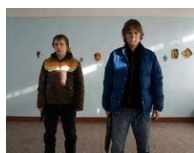


March 6, 2008

## PICTURE EUROPE! The Best of European Cinema – the European film event in Munich, Copenhagen, and Madrid



## A European Voyage of Discovery: **picturEurope!** Film programme for Madrid now complete

The film programme for “PICTURE EUROPE! The Best of European Cinema 2008” in Madrid is complete. 13 current box-office hits from the neighbour countries will appear here on the screen from April 11 – 17. Director Jan Svěrák will personally introduce the absolute top hit from the Czech Republic, VRATNÉ LAHVE (EMPTIES), for the opening of the event.

Under the banner of “Let’s see what’s happening at the neighbours!” EUROPEAN FILM PROMOTION (EFP) is organising the PICTURE EUROPE! event in cooperation with its member organisations, the cinema partners and with financial support from the MEDIA Programme of the EU. As in the previous year, Volkswagen is the event’s main sponsor. After the successful launch of the film event in Munich, the European voyage of discovery continues in Copenhagen in the middle of March and will end in Madrid in mid-April.

**Munich:** 21. - 27.02.2008 at Gloria Filmpalast  
**Copenhagen:** 12. - 18.03.2008 at Grand Teatret  
**Madrid:** 11. - 17.04.2008 at Cinemas Princesa

There will be a glittering opening for the film event with the screening of the bitter-sweet Czech comedy VRATNÉ LAHVE (EMPTIES), about an old man facing up to his mortality, and finding meaning to life in retirement. This humorous and linguistically captivating film, in which the director Jan Svěrák has again after the success of KOLJA cast his father Zdeněk Svěrák in the lead part (other leads: Daniela Kolářová, Ondřej Vetchý, Tatiana Vilhelmová and Jan Budař), is the most successful Czech box-office hit of all time with 1.2 million admissions. At the ceremony for the country’s most important film award, the Czech Lion, the film was thus presented



Zdeněk Svěrák (left) and Jan Budař in *Empties*

with the prize for the most attended film. VRATNÉ LAHVE also received the main award for Best Direction and Best Screenplay. There was also praise from the audience and jury at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (Czech Republic): the comedy received the Audience Award and the Special Jury Mention for the screenplay. Other audience awards were picked up in 2007 at two German film festivals in Hamburg and Cottbus.



Vladimir Georgiev in  
*Warden of the Dead*

With the closing film **PAZACHYT NA MYRTVITE (WARDEN OF THE DEAD)**, the Bulgarian director **Ilian Simeonov (RAGE)** has created a compelling metaphor for the war-ravaged Balkans. The film has Vladimir Georgiev, Samuel Fintzi and Itzhak Fintzi in the lead roles and was Bulgaria's **Oscar®** candidate.

Apart from the closing film, PICTURE EUROPE! is showing another three European films which were sent into the running for the **Oscar®**.

Denmark's Oscar® submission **THE ART OF CRYING**, with Jesper Asholt, Hanne Hedelund, Jannik Lorenzen and Julie Kolbeck as the main cast, has been awarded 16 national and international prizes. **Peter Schønau Fog's** debut feature film is more than a nightmarish social study; it is something of a miracle, clothing weighty Bergmanesque topics in a daring tragicomedy.



Jesper Asholt, Jannik Lorenzen in  
*The Art of Crying*



Eshref Durmishi in *Eduart*

The Greek Oscar® submission **EDUART** by director **Angeliki Antoniou** is based on a true story of a murder. Over a period of more than a year, Antoniou interviewed him in jail and developed the script on the basis of these interviews and visits to the original locations in Greece and Albania. The film, starring Eshref Durmishi, André Hennicke and Ndricim Xhepa, contains images of wild, painful beauty and a clear commitment against intolerance and racism.

Estonia's Oscar® submission **KLASS (THE CLASS)** by **Ilmar Raag**, starring Lauri Pedaja, Vallo Kirs, Pärt Uusberg, Paula Solvak and Margus Prangel, is an oppressive drama addressing the big issues of youth experiencing puberty. In its combination of almost documentary precision with the aesthetics of music videos, this international festival hit revives memories of the school shootings in America's Littleton or Germany's Erfurt.



Vallo Kirs, Pärt Uusberg  
in *The Class*

The 13 films for PICTURE EUROPE! in Madrid range from comedies through dramas and melancholic studies of social environments to tension-filled debates. Every country has its own stars and its own blockbusters, seldom venturing beyond their respective national borders. With its PICTURE EUROPE! programme, EFP reaches a wide audience, showing them just how complex, thrilling, moving and entertaining individual stories from all over the continent are. At each venue, the films are presented personally by their directors or stars. The programme for PICTURE EUROPE! has been compiled from the vast wealth of European films that were successes in their lands of origin and that bear the potential to also excite audiences in neighbouring countries.

## The PICTURE EUROPE! Programme Madrid 2008

Friday, April 11th – Thursday, April 17th 2008

- Czech Republic / UK / Denmark:** **VRATNÉ LAHVE (EMPTIES)** by Jan Svěrák  
with Daniela Kolářová, Zdeněk Svěrák, Ondřej Vetchý, Tatiana Vilhelmová, Jan Budař  
Opening Film, Friday, 11.4.08, 22.30 at Roxy B
- Slovenia:** **PETELINJI ZAJTRK (ROOSTER'S BREAKFAST)** by Marko Naberšnik  
with Vlado Novak, Primož Bežjak, Dario Varga, Pia Zemljič  
Saturday, 12.4.08, 19.30 at Princesa
- Germany:** **SHOPPEN (SHOPPEN MUNICH)** by Ralf Westhoff  
with Sebastian Weber, Anna Böger, Felix Hellmann, Katharina Schubert  
Saturday, 12.4.08, 22.00 at Princesa
- Hungary / Germany:** **OVERNIGHT** by Ferenc Török  
with Viktor Bodó, Kata Pető, Ervin Nagy, Enikő Eszenyi  
Sunday, 13.4.08, 19.30 at Princesa
- France / Germany:** **UN SECRET (A SECRET)** by Claude Miller  
with Cécile de France, Patrick Bruel, Ludivine Sagnier, Julie Depardieu  
Sunday, 13.4.08, 22.00 at Princesa
- Denmark:** **KUNSTEN AT GRÆDE I KOR (THE ART OF CRYING)** by Peter Schønau Fog  
with Jesper Asholt, Hanne Hedelund, Jannik Lorenzen, Julie Kolbeck  
Monday, 14.4.08, 19.30 at Princesa
- Greece / Germany:** **EDUART** by Angeliki Antoniou  
with Eshref Durmishi, André Hennicke, Ndricim Xhepa  
Monday, 14.4., 22.00 at Princesa
- The Netherlands:** **KICKS** by Albert ter Heerdt  
with Mimoun Oaïssa, Roeland Fernhout, Hadewych Minis, Maryam Hassouni  
Tuesday, 15.4.08, 19.30 at Princesa
- Switzerland / Italy:** **FUORI DALLE CORDE (OUT OF BOUNDS)** by Fulvio Bernasconi  
with Michele Venitucci, Maya Sansa, Juan Pablo Ogalde  
Tuesday, 15.4.08, 22.00 at Princesa
- Estonia:** **KLASS (THE CLASS)** by Ilmar Raag  
with Lauri Pedaja, Vallo Kirs, Pärt Uusberg, Paula Solvak, Margus Prangel  
Wednesday, 16.4.08, 19.30 at Princesa
- Portugal:** **CORRUPÇÃO (CORRUPTION)**, Portugal,  
with António Pedro Cerdreira, Margarina Vila-Nova, Nicolau Breyner  
Wednesday, 16.4.08, 22.00 at Princesa
- Italy:** **LA RAGAZZA DEL LAGO (THE GIRL BY THE LAKE)** by Andrea Molaioli  
with Toni Servillo, Nello Mascia, Marco Baliani  
Thursday, 17.4.08, 19.30 at Princesa
- Bulgaria:** **PAZACHYT NA MYRTVITE (WARDEN OF THE DEAD)** by Ilian Simeonov  
with Vladimir Georgiev, Samuel Fintzi, Itzhak Fintzi, Diana Dobрева  
Closing Night, Thursday, 17.4.08 22.00 at Princesa

The complete programme as well as photographic material will be available at  
[www.picture-europe.eu](http://www.picture-europe.eu)

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