WINDOW TO EUROPE

Virtual

15 Nov - 15 Dec
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AMBIASSADOR’S MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to announce the launch of the 27th edition of the European Union Film Festival in India, in collaboration with our Member States. Back with an in-theatre experience after two years, the festival will continue in its virtual avatar. The festival promises to take audiences on a journey across Europe through different genres such as comedy, action, drama and animation. As we mark 60 years of EU-India diplomatic relationship this year, the film festival is a testament to our long-standing cultural ties. To celebrate this landmark, the festival will showcase a special section on 'India @ European Film Festivals' featuring best of Indian cinema. Cinema is not only a bridge between different cultures but it also provides insights into everyday lives, experiences, aspirations and motivations of people beyond geographical boundaries. I invite you on an unparalleled cinematic journey across Europe. Happy viewing!

- Ugo Astuto, Ambassador of the European Union to India and Bhutan
ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The European Union Film Festival – India is an annual event celebrating the diversity and depth of European cinema and culture. The 27th edition of the festival celebrates the return to the in-theatre experience after two years of the pandemic while retaining its virtual avatar.

The festival will feature outstanding, award-winning films from all 27 European Union countries, celebrating the most recent cinematic triumphs at Cannes, Tribeca, Tallinn, Venice, Berlin and San Sebastian, amongst others. Highlighting individual stories yet reflecting universal experiences, the films offer a ‘Window to Europe’ and demonstrate the power of cinema to transcend boundaries and create shared experiences.

This year marks 60 years of diplomatic ties between EU and India. To celebrate this milestone, the festival features a specially curated section: India @ European Film Festivals. With a fine line-up of films that have received accolades and mesmerised audience around the world, the festival offers viewers an insight into the artistic underpinnings of Indian filmmaking. This section puts the spotlight on works by filmmakers such as Rajan Khosa, Shrihari Sathe, Rima Das and Shubhashish Bhutiani.

Given the immediacy of the climate emergency, the festival features unique stories of ecological awareness, the challenges and unique tales of combating them as we celebrate the planet we call home. After all, cinema does not just tell us about climate change but can also directly act to contribute to fight it.

The audience also have the opportunity to interact with European filmmakers visiting the festival. Viewers get an exclusive insight into the nuances of filmmaking in an exclusive interaction with Italian director duo Peter Miyakawa and Orso Miyakawa and get a chance to learn the art of scriptwriting with Dutch scriptwriter and producer Jolein Laarman.

Rich in genres and themes, the films take the audience on a journey with stories that underline the crucial role of inter-generational and inter-cultural dialogue and celebrate the creative and cultural exchange between the EU and India. With this special line-up, we welcome you to the 27th edition of the European Union Film Festival in India!
NOTE FROM THE CURATORS

Cinema is an artistic, sentimental, intellectual, and collective experience shared by people, in the same place, and at the same time. It is an experience that combines the present, the past and the future through universal stories, that invite us to reflect on and discuss eternal themes. Over the last few years, new technologies have shown us how deeply cinema, as an art form, has been helpful in uniting people beyond boundaries, allowing us to savour cinematic magic, even if only virtually.

As we now slowly return to the pre-pandemic life, it gives us immense joy to invite you to rediscover the pleasure of shared experience through cinema with the 27th edition of the European Union Film Festival–India (EUFF India). Meeting people in public spaces to watch, experience and discuss films together is a unique and founding cultural experience of our society; making coming back to cinemas akin to hugging a dear friend who has been gone for a long time.

The EUFF India has over the years become a familiar sharing space to highlight the variety and wealth of European cinematography with passionate Indian audiences. This year it is even more special as 2022 marks 60-years of diplomatic relationship between the European Union and India.

The festival goes hybrid this year with both, on ground and virtual screenings. This edition is a celebration of cinema: through film screenings, audience interaction and masterclasses. What's more, the festival provides the audience and film students an opportunity to meet and interact with Italian directors Orso and Peter Miyakawa and to discuss the art of scriptwriting with Dutch producer and scriptwriter Jolein Laarman.

All of it underlining our joint desire to be collectively immersed and involved in art, culture, and cinema.

Europe loves cinema, exactly as India loves cinema. Both share a long-standing love story that has manifested over the years through mutual inspiration, learning and inter-cultural dialogue. This is evident when we glance at great directors of the past as well as the works of new authors, in the continuous and uninterrupted search to (re)invent cinema, and in the effort to restore the depth of the human experience, beyond limits and borders.

This exchange is also highlighted at the EUFF India with the section Eurorama: A selection of contemporary cinema from across Europe that celebrates the value of the dialogue and solidarity spirit between people, with the awareness of the complexity of human, social and familial relationships. Young, powerful, offbeat and independent voices, take us through a roller coaster of emotions featuring peoples’ desires and fears, hopes and struggles, personal aspirations and collective projects, while travelling through different yet similar experiences via the stunning landscapes of Europe.
The EUFF India, in collaboration with the Dharamshala International Film Festival, is honoured to present a section on India @ European Film Festivals. A selection of outstanding Indian films that have participated at prestigious European festivals, addressing fundamental issues such as the beauty and harshness of growing up, fulfilling ambitions and aspirations, the search for truth, and the value of community spirit.

Cinema is also a cathartic trip that questions what we are as individuals and as a community, living on this marvellous planet. With its ability to surprise us, shake us up and even change us, cinema is a journey that makes us more aware, more receptive and closer to other living beings and to this Earth. In an enriched section, blending European and Indian documentaries – Green Cinema: Addressing Climate Change, audiences can find unique stories of ecological awareness, personal engagement and bravery in taking care of the future of our planet, displaying that it is our primary interest and duty to preserve and protect it, mostly from ourselves.

"Tenderness is the true moral position. I cannot recognize as an art form something that lacks tenderness;" famous Italian filmmaker Roberto Rossellini has said. Today more than ever, we need to amplify this vision and perspective based on love and tenderness towards people and the world around us. After all, we shoulder the responsibility of making it a better place for the future generations.

That is why this edition of EUFF India follows the theme of inter-generational relations with films from across European Union member states. The selection explores what we are leaving behind for the next generation, what is the meaning of an "exemplum", what kind of legacy is being handed down from generation to generation through familial and social bonds. The line-up takes the audience on a journey with stories that underline the crucial role of inter-generational and inter-cultural dialogue as a way to do away with stereotypes and free peoples' spirits, to be oneself and rebel where necessary, learning through similarities and differences; differences that are also our wealth.

The festival offers an exciting mix of genres and styles, from new spectacular frontiers of documentary to the ever more sophisticated and lively field of animation, from the bittersweet laughs of sharp comedy to the emotional touch of moving drama and the power-packed world of action. As simple as they are stunning, these film representations of love and conflict, death and birth are a powerful emblem that "we" are "the others" and "the others" are "us". Trying to put ourselves in others' shoes, and trying to understand life and its sensibilities around us, thanks to art and cinema, is the best way to create what we call a future, together.

– Veronica Flora and Valerio Caruso
35 FILMS
6 GENRES
25 LANGUAGES
27 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
21 FEMALE DIRECTORS
Step by Step Registration Guide

- Enter www.euffindia.com
- Click on the film you want to see, then click ‘Watch on Festival Scope’
- You will be redirected to Festival Scope
  - If it is your first visit, you will have to register here
  - If you have already registered, you will have to sign-in in order to watch the film
- Once inside Festival Scope, you can watch all films directly here, and it is not necessary to go to euffindia.com again
CATEGORY

EURORAMA: EUROPEAN CINEMA TODAY
The ambitious middle school teacher Hannes Fuchs (39) is assigned to a prison school alongside the older prison schoolteacher Elisabeth Berger (60) whose unconventional methods keep her inmate students busy and on their toes. For Weber (54), the department commander of the juvenile detention wing, Berger is a security risk. Fuchs is eager to prove himself a suitable prison teacher, but soon realizes that Berger won’t let anyone get too close. While Weber tries to pit both teachers against each other, Berger slowly makes Fuchs her accomplice. When Fuchs instructs the inmates alone for the first time, what follows is a confrontation between him and the class.
Seven-year-old Nora and her big brother Abel are back to school. When Nora witnesses Abel being bullied by other kids, she rushes to protect him by warning their father. But Abel forces her to remain silent. Caught in a conflict of loyalty, Nora will ultimately try to find her place, torn between children’s and adult’s worlds.
The former front man of the once-loved rock band 'Zhiguli', Fory, cannot pay the tuition fees for his talented daughter at the Royal Academy of Music in London. A wealthy loyal fan of Fory offers him a hefty paycheck, if his favourite band from his youth 'Zhiguli' plays at his 50th anniversary. This offer motivates Fory to bring back the band that fell apart 30 years ago. He discovers that none of the members live their dreamy lives. During their rehearsal, they try to resolve old love tensions and conflicts, making new blunders along the way.
The almighty and all-knowing Jesus Christ (33), an auntie Anka (57), and a curious hog Beba (2) are on a road trip through the rolling hills of the Croatian region of Zagorje during the 1990s war. What follows is the first love between pigs at the moment of an air-raid and the malfunction of a hood at a hairdresser's mid-styling, a wedding, a patron saint day of the church, playful songs, cheese, cream and a happy ending.
Young Dimitris, on the verge of manhood yet very much a child, has romanticised his absent father to mythic proportions. When his father is finally released from prison, Dimitris’ dream of family happiness are more lucid than ever, yet immediately transformed. In the need to make all his fantasies come true, he’s confronted with the violence they enclose.
Two mortal enemies - a little mouse Whizzy and Whitebelly the fox after an unfortunate accident meet in animal heaven. They lose their natural instincts and become best friends. Their wish to stay together after they return to earth comes true, but they are reborn into opposite roles. Thanks to the power of friendship, they can even overcome what seems to be impossible.
Deployed military man Markus has to go home to his teenage daughter, Mathilde, when his wife dies in a tragic train accident. It seems to be plain bad luck – until mathematics geek Otto shows up with his two eccentric colleagues, Lennart and Emmenthaler. Otto was also a passenger on the wrecked train. He is convinced someone must have been behind it. As the clues pile up, it becomes clear to Markus that it might have been a carefully orchestrated assassination, of which his wife was a random casualty.
Rain, the older brother of Ats, a 12-year-old child growing up in a small seaside town, returns to the family home, where their authoritarian father Kalju and a mother on the verge of losing love are waiting. Ats is witness to the clash of two men, a father and a brother - two men from different generations with different views of the world. When the father tries to push Rain, who has lost his stable ground, into the boundaries of his world, Rain finds instead hope in Aleksandra, a mysterious woman with a mysterious past.
FORCE OF HABIT
(TOTTUMISKYSYMYS)

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<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
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<tr>
<td>LANGUAGE</td>
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<td>DIRECTOR</td>
<td>Reetta Aalto, Alli Haapasalo, Anna Paavilainen, Kirsi Saari, Miia Tervo, Elli Toivoniemi, Jenni Toivoniemi</td>
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<td>RUNNING TIME</td>
<td>75 min</td>
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<td>GENRE</td>
<td>Drama</td>
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Force of Habit follows the lives of various women throughout one day. Hilla is having a romantic vacation, Emmi is throwing a house party, and Milja is on her way to school when they're approached by a stranger and things take an unexpected turn. At the same time, Emppu, a young actress, is conflicted as she rehearses for the biggest role of her life. Elsewhere, Aleksi, an inexperienced prosecutor, is preparing for his first court case in haste; Niina, the victim of the crime, has been waiting years to see her case tried. Miia throws a company party, and the mood dramatically changes when her colleague Katja opens up about their boss coming on to her. Miia and a couple of her closest colleagues try to resolve the situation, but how do the others react?
Anne Walberg is a master in perfumes. She creates fragrances and sells her incredible gift to many companies. She is a diva, selfish and temperamental. Guillaume is her new driver and the only one who dares facing her. This is probably why she does not fire him.
Summer of 1988: A 22 year-old bank employee, family man and rockstar discovers a security gap at his employer’s bank. He embezzles millions and runs off with the money to Australia. His life as a millionaire can now begin. But, the love of his life is not prepared to follow him with their son.
Nikos lives in the attic of the family’s tailor shop. When the bank threatens to repossess the shop and his father falls ill, Nikos takes action: with a wondrously strange tailor shop on wheels, he reinvents himself while bringing style and confidence to the women of Athens.
When Niki finds out that her father is in town after being released from prison, she disobeys her grandmother’s fierce objections and meets him in secret. Faced with his 12-year-old daughter, Tibor is forced to confront his role as a father and finally take responsibility. After 7 years without contact, the father and daughter get to know each other, whilst realising their strong connection and how powerful forgiveness can be.
Rose is an only child and has enjoyed a loving relationship with her adoptive parents. However, for as long as Rose can remember she has wanted to know her biological parents. After years trying to trace her birth mother, Rose now has a name and a number. All she has to do is pick up the phone and call. When she does it quickly becomes clear that her birth mother has no wish to have any contact. Rose travels from Dublin to London in an effort to confront her birth mother, Ellen who is deeply disturbed when Rose turns up and Ellen is forced to reveal a secret she has kept hidden for over 20 years. This revelation forces Rose to accept the violent nature of how she came into existence. Rose believes she has little to lose but much to gain when she sets out to confront her biological father. What Rose cannot foresee is that she is on a collision course that will prove both violent and unsettling.
A fourteen-year-old, a young woman who smuggles medicines up and down the Italian border with France and a bizarre American tennis teacher who dreams of being a painter - their lives turn when they come across a migrant. All together, they come up with an absurd plan to help him sneak across the border.
After Emīlija, a neighbour’s daughter, makes some off-handed contemptuous remarks about Markuss's father, the boy reacts in a cruel manner. The negative consequences of his action resonate throughout his village and the boy begins to harbour hatred towards the people around him. The only person the boy can relate to is an old sailor who happens to live in the nearby woods. They inspire one another, and trust each other with their secrets. Then, an accidental turn of events brings about an unexpected and radical change in the boy’s reputation and standing. Will Markuss be able to reverse his reputation?
Dovile’s life is shaken by her father’s death. But there is no time to mourn as she must urgently organize the funeral. Trying to make it perfect, she chooses to reject professional services and tries organize her father’s funeral herself. Taking care of every detail, she finds herself in increasingly curious situations.
IO STO BENE

COUNTRY
Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany, Italy

LANGUAGE
French, Italian, English

DIRECTOR
Donato Rotunno

AWARDS/SELECTIONS
Alice nella città Film Festival, Rome, Italy (2020)
Italian Film Festival, Villerupt, France
International film Festival de Mons, Belgium (2021)
55th Hof International Film Festival, Germany (2021)
Luxembourg entry for Best International Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards.

YEAR
2020

RUNNING TIME
94 min

GENRE
Drama, Comedy

Antonio has spent his whole life away from Italy, his home country. He crosses paths with Leo, a young Italian artist who is trying to make it abroad. The old man and the young woman’s destinies mirror each other. Memories from the past are awoken and end up offering a more peaceful future to both of them.
Jesmark Saliba, a Maltese fisherman, inherited his luzzu (boat) from his father. This boat has seen three generations of his family grow up. But now, as Jesmark daubs his own infant son’s soles with paint to continue the tradition, he knows deep down that time is running out for this way of life. He risks everything to provide for his wife and new-born son by entering Malta's black-market fishing industry.
Romy has to stay with her grandma Stine after school. It’s so boring. Her hairdresser Grandma is strict and in love with her salon. But grandma’s memory is not the best, and charming Romy can be at some help with customers and economy.
Rosa is a successful designer living in a generic big city. After the unexpected death of her grandfather, she realizes she’s not been in a place where she felt connected or loved since she left her homeland.
A musical fable on the Robinson Crusoe myth: the Little Prince meets Monty Python. Robinson is a doctor and his solitude is voluntary in an island invaded by migrants, NGOs and guards. He saves Friday, a castaway, the only survivor of his illegal refugee boat. During his journey on the island, Robinson encounters extraordinary beings and events.

He will confront current affairs through visual poetry and symbolism in a world where everybody looks for its own paradise.
Southern Slovakia, hot summer days, a family of three generations meets under one roof. An unexpected visit from Zoja, the granddaughter, stirs up the routine. Within the quiet presence of the God and alcohol, the family unveils its tragi-comical past and a few unsaid secrets.
Living in the same nursing home, Bruno and Duša enjoy each other's company. However, their moments together are always soon forgotten, as both of them suffer from dementia. Each time they meet feels like the first. This unique relationship is evoked by Gigliola Cinquetti's song "Non ho l'età", performed at the Sanremo Festival back in the 1960s – the only shared memory from their youth. When Bruno is alone, his past resurfaces, causing him to retreat to his old life – his home, his wife, and his dog, who are, in reality, no longer around. One night, he has trouble finding his room and accidentally walks into Duša's and falls asleep next to her. In the morning, they start arguing, each of them convinced the other one is in the wrong bed, only to rediscover their mutual affection. Moments later, dressed in her finest clothes, Duša waits for Bruno at their breakfast table in vain.
A retired doctor decides to travel as a volunteer to a Greek refugee camp where, in her opinion, they need people exactly like her. Arriving there, it becomes clear that she has nothing to do with the others. When she meets little Ahmed, the boundaries between needing to care and feeling useful begin to blur.
The story of a girl wanting to become a stand-up comedian, a Comedy Queen. Thirteen-year-old Sasha refuses to cry despite suffering from immeasurable sorrow and instead decides to become a stand-up comedian. Her goal is to make everyone laugh again, especially her father.
SPECIAL SCREENING: UKRAINE
Vadim is 22, he works as a sound engineer and musician. A Canadian company invites him to record the sounds of Ukrainian animals in Transcarpathia. He fulfills the assignment with enthusiasm and creativity, but his mother comes along and constantly disturbs and distracts him. If he manages to record the voice of a rare Rakhiv mallard, he may be able to travel to "attractive Canada."
CATEGORY

INDIA @ EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVALS
When a 77 year old man, Daya, wakes up from a strange nightmare, he knows his time is up and he must get to Varanasi immediately in hope of dying there to attain salvation. His dutiful son, Rajiv, is left with no choice but to drop everything and make the journey with his stubborn father, leaving behind his wife and daughter. The two of them check into Mukti Bhawan, a hotel devoted to people hoping to spend their last days there. Rajiv finds himself having to live and take care of his father for the first time in his life. While Rajiv struggles to juggle his responsibilities back home, Daya starts to bloom as he finds a sense of community in the hotel, and a companion in the 75-year old Vimla. As the days go by and Daya shows no sign of letting up, Rajiv is faced with the dilemma of whether to remain there with his father or fulfill his duty back home. Rajiv gives his father a shot at salvation but as family bonds are tested, he finds himself torn, not knowing what he must do to keep his life together.
In a small town in central India, children and adults are equally obsessed with kite flying. The airspace is dominated by a black kite called Kali with mysterious origins. Gattu, a street kid, dreams of defeating Kali but always fails. He discovers that the local school has the highest roof in town and would give him an advantage. However, in order to enter the school, he pretends to be a school kid. But there is a problem: he is illiterate...

In collaboration with:
Dharamshala International Film Festival
In a small village in northeast India, 10-year-old Dhunu dreams of having her own rock band. Her vibrant spirit, imagination and self-assurance stand out in a world where girls are expected to be timid and submissive. With her gang of boys and the support of her widowed mother, Dhunu faces the struggles of her daily life and hopes for the day she can finally play on a real guitar.

In collaboration with:
Dharamshala International Film Festival
During a political rally in a small village in Maharashtra, India, Budhi, a poor old woman receives a largess of several 1000 Rupee notes from a politician. She goes shopping to the nearby market town with her neighbor but fate has other plans for them.

In collaboration with:
Dharamshala International Film Festival
CATEGORY

GREEN CINEMA: ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE
High up on the Tibetan plateau. Amongst unexplored and inaccessible valleys lies one of the last sanctuaries of the wild world, where rare and undiscovered fauna lives. Vincent Munier, one of the world's most renowned wildlife photographers takes the adventurer and novelist Sylvain Tesson (In the Forest of Siberia) with him on his latest mission. For several weeks, they'll explore these valleys searching for unique animals and try to spot the snow leopard, one of the rarest and most difficult big cats to approach.
Despite many years of research, we still do not know exactly how fast the Greenland ice sheet is melting. This is the question director Lars Henrik Ostenfeld hopes to answer when he set outs on an expedition with three of the world’s leading glaciologists. The journey will take them 180 metres into one of the major “Moulin” holes in the ice sheet – further than any human has ever gone before.
We are on the brink of Climate Crisis. There are empirical evidences of changing climate across the planet. The worst affected regions that are facing the brunt of climate change are the Cryospheric regions of the world (Arctic, Antarctic and the Himalayas) and also the Oceans. Scientists today are using the latest technology and braving some of the harshest conditions only to investigate these effects of changing climate. Conducting any scientific research activities in some of these regions are extremely difficult due to its harsh climatic conditions, undulating and inaccessible terrain, and the remoteness of field sites. The film takes you on a journey documenting these scientists conducting research in the Arctic, Himalayas and the Southern Ocean and them experiencing some life threatening situations, in order to get the scientific data.

In collaboration with: CMS Vatavaran
A film about 85-year-old Simon Uraon, the Water Man from Jharkhand, working relentlessly on water management and environmental protection in the villages of Jharkhand, since he was fourteen.

In collaboration with: CMS Vatavaran
European Union Film Festival
Implemented by Cineuropa

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