

EUNIC BRUSSELS FILM FESTIVAL

United in diversity – European Challenges and Values



Cinéma Vendôme



6.10 – 16.10



Program

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|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 06.10 | 18:45 intro Festival opening in the presence of the director | Tasio - ES (100') |
| 07.10 | 18:45 intro + Q&A with the actress Monika Raide | Smile at last - EE (86') |
| 09.10 | 18:45 intro | Imaginary Youth - RO (84') |
| | 20:40 intro | Amadeo - PT (100') |
| 13.10 | 18:45 intro | Simona Kossak - PL (100') |
| 15.10 | 18:45 intro | The man without guilt - SI (84') |
| | 20:40 intro | Augure - BE (90') |
| 16.10 | 18:45 intro in the presence of the film director | Bizkarsoro - Basque (82') |

TASIO

*Es, 1984, 96 min, directed by Montxo Armendáriz
Instituto Cervantes de Bruselas*



Synopsis : Tasio is a film based on the life of Anastasio Otxoa Ruiz (1916-1989), a charcoal burner and poacher, and which portrays the decline of the tradition of charcoal burners using vegetable fuel in the mountains of Navarre (Spain).

The film had a resounding impact upon its premiere and received a special mention at the San Sebastián Film Festival.

SMILE AT LAST

*EE, 1985, 87 min, directed by Arvo Iho, Leida Laius
Estonian Embassy in Brussels*



Synopsis : 16-year-old Mari, raised without a mother by a drunkard father, is put in an orphanage which she immediately, though unsuccessfully, tries to flee from. The sensitive Mari finds it hard to adapt to the coarse manners and brutal games amongst the children. Only gradually does she develop a sense for the similarly difficult fates of her fellow sufferers, who have long forgotten how to cry. She even falls in love for the first time, not with her self-appointed “protector” Tauri, but with the rough-mannered Robi. “Smile at Last” takes a critical realist approach to raising attention to the responsibility over the fate of vulnerable children and adolescents.

Director Leida Laius (1923 –.1996) was one of Estonia’s most prominent cinema directors. In the masculine film world of her time strong female stories emerged with themes that are universal even now.

Director Arvo Iho (1949) is an Estonian film cinematographer, director, actor, and photographer, who is renowned for his work in documentary, feature, and short films.

IMAGINARY YOUTH

*RO, 2024, 84 min, directed by Ruxandra Gubernat
Romanian Cultural Institute Brussels*



Synopsis: Imaginary Youth follows three teenagers through their final years of high school, before, during, and after the Covid confinement. While pondering about leaving Romania after they finish school, Una – an actress, Habet – a trapper and Stefania – an environmental activist get caught in the midst of the Coronavirus crisis. Personal dramas and dilemmas unfold, as the three try to make sense of growing up and what's happening around them.

Who's gonna make it?

AMADEO

PT, 98 min, 2023, directed by Vicente Alves do Ó
Camões, Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, Embaixada de Portugal na Bélgica



Synopsis: As the First World War and the Spanish Flu sweep over Europe, Amadeo and Lucie experience a great love story. The painter is inspired by moments of everyday life, capturing the future he dreams of painting. Landscapes, dogs, dances, and kisses inspire dozens of his paintings. Between his studio in Manhufe and the parties in Paris, the world is changing; his first exhibitions take place and the future is set, while Amadeo paints unceasingly. His life is more than intense: it is full of sorrow and love, it is fleeting.

SIMONA KOSSAK

PL, 2024, 100 min, directed by Adrian Panek
Polish Institute Brussels



Synopsis: Simona Kossak, daughter of the painter Jerzy Kossak and granddaughter of Wojciech, deprived of the talent that has defined her family for generations, grows up without knowing the warmth of home, as her mother is rather despotic. After graduation she leaves everything – home, tradition, social conventions – and takes up a job as a scientist in Białowieża. It's then when she starts life on her own terms. She settles in the middle of the forest, in a house without electricity or running water, surrounded by wild nature.

There, in a magical wilderness, she meets photographer Lech Wilczek, with whom she shares her passions – love for nature and... the need for freedom. Their extraordinary relationship defies all that's considered standard. However, Simona's ideas about the work of a naturalist and the position of a young woman in a world dominated by men are painfully verified. She must defend not only her ideals, but also the world of plants and animals.

THE MAN WITHOUT GUILT

Slovenia, 2022, 84 min, directed by Ivan Gergolet
Embassy of Republic of Slovenia in Brussels



Synopsis: Set in Trieste, on the Adriatic coast between Italy and Slovenia, *The Man Without Guilt* follows Angela, a widow whose husband died from asbestos exposure. When fate brings her face-to-face with the man she holds responsible, now weakened after a stroke, she accepts work as his caregiver - concealing her true motives. What begins as a quest for revenge soon unravels into a gripping moral struggle between justice, forgiveness, and truth.

AUGURE

BE, 2023, 90 min, directed by Baloji
Wallonie-Bruxelles International



Synopsis : Four characters, seen as witches or sorcerers by their families and communities, will see their destinies cross in a dreamlike Congo. Only mutual aid and reconciliation will enable them to extricate themselves from the curse that weighs them down.

BIZKARSORO

*Basque, 2024, 82 min, directed by Josu Martinez
Etxepare Euskal Institutua*



Synopsis : Five true stories, based on written and oral testimonies, which take place between 1914 and 1982, in a village that does not exist.

These stories highlight the social changes experienced by a small village during the 20th century. The radiation and the end of a language. And the fight to survive.