

All at the Beach! section to warm up IFF Bratislava festival nights

It is not by chance that the most important cinema festivals, starting with Cannes, take place on the seaside. In the absence of beach in Slovakia, IFF Bratislava starting on November 5th will prolong the summer by celebrating the inspiring power of this magic place. Meeting point of the earth, the sea and the sky, the beach is inherently cinematic. It is therefore not surprising that this place has been an endless source of inspiration for filmmakers.

Aside from its competition sections IFF Bratislava each year presents three focus sections. One of them is **All at the beach!** dedicated to films connected to the ocean the beach and the unique aura these places create. The section will include nine feature films (most of them never screened in Slovakia) and one program conceived of eight European shorts. **All at the beach!** will offer a blend of fresh talent and well known classics - true masters, like Takeshi Kitano with one of his first features **A Scene at the Sea** (1991), a lyrical masterpiece about a deaf teenager dreaming of becoming a surf champion. Fred Zinnemann's **From Here to Eternity** (1953) is a the perfect choice for romantics. With 8 Oscars out of 13 nominations this classic is famed for the kiss on a deserted Hawaii beach, one of the longest in the cinema history. Luchino Visconti's **Death in Venice** (1971), a true masterpiece, of which it was said that shots could be extracted from the frame and hung on the walls of the Louvre. The section will also honor the recently deceased legend of French cinema, Eric Rohmer with **Pauline at the Beach** (1983), one his most playful films, a charming summer romance set on the coast of Normandy.

The most recent works presented in the section will bring a fresh cinematic breeze all the way from the Pacific. Set on a luxuriant beach of Bahía Ballena National Park, Paz Fabrega's first film (a Rotterdam Tiger Award winner) **Cold Water of the Sea** (2010) is a beautiful portray of two female characters. Pedro González-Rubio's **To the Sea** (2009) depicts a journey of father and his son into the open sea, heading for Banco Chinchorro, one of the largest coral reefs on the planet. A unique film that transcends the feeling of harmony upon those who see it collected awards in Rotterdam (Tiger Award), and Morelia (Best Mexican Feature Film & Audience Award). Oscar Ruíz Navia's **Crab Trap** (2009), set in the Afro-Colombian community of La Barra on Colombia's Pacific coast, tells the story of both the drama of a young man, trying to flee his past, and the upcoming clash between a remote village and modernity. Awarded at a number of festivals including FIPRESCI in Berlin this year.

Two features by established authors from Korea and France conclude the selection. Hong Sangsoo's *Woman on the Beach* (2006) is a delightful romantic comedy lasting one night between two women and two men on the Korean seaside. *Heading South* (2005) based on three short stories by Dany Laferrière and from Laurent Cantet, the director of Golden Palm winner *The Class*, it tells a story of three North American women in Haiti looking for flirtation, relaxation and respite from their colorless jobs and marriages.



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