

PLUTO[•]
FILM



Locarno Film Festival
Official Selection

HEAVENS ABOVE

by Srdjan Dragojević

Black Comedy, Serbia/Germany/North Macedonia/Croatia/Slovenia/Montenegro/Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2021, 122 min

Darkly humorous, Heavens Above tells three stories set in 1993, 2001 and 2018. Opening in a post-Communist refugee camp at the edge of Serbian slum, an unasked-for miracle is granted to a salt-of-the-Earth ex-Communist soldier, much to the distress of his mystically inclined wife. The miracles continue as the second story unfolds, this time centered on a holy fool and priest whose prayers are answered with dark consequence. The third story reunites the family from the first, now in very changed circumstances, while the holy fool has grown into an artist whose paintings themselves are miraculous.

Festival: Locarno FF - Concorso internazionale section

Original Title: Nebesa **Written by:** Srdjan Dragojević **Cast:** Nikola Kojo, Ksenija Marinkovic, Branka Katic, Milos Samolov **Original Language:** Serbo-Croatian **Production Company:** Delirium Films **Produced by:** Biljana Prvanović **Co-Production company:** Sektor Film (North Macedonia), Studio DIM (Croatia), Forum Ljubljana (Slovenia), Max Film (Montenegro), Ma.ja.de (Germany)



Crystal Bear
Generation

71 ■ Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin

STOP-ZEMLIA

by **Kateryna Gornostai** Teenage Drama/Romance, Ukraine, 2021, 122 min, 1st Feature

The introverted high-school girl Masha sees herself as an outsider unless she hangs around with Yana and Senia who share her non-conformist status. While she is trying to navigate through an intense time of the pre-graduation year, Masha's new love forces her to leave her comfort zone. From a debutant Ukrainian director Kateryna Gornostai, a deeply personal story about self-discovery and the patience it requires.

Festivals: Berlinale Generation 14plus – *Crystal Bear of the Youth Jury Generation 14+*; New Directors/New Films; Jeonju IFF; Shanghai IFF; Cinemajove; Giffoni; Pula IFF; Tulum IFF

Original Title: STOP-ZEMLIA **Written by:** Kateryna Gornostai **Director of Photography:** Oleksandr Roshchyn **Cast:** Maria Fedorchenko, Arsenii Markov, Yana Isaienko, Oleksandr Ivanov **Original Language:** Ukrainian **Production Company:** ESSE Production House **Produced by:** Vitalii Sheremetiev, Viktoriia Khomenko, Natalia Libet, Olga Beskhmelnytsina



OFFICIAL SELECTION
**INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
ROTTERDAM**

LIBORIO

by Nino Martínez Sosa Drama/Historical, Dominican Republic/Puerto Rico/Qatar, 2021, 99 min, 1st Feature

In the early 20th century, Liborio, a peasant, disappears in a hurricane and returns as a prophet. He says he's been given a mission: to bring the good and take away the evil, curing the sick and teaching by example. People begin to congregate by his side and they move to the mountains to have total freedom and develop the dream of an independent community. Everything changes when the invading US Marines want copy-paste to disarm and disband the community. Liborio wants to avoid a confrontation but knows that they can't run forever.

Festivals: International Film Festival Rotterdam – *Tiger Competition*; Göteborg FF – *Ingmar Bergman Competition*; Tertio Millennio FF; FICUNAM; New Directors/New Films; Costa Rica IFF; Shanghai IFF; Third Horizon Film Festival

Original Title: Liborio **Written by:** Nino Martínez Sosa, Pablo Arellano, Ramón Emilio Candelario, Fidia Peralta **Director of Photography:** Oscar Durán **Cast:** Vicente Santos, Karina Valdez **Original Language:** Spanish **Production Company:** Guasábara Cine **Co-Production companies:** Balsié Guanábana Macuto, Quenepa Producciones **Produced by:** Fernando Santos Díaz, Nino Martínez Sosa



BEDRIDDEN

by **Byamba Sakhya** Drama, Mongolia, 114 min, 2nd Feature

On an ordinary morning, to a 26-year-old writer's utter indifference, everything stops. He takes the freeze as a fateful sign to become Bedridden to protest the life that has deprived him of his identity. However, Tsolmon, his fiancée, sees this action as egocentric nonsense. Does Bedridden have enough courage to become as absurd as his imagination?

Festivals: Tallinn Black Night IFF – *Main Competition*; 3 Continents IFF – *International Competition*; Sofia IFF; Zerkalo IFF

Original Title: ХЭВТРИЙН ХҮН **Written by:** Byamba Sakhya **Director of Photography:** Tuvshintugs Badral **Cast:** Battulga Ganbat, Ariunchimeg Tumursukh, Dorjsuren Shadav, Oyunzul Dorjderem, Battogtokh Ravdan, Oyun-Erdene Batbaatar **Original Language:** Mongolian **Production Company:** Guru Media **Produced by:** Ariunaa Tserenpil **Co-Production company:** NOMADIA PICTURES **Co-Producers:** Naranbat Bayasgalan



TAILOR

by **Sonia Liza Kenterman** Drama/Romance, Greece/Germany/Belgium, 100 min, 1st Feature

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.

Festivals: Tallinn Black Night IFF – *First Feature Competition*; Thessaloniki IFF – *First Run - Greek Film Fipresci Prize - ERT Award for a Greek Film - Youth Jury Award*; Cinemamed; Sofia IFF; Kosmorama IFF; Cleveland IFF; Jeonju IFF; L.A. Greek FF; San Francisco Greek FF – *Honorable Mention for Best Narrative Feature, Astron Audience Favourite Award for Narrative Feature*; Bergamo Meetings – *Best Director Prize, Second Audience Best Film Prize*; Travesesés FF; Shanghai IFF

Original Title: Raftis **Written by:** Sonia Liza Kenterman, Tracy Sundeland **Director of Photography:** George Michelis **Cast:** Dimitris Imellos, Tamila Koulieva, Thanasis Papageorgiou, Stathis Stamoulakatos, Dafni Michopoulou **Original Language:** Greek, Russian **Production Company:** Argonauts Productions **Produced by:** Ioanna Bolomyti **Co-Production company:** Elemag Pictures, Made in Germany, IOTA Production



REBELS
WITH A CAUSE
COMPETITION

TALLINN
BLACK NIGHTS
FILM FESTIVAL
2020

ESTANISLAO

by **Alejandro Guzmán** Drama, Mexico, 93 min, 2nd Feature

Mysterious and brooding, this slow-burn black-and-white art-horror traces Mateo's return to his family's dilapidated clothing factory after his mother's death. Things go from bad to worse as Mateo tries unsuccessfully to hold his marriage together, find a job, and finally deal with his dangerous brother Estanislao – a giant half-man, a half-bird monster who lives in a locked cell down the hall. Beautifully shot, darkly comic art-house dream thriller that reaches beyond magical realism into shadowy surrealism.

Festivals: Tallinn Black Nights IFF; FICUNAM; D'A FF Barcelona

Original Title: Estanislao **Written by:** Itzel Lara **Director of Photography:** Alfredo Altamirano, AMC **Cast:** Raúl Briones, J. Concepción Macías **Original Language:** Spanish **Production Company:** Animal Tropical Cine **Produced by:** Mariana Monroy



25th BUSAN
International Film Festival
21-30 October 2020

RIVAL

by **Marcus Lenz** Drama, Germany, 2020, 96 min, 2nd Feature

9-year-old Roman follows his mother Oksana, who left to work illegally in Germany. There she lives with Gert, a 62-year-old German widower who suffers from diabetes. Gert tries to make friends with the boy, but Roman struggles for his mother's attention. Suddenly Oksana becomes ill, and Roman is left alone with his rival. Surprisingly Gert turns out to be a good playmate until he dies from a stroke. Roman is now trapped in a remote place, along with a corpse.

Festivals: Busan IFF – *Flash Forward Competition*; AFI Fest – *New Auteurs*; HOF IFF – *THE GERMAN CINEMA NEW TALENT AWARD 2020*; Listapad Minsk IFF – *Best Cinematography*; Tallinn Black Nights IFF; KINO - Mostra de Cinema de Expressão Alemã – *Audience award*; Kolkata IFF; Cleveland IFF; Bergamo IFF; Maryland FF; International Human Rights FF Argentina; Shanghai IFF; Sherbrooke IFF; Boulder IFF; Zerkalo FF

Original Title: Rivale **Written by:** Marcus Lenz, Lars Hubrich **Director of Photography:** Frank Amann **Original Language:** German, Ukrainian **Production:** Hanfgarn & Ufer **Produced by:** Gunter Hanfgarn & Andera Ufer **Co-Production company:** Wildfilms



Official Selection

tiff

Toronto International
Film Festival 2020

180° RULE

by **Farnoosh Samadi** Drama, Iran, 2020, 83 min, 2nd Feature

A school teacher from Tehran is preparing to attend a wedding in northern Iran. When her husband suddenly forbids her to go, she makes a choice that will place her on a painful path to atonement.

Festivals: Toronto IFF – *Discovery Section* – *World Premiere*; BFI London IFF; Valladolid IFF – *BEST FEATURE FILM AWARD*; Ayial FF; Goa IFF; Art House Asia IFF; Borderlines FF; Hong Kong IFF; Cyprus Film Days; Moscow IFF; Istanbul IFF; Curtas Vila do Conde IFF; First Look

Original Title: Khate Farzi **Written by:** Farnoosh Samadi **Director of Photography:** Masoud Salami **Cast:** Sahar Dolatshahi, Pejman Jamshidi **Original Language:** Persian **Production Company:** Ali Mosaffa Productions **Produced by:** Ali Mosaffa



MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2020
Official Selection

IN BETWEEN DYING

by **Hilal Baydarov** Drama, Azerbaijan/Mexico/USA, 88 min

IN BETWEEN DYING is the love story of Davud, a young man trying to find his 'real' family, who completes his life cycle in a single day. When he does find Love, it's in the place he has always lived. But it is too late.

Festivals: Venice IFF – *Official Selection in Competition*; Moscow IFF; El Gouna IFF – *El Gouna Bronze Star for Narrative Film, NETPAC Award for Best Asian Film*; FILMeX Tokyo – *GRAND PRIZE (Best Film)*; Los Cabos IFF – *The Art Kingdom Award*; New Horizons IFF, Trieste IFF; Los Cabos IFF – *The Art Kingdom Award*; New Horizons IFF; Batumi International Art-house FF – *Georgian Film Critics Award*; Umeå Europaen FF; Panorama of European Cinema; REC Tarragona IFF; Hainan IFF; Laceno d'Oro Festival; Kolkata IFF; Trieste IFF; Kerala IFF; Hong Kong IFF

Original Title: Səpələnmiş Ölümlər Arasında **Written by:** Hilal Baydarov **Director of Photography:** Elşən Abbasov
Cast: Orxan Iskəndərli, Rəna Əsgerova, Maryam Naghiyeva, Murvat Abdulazizov, Hüseyn Nasirov **Original Language:** Azerbaijani
Production Company: Ucqar Film **Co-Production company:** Splendor Omnia Studios, Louverture Films
Produced by: Hilal Baydarov, Elşən Abbasov **Co-Producers:** Carlos Reygadas, Joslyn Barnes



Giffoni
50

SUMMER REBELS

by **Martina Saková** Children/Family/Adventure, Germany/Slovak Republic, 2020, 92 min, 1st Feature

Young Jonas wants to visit his cool grandpa for a summer of fun on the river, but his mom has other plans. Undeterred, Jonas takes off on an adventure of his own in this luminous and lighthearted tale of rebellion, friendship, catastrophe, and ultimately, redemption.

Festivals: BIKY; Zlin IFF; Fünf Seen FF; Goldener Spatz FF; BUFF Malmö FF; Tromsø Children IFF; Cinemagic FF; Riga IFF; Filemon; Sao Paulo IFF; Cinekid; Kristiansan IFF; Thessaloniki IFF; Listapad Minsk IFF; Cottbus IFF; Ale kino!; Giffoni; Goa IFF; FIFEM; Luxembourg City FF; Sherbrooke IFF; Molodist IFF

Original Title: Sommer-Rebellen/Letní Rebeli **Written by:** Martina Saková **Director of Photography:** Jieun Yi **Cast:** Eliáš Vyskočil, Pavel Nový, Liana Pavlíková, Kaya Marie Möller, Szidi Tobias, Jana Olhová **Original Language:** Slovak, Czech, German **Production Companies:** Projektor 23, Silverart **Produced by:** Martin Kleinmichel, Katarína Krnáčová



SIFF / 2020

金爵奖官方入选

GOLDEN GOBLET AWARD
OFFICIAL SELECTION



ALL THE PRETTY LITTLE HORSES

by **Michalis Konstantatos** Drama, Greece/Belgium/Germany, 107 min, 2nd Feature

In the wake of a disaster, Alik and her husband Petros take their young son Panagiotis to a provincial seaside town, seeking refuge. Working temporary jobs, Alik and Petros try to put their lives back together so they can return home to Athens. When Alik begins to realize that the plan is not working – or worse, may not even exist – the distance between her and Petros begins to grow.

Festivals: Shanghai IFF; Sarajevo IFF; CINEDAYS; Calgary IFF; Haifa IFF; Warsaw IFF; Thessaloniki IFF; Film Fest Gent; Cottbus IFF; Chennai IFF; Art House Asia IFF; Crossing Europe; Cinema Jove; Sherbrooke IFF; Atlantide IFF

Original Title: Ola Ta Mikra Omorfa Aloga **Written by:** Michalis Konstantatos **Director of Photography:** Giannis Fotou **Cast:** Yota Argyropoulou, Dimitris Lalos, Alexandros Karamouzis, Katerina Didaskalou **Original Language:** Greek **Production Company:** Horsefly Productions **Produced by:** Yorgos Tsourgiannis, Dries Phlypo, Fabian Massah, Elie Meirovitz **Production company:** A Private View (Belgium), Endorphine Production (Germany)



THE TREE

by Louw Venter Drama, South Africa/The Netherlands, 72 min, expected 2020, 1st Feature

A night like no other in a dangerous neighborhood in Cape Town. A mother leaves her child by himself in the night as she searches for a way to earn money to buy his medicine. The child, now lost, wanders the city streets alone. A policeman and his girlfriend drift apart. A nurse yearns for motherhood. The policeman must confront his black sheep brother, who encounters the lost child's desperate mother, using her to fulfill his darkest sexual fantasies. When the lost child is rescued from the streets and brought to the nurse, she suddenly knows what to do. One city, many intertwined lives – changed in a single night.

Festivals: Durban IFF – *Best South African Feature*; Tofifest

Original Title: Stam **Written by:** Louw Venter **Director of Photography:** Pierre de Villiers **Cast:** Inge Beckmann, Gideon Lombard, Tarryn Wyngaard, Niza Jay, Neil Heyns **Original Language:** Afrikaans, English, Shona **Production Company:** Urucu Media **Produced by:** Elias Ribeiro, Cait Pansegrouw **Co-Production Company:** Halal Amsterdam



70 Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Panorama
Opening Film

ONE IN A THOUSAND

by **Clarisa Navas** Drama/LGBT, Argentina/Germany, 2020, 120 min, 2nd Feature

Set in a community of project houses, "One in a Thousand" explores deep friendship and sexual awakening. When Iris (17) meets Renata (20), a young woman with a tough past, she feels immediately attracted to her. She will have to overcome her fears and struggle with her insecurities in order to experience first love. A story full of tenderness in a very hostile environment where desire adapts many forms in the darkness, and gossip can turn into a hostile weapon.

Festivals: Berlinale Panorama; Cinélatino Rencontres de Toulouse – *Special Mention of the Jury Coup de Coeur*; BAFICI; Guadalajara IFF; Los Angeles Latino IFF; Jeonju FF – *Best Picture*; San Sebastian IFF – *Special Mention of the Jury & Best Latin LGBT film*; Guadalajara IFF; TLVFest; MIX Copenhagen; Listapad Minsk IFF – *Special Jury Award*; Belfort Entrevues IFF; Kosmorama IFF and others.

Original Title: Las Mil y Una **Written by:** Clarisa Navas **Director of Photography:** Armin Marchesini Weihmuller **Cast:** Sofia Cabrera, Ana Carolina García **Original Language:** Spanish **Production Company:** Varsovia Films **Produced by:** Diego Dubcovsky, Lucía Chávarri **Co-Production Company:** Autentika Films



24th BUSAN
International Film Festival
3-12 October 2019

RUNNING TO THE SKY

by **Mirlan Abdykalykov** Drama, Kyrgyzstan, 2019, 88 min, 2nd Feature

Twelve-year-old Jekshen, an exceptional runner, lives in a beautiful mountain village in Kyrgyzstan. His parents are divorced and life with his alcoholic father is difficult. Lonely Jekshen only has his girlfriend from school and his father's friends for support. They encourage him to take part in a big race – a race that could change his life for the better.

National submissions for the best international feature award at the 2021 Oscars.

Festivals: Busan IFF – *FIPRESCI Award*; Schlingel IFF; Cinekid; Minsk IFF Listapad; Rabat IFF – *Jury's Special Mention, Best Actor Award*; Kolkata IFF; Ale Kino! – *Special Mention*; Bengaluru IFF; Hainan IFF; Glasgow FF; WOW Wales One World FF; BIKY; Within a Family; Love & Anarchy Helsinki IFF; Two River Sides IFF; BUFF Malmö Film Festival; Sao Paulo IFF; Chennai IFF

Original Title: Jo Kuluk **Written by:** Ernest Abdyjaparov, Mirlan Abdykalykov **Director of Photography:** Talant Akynbekov **Cast:** Temirlan Asankadyrov, Ruslan Orozakunov **Original Language:** Kyrgyz, Russian **Production Company:** Oy Art **Produced by:** Altynai Koichumanova **Co-Production company:** Kyrgyzfilm



34. Venice International
Film Critics' Week

SANCTORUM

by **Joshua Gil** Drama/Fantastic, Mexico/Dominican Republic/Qatar, 2019, 83 min, 2nd Feature

In a small town caught in the crossfire between the military and the cartels, lives a small boy with his mother. One day, she does not return from the marijuana fields where she works. The anguished boy asks his grandmother where his mom went. Struck with grief, the grandmother tells him to go into the forest and pray to the natural elements that she returns unharmed. As the soldiers arrive and the villagers prepare for their last stand, the awesome power of nature manifests itself.

Festivals: Venice Critics' Week; Morelia IFF; Stockholm IFF; Goa IFF; Tromsø FF; Black Movie FF; Cinélatino Rencontres de Toulouse – *FIPRESCI Award, Prix de la Critique de Toulouse*; FICCI; SANFIC; Bordeaux Latin FF; Love & Anarchy Helsinki IFF; Istanbul IFF; New horizons IFF; FANCINE; Films from the South

Original Title: Sanctorum **Written by:** Joshua Gil **Director of Photography:** Mateo Guzmán, Joshua Gil **Cast:** Erwin Antonio Pérez Jiménez, Nereyda Pérez Vásquez, Virgen Vázquez Torres, Javier Bautista González, Damián D. Martínez **Original Language:** Spanish/Mixe **Production Company:** Parábola Cine **Produced by:** Marion d'Ornano, Laura Imperiale, Carlos Sosa, Joshua Gil **Co-production companies:** Cacerola Films, Viento del Norte Cine, Telegrama Audiovisual, Aurora Dominicana, Vertigo Fx



72

Locarno Film Festival
Official selection

PARENTS

by **Eric Bergkraut, Ruth Schweikert** Comedy, Switzerland, 2019, 94 min, 1st Feature

Step by step, Veronika and Michael Kamber-Gruber let their late-pubescent twin sons paralyze their lives. And neither carrot nor stick are of any use. Romeo and Anton can hardly get out of bed and rarely go to school; sexist and racist slogans are the order of the day. When their grandfather entices his grandsons to even more autonomy with an advance of 80,000 francs on their inheritance, the situation escalates completely. The unnerved parents flee the apartment with the youngest of their three sons and move into the studio they actually rented for Romeo. The couple believes they are saving their marriage and don't realize that they are celebrating their own surrender.

Festivals: Locarno FF; Tromsø IFF; FebioFest Prague; Molodist IFF; Goa IFF; Victoria Film Festival

Original Title: Wir Eltern **Written by:** Eric Bergkraut, Ruth Schweikert **Director of Photography:** Stéphane Kuthy **Cast:** Elisabeth Niederer, Eric Bergkraut, Elia Bergkraut **Original Language:** Swiss German **Production Company:** p.s. 72 productions **Produced by:** Eric Bergkraut



QUIET FREEDOM

by **Wendla Nölle** Drama, Germany, in post-production, 1st Feature

Erik, recently retired, is looking forward to some post-work adventure and to enjoy his family. These plans are thrown into doubt as the harsh reality of his wife Juditha's accelerating illness causes his own health to deteriorate. Juditha refuses to accept any outside help as Erik buckles under the pressure. QUIET FREEDOM explores a long-married couple's difficult choices and the need to rediscover the foundation of their marriage to find each other again.

Original Title: Leise Freiheit **Written by:** Greta Lorez **Director of Photography:** Nikolai von Graevenitz **Cast:** Rolf Lassgård, Dagmar Mazel **Original Language:** German, Swedish **Production Company:** Tamtam Film **Produced by:** Andrea Schuttler, Nikola Bock, Dirk Decker



A VANISHING FOG

by Augusto Sandino Drama/Mystery, Colombia/Czech Republic/Norway, in post-production, 2nd Feature

In the middle of the staggering and endangered Paramo of Sumapaz; F, a solitary explorer and guardian of the mountains, condemned by his fate, strives to protect the mystical and fragile ecosystem he inhabits, while caring for his ailing father. Facing the imminent return of violence and overcoming his human limitations, F has been preparing his escape, but before pursuing a new dimension he will have to endure a heartrending farewell.

Original Title: Entre la Niebla **Written by:** Augusto Sandino **Cast:** Sebastian Pii, Mario de Jesús Viana, Christian Ballesteros
Original Language: English, Sunapakún **Production Company:** Schweizen Media Group **Produced by:** Augusto Sandino, Nubia Stella Cubillos **Co-Production companies:** Magic Lab (Czech Republic), Perspektiv Produksjon (Norway)

PLUTO FILM is a Berlin-based world sales company specialized in distributing arthouse and crossover films as well as debut features by emerging talents.

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