia, with the aim to add a Slovak-wide character to the Festival. This means that also film lovers in **Banská Bystrica** and **Košice** will have an opportunity to see high-quality films of contemporary world cinema. The Košice premiere will take place in Cinemax on Sunday, November 30, 2008; the overture in Banská Bystrica is planned for Thursday, December 4, 2008 in Europa Cinemas.

The biggest attention will – traditionally – be paid to *International Competition of First and Second Feature Films*, which represents the main festival section. The non-competitive sections include *Made in Europe*, *Off the Mainstream*, *GMT*, *Focus: Music and Film*, *Asylum – short films*, *Slovak Films 2008*, *Special Events*, and *VideoArt*.

*The International Competition of First and Second Feature Films* offers each year an interesting confrontation of debuting directors. This year, 14 titles from 15 countries of the world will compete for the prizes. Among expected films of this section undoubtedly belongs screening of the night mare *Los Bastardos* by young Mexican director Amat Escalante, or in Venice awarded and extremely successful directing debut of experienced scriptwriter Gianni de Gregoria *Mid-August Lunch (Pranzo di ferragosto)*. The Jury's favour will try to gain also Guatemalan *Gasolina*, French *Versailles*, Romanian *Hooked (Pescuit sportiv)*, Norwegian *Cold Lunch (Lønsj)*, Czech *Night Owls (Děti noci)* and 7 more films, which have already been awarded at significant international festivals.

The year 2008 was rich also in remarkable European films. Convinced about this will be the visitors of the section *Made in Europe*, which will include films of the old continent, which were awarded at prestigious festivals in 2008. The organisers expect great interest in screening of the laureate of this year's Palme d'Or of Cannes – the French film *The Class (Entre les murs)* by director Laurent Cantet. Among other crowd-pullers awarded in Cannes belong *Lorna's Silence (Le silence de Lorna)* by the Belgian Dardenne brothers, *Palermo Shooting* by Wim Wenders, or senior "porno" *Cloud 9 (Wolke 9)* by German director Andreas Dresen. The visitors can also look forward to the Italian *Gomorra* on Naples mafia practices.

The Festival will, however, focus not only on Europe; the section *GMT* will offer a view of the contemporary North American and Asian film. Woody Allen (*Vicky Cristina Barcelona*) or Clint Eastwood *Changeling* will confront their present heading. Apart from films of famous American directors, the viewers will have an opportunity to see Takeshi Kitana's *Achilles and the Tortoise (Akires to kame)* and Philippine documentary by Francis Pasion – *Jay*. Action-film drama lovers will appreciate *Hellride* – a motor-bikers story directed by Larry Bishop and produced by Quentin Tarantino.

Similarly to previous years, the Festival will include the programme section *Off the Mainstream*, which focuses on original methods avoiding the stereotypes of mainstream commercial cinematography. Films in this section will lead us into a world of vampires in a snowy Swedish housing estate *Let the Right One In (Låt den rätte komma in)*, of gunfights in Moscow streets *The Hard-Hearted (Kremen)*, but also on a journey with a Transylvanian Roma smuggling a German Sheppard puppy for an Egyptian sheikh *Bahrtalo! Good Luck! (Bahrtalo! (Jó szerencsét!))*. Apart from bizarre works the section offers space also to a dramatic story of relationships on destroyed Thai beaches *Wonderful Town* or a documentary on children prison at Ural *Alone in Four Walls (Allein in vier Wänden)*.

Festival visitors will also have the chance to enjoy connection of film and music for the seventh time. This year the section *Focus: Music and Film* will introduce various styles – from rock to reggae. Short-footage film lovers can start looking forward to 1-minute and 5-minute film screenings, this year enriched by the offer of section *Asylum – short films*. The viewers will at the same time be allowed to influence decision of the Jury on the final ranking of 1-minute and 5-minute films, while the selected films from the 1-minute section will represent Slovakia at 12 festivals all over the world.

The section *Slovak Films 2008* will present the most interesting films of contemporary Slovak cinematography, including premieres. Alongside the internationally successful *Blind Loves* of Juraj Lehotský, the section will screen a new film by Dušan Rapoš - *Cinka Panna*, two latest works by Pavol Barabáš – *Bhutan – Searching for Happiness* and *Carstenz – the Seventh Mountain*, as well as the premiere of Viktor Csudai's summer comedy *Great Respect*. A special place will be dedicated to student films.

This year's topic of the section *Special Events* will be personalities. The fashion icon Valentino, Russian filmmaker Tarkovsky, photographer Annie Leibovitz, or the inglorious, but also engrained recidivist and talented writer René Plášil will introduce themselves in the twilight of the theatres, joined by Madonna as a debuting director of the film *Filth and Wisdom*.

**The Bratislava Film Festival will celebrate its jubilee by a show of the best and most interesting offered by the contemporary film art. The visitors can await strong emotions, expert discussions, and exciting experience not only at watching the films, but also at meetings with filmmakers who will come to introduce their films. More information about the Festival will be continually updated at [www.iffbratislava.sk](http://www.iffbratislava.sk).**

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**Main Festival organisers:**

Partners Production, Ltd.  
Ars Nova, civic association  
Agentúra Promotion, s.r.o.

**Further information at:** [www.iffbratislava.sk](http://www.iffbratislava.sk)

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