

XIX EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

[Spanish](#)

PORTUGAL

CINCO DÍAS, CINCO NOCHES

English title: 5 days and 5 nights

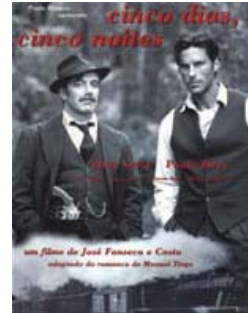
Cinco dias, cinco noites

Portugal, 1996 / 1h. 40 min.

Director: José Fonseca e Costa

Cast: Paulo Pires, Sinde Filipe, Vítor Norte, Mário Moutinho, Diana Costa e Silva.

Awards: Portugal's Golden Globe Award for Best Film in 1996. Golden Kikito for Best Cinematography and Best Score in Gramado Film Festival 1996. Official Selection in Mar del Plata, Montreal, Praga and Huelva Film Festival.



At the end of the 1940's, Portugal is under the Salazar dictatorship. Andre, age 19, is forced to leave the country after escaping from prison. In Porto, some friends speak with a smuggler, Lambaça, so that Andre can pass through the border to Spain. The mutual mistrust and antipathy between Andre and Lambaça emerges during the first encounter. But after five days and five nights together, crossing mountains and valleys, hiding from guards and the police, and with the help of many acquaintances, the two men will have time to know each other better...

RECUERDOS DE LA CASA AMARILLA

English Title: Recollections of the Yellow House

Recordações da Casa Amarela

Portugal, 1989 / 2 h.

Director: João César Monteiro

Cast: João César Monteiro, Manuela de Freitas, Ruy Furtado, Teresa Calado.

Award: Silver Lion in Venice Film Festival, 1989.



Recollections of the Yellow House is a significant work in understanding the humor of Monteiro. He directed his first short film, *Sophia de Mello Breyner Andersen*, in 1969. He lived in France and upon his return to Portugal worked in various literary journals about film. He directed his first feature, *Veredas*, after the fall of Salazar. International recognition came with *Recollections of the Yellow House* in 1989, the film which for the first time features "João de Deus", the character played by him that became a leitmotif of his subsequent films.

NO A LA GLORIA DE MANDAR

English title: No, or the Vain Glory of Command

'Non' ou a va glória de mandar

Portugal – Spain - France, 1990 / 1h. 48 min.

Director: Manoel de Oliveira

Cast: Luis Miguel Cintra, Diogo Dória, Miquel Guilherme, Luís Lucas, António S. Lópes, Raúl Fraire.

Awards: Special Jury Prize in Cannes Film Festival, 1990.

Episodes from entire the military history of Portugal are told through flashbacks as a soldier recounts them while marching through a Portuguese African colony in 1973. He easily draws his comrades into philosophical musings, and the little contingent suffers badly at the hands of the local military opposition.

EL VALLE DE ABRAHAM

English title: Abraham's Valley

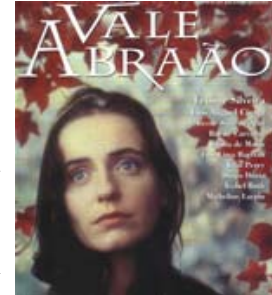
Vale Abraão

Portugal – France – Switzerland, 1993 / 1h. 48 Minutes

Director: Manoel de Oliveira

Cast: Leonor Silveira, Cecile Sanz de Alba, Luis Miguel Cintra, Rui de Carvalho, Luis Lima Barreto.

Ema is a very attractive but innocent girl; so pretty that cars crash in her presence. She marries Dr. Carlo Paiva, who she is not attracted to, but is her father's friend. They move to the Valley of Abraham. Carlo loves her, but decides to sleep in a separate room, to avoid waking Ema when he has to return late at night. With time she begins to feel unhappy about her marriage. And with all the freedom she has, she takes a lover.



LA CARTA

English Title: The Letter

A carta

Portugal – Spain – France, 1999 / 1h. 47 min.

Director: Manoel de Oliveira

Cast: Chiara Mastroianni, Pedro Abrunhosa, Antoine Chappet, Leonor Silveira, Françoise Fabian, Maria João Pires, Anny Romand.

Awards: Jury Prize Award in Cannes Film Festival, 1999. (Digital)

A well-bred, lovely, spiritual, sad young woman marries an attentive physician who loves her. She feels affection but no love. Soon after, without design, she falls in love with Pedro Abrunhosa, a poet and performance artist. He also loves her. She keeps her distance from him, confessing her love to a friend who is a nun and, later, to her husband. Hungry for her love, jealousy consumes him. She attends to him as he wastes away. With his death, she can marry and express her passion, but what she does and how she explains herself, particularly to her cloistered friend, is at the heart of the film. Glimpses of convent life and of Abrunhosa on stage give contrast and mute comment.



A FLOR DE PIEL

Á flor da pele

Portugal, 2006 / 1h. 4 min.

Director: Catarina Mourão

Documentary

Awards: Best Movie in the Ethnographic Documentary Festival of Forumdoc, Brasil

Á flor da pele is a documentary of Catarina Mourão, shot just before the beginning of the football's UEFA European Cup of 2004 that took place in Portugal. Anxiety and emotions are on the surface. In a Port's district, as everywhere in Portugal, a group of children between 8 and 14 years breathe and dream of football. While parents are absent, they have the freedom to create games and impose their own rules, but sometimes things are difficult in the district and the games end in disputes. Apart from this entire hubbub, one of them is not interested in football or in being part of the fights; his refuge is his own dream world.



BELGIUM

25 GRADOS EN INVIERNO

English title: 25 Degrees in winter

25 degrés en hiver

Belgium – France - Spain, 2003 / 1h. 30 min.

Director: Stéphane Vuillet



Cast: Jacques Gamblin, Carmen Maura, Ingeborga Dapkunaute, Pedro Romero.

Awards: Reader Jury of the "Berliner Morgenpost" and nominated for the Golden Berlin Bear in Berlin International Film Festival, 2004. Audience Award in Würzburg International Filmweekend. 2005. Nominated to Golden Biznaga in Málaga Spanish Film Festival, 2004.

It is a strangely warm winter day in Brussels. A travel agency truck crosses the highway. Inside are a man and three women: Miguel, his mother and daughter of Michael, Laura and Sonia, a young Ukrainian, French teacher, who came to Belgium in a clandestine search for her husband who disappeared. Their fates are dangerously close and united.

CZECH REPUBLIC

FIMFÁRUM 2

English title: Finfarum 2

Czech Republic, 2006 / 1h. 30 min.

Directors: Vlasta Pospíšilová, Břetislav Pojar, Jan Balej and Aurel Klimt

Voices: Jan Werich, Ota Jirák

Animated film



Four specialists in film animation come together in a film full of fantasy and magic. The older of them, Břetislav Pojar, has made more than 50 films since the early 50's; Vlasta Pospíšilová has made six since 1966; Aurel Klimt led the first of six in 1995; while the youngest director, Jan Balej, has only two short films before its debut in this shared film.

Fimfárum is the name of some modern fairy tales, written by the great Jan Werich, focusing on the weaknesses and virtues of humans. Taking the classic form of these stories, they are brought to the screen with a critical eye toward relationships and actions of men, with an added dose of humor, satire and irony.

GERMANY

YELLA

English title: Yella

Germany, 2007 / 1h. 29 min.

Director: Christian Petzold

Cast: Nina Hoss, Devid Striesow, Hinnerk Schönemann, Burghart Klaussner, Barbara Auer, Christian Redl

Awards: Silver Berlin Bear for Best Actress (Nina Hoss) and Femina-Film-Prize (Bettina Böhler) in Berlin International Film Festival, 2007. Participated in the Official selection of BAFICI, Buenos Aires, Shanghai and Edinburgh Film Festivals.



Yella has decided to leave the small town of Brandenburg, where she decides to move westward in search of a better future and a new life, leaving behind a failed marriage and several dreams. Nothing can stop her, not even a stupid car crash with her psychotic ex-husband on the day of her departure. When the young executive Philipp gives her a chance to be his assistant, Yella begins a good streak. While she has no idea at all of stock markets, she is lucky and finds success in the business world. But some strange voices and sounds begin to bother Yella. As if the past is following her, she begins to think that his new life may be too good to be true. She has to keep her eyes open, because those who fall asleep may have a hard awakening.

¡EL JUEGO DE ZUCKER!

English title: Go for Zucker!

Alles auf Zucker!

Germany, 2004 / 1h. 30 min.

Director: Dani Levy.

Cast: Henry Hübchen, Hannelore Elsner, Udo Samel, Golda Tencer, Steffen Groth, Anja Franke, Sebastian Blumber.

Awards: Film Award in Gold for Best Costume Design, Best Direction, Best Film Score, Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role, Best Screenplay and Outstanding Feature Film in the German Film Awards 2005. Audience Award Nomination for Best Actor (Henry Hübchen) and Best Director (Dani Levy), and European Film Award



Nomination for Best Actor (Henry Hübchen) and Best Screenwriter (Dani Levy and Holger Franke) in the European Film Awards 2005.

A journalist of Jewish descent in Berlin feels that he is a loser of the political changes in Germany after 1989. When his mother dies, he has to meet his brother to whom he has not talked for years and to meet all his other family members. But during the preparations for the funeral, he plays a snooker-cup for paying his debts with the money for the victory, and many other things get mixed up.

CUATRO MINUTOS

English title: Four Minutes

Vier Minuten

Germany, 2006 / 1h. 52 min.

Director: Chris Kraus

Cast: Monica Bleibtreu, Hannah Herzprung, Sven Pippig, Richy Müller, Jasmin Tabatabai, Stefan Kurt.

Awards: Best Actress (Monica Bleibtreu), Best Young Actress (Hannah Herzprung) and Best Screenplay in the Bavarian Film Awards 2007. Film Award in Gold for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role, in the German Film Awards 2007. Best Film in the Shanghai International Film Festival 2006 and Biberach Film Festival 2006. The film has also taken part of Toronto, Rio, Biberach, Los Angeles, Seville and Istanbul Film Festivals. (35 mm)



Jenny is young but her life is over. She has been locked up in a women's prison for killing someone, and she would do it again. Buried beneath her impenetrable facade, however, Jenny has an invaluable musical talent. When 80-year-old piano teacher Traude Krueger discovers the girl's terrible secret—her raging brutality and her dreams—she makes it her mission to retransform Jenny into the musical wunderkind she once was.

EL NOVENO DÍA

English title: The Ninth Day

Der Neunte Tag

Germany, 2004 / 1h. 37 min.

Cast: Ulrich Matthes, August Diehl, Hilmar Thate, Bibiana Beglau, Germain Wagner and Götz Burger.

In World War II, after a period of living hell on earth in the concentration camp of Dachau with other catholic priests, Father Abbé Henri Kremer (Ulrich Matthes) gets a nine day leave to return to his hometown for his mother's funeral. Along this period, the SS Gestapo lieutenant Gebhardt (August Diehl) tries to persuade Henri—who was born in silver-spoon world and is a member of an influent Luxembourgian family—to convince the local bishop to give-up resisting to the Germans and write a letter to the Vatican in the name of the Catholic Church of Luxemburg convincing the Pope to support Hitler and the Nazi regime. The ambivalent Henri questions himself and the bishop about what they should do.



CADA UNO CALLA ALGO

English title: Last to know

Jeder schweigt von etwas anderem

Germany, 2006 / 1h. 12 min.

Directors: Marc Bauder and Dörte Franke

Genre: Documentary.

Four ex-prisoners, who were sentenced to several years for their critical position against the regime of the Unified German Socialist Party, tell their experiences of then and now. They and their families have failed to overcome the trauma of the past and reading the Stasi reports have worsened things. On the other hand, their children no longer want to know more of the past.



GREECE

PEPPERMINT

English title: Peppermint

Greece, 1999 / 1h. 45 min.

Director: Costas Kapakas

Cast: Georges Corraface, Giorgos Gerontidakis-Sempetadelis, Anny Loulou, Alexandros Mylonas, Tassos Palatzidis.

Awards: Jury Award in Ft. Lauderdale International Film Festival, 2000. Bronze Gryphon and ANEC Gold Medal in the Giffoni Film Festival 2001. Best Actress, Best Debut-Film Director, Best Editing, Best Fiction Film, Best Make-Up, Best Music, Best Screenplay, Best Sound, Best Supporting Actor in the Thessaloniki Film Festival of 1999.



A photo album with photographs even of a family we not know, reminds us of our own experiences and the events that influenced our lives. They are not necessarily the most important events. Often, the first scenes that come to our minds are the “easier moments”, the sounds of our childhood and adolescence. You can recognize and remember your own feelings because of them.

Stefanos took off his first tooth tying it to door. His mother told him to throw the teeth to the roof and a crow would take it and bring a ring. But he did not wait, he stole it from the jeweler of aunt Venetía and he gave it to her cousin, Marina. Some years after, they lost touch with each other. Stefanos and her cousin Marina reunite after 30 years, on the occasion of the funeral of the Stefanos’ mother. They have a lot to talk about.

ARIADNI

English title: Ariadni

Greece, 2002 / 1h. 25 min.

Director: Yorgos Kordelas

Cast: Stratos Tzortzoglou, Rea Toutountzi, Kostas Ferris, Pavlos Orkopoulos.



Alkis is a painter who seeks to carve out a place professionally in a highly competitive space. Lekó is an art collector who promises to help in order to bring a valuable piece of pottery from a museum in Amorgos Island. The operation involves stealing original and replacing them with copies.

Alkis accepts to go with Amorgos. This is where he meets Ariadne. The divine aure of this mysterious young woman, which nobody knows or has ever seen, leads him wanting to know this strange enigma...

SPAIN

SOLDADOS DE SALAMINA

English title: Soldiers of Salamina

Spain, 2003 / 1h.52 min.

Director: David Trueba

Cast: Ariadna Gil, Ramón Fontseré, Joan Dalmau, María Botto, Diego Luna.

Awards: Goya Award for Best Cinematography, 2003. Golden Swan for Best Screenplay in the Copenhagen International Film Festival, 2003. Best Editing and Best Cinematography by the Cinema Writers Circle Awards of Spain, 2004.



When the professor and writer Lola Sánchez is assigned to write a column in the newspaper about the Spanish Civil War, she researches and finds for the first time about the shooting of Rafael Sánchez Maza. Lola has lost her passion for writing, and she becomes intrigued about Rafael, who was a writer and journalist that returned to Spain from the Italy of Mussolini and founded the fascist party Spanish Falange, becoming advisor of the leader Jose Antonio Primo de Rivera. When the lefts won the election in 1936, the Falange became illegal, and later there was a military coup d'état. Rafael miraculously escaped from the shooting and was spared by an unknown soldier. Lola decides to write a book about the historic event and to disclose the identity of the unknown soldier. But her acquaintance Conchi advises that her work is affected by her lack of passion. When Lola reads a work of a student about the heroic former soldier Miralles (Joan Dalmau), Lola becomes obsessed to find him and see if he is connected to the event.

AGUA CON SAL

English title: Water with salt

Spain, 2005 / 1h. 34 min.

Director: Pedro Pérez-Rosado

Cast: Yoima Valdés, Leyre Berrocal, Juan Carlos Morales, Candela Fernández, Lola Molto.

Awards: Special Award in Turia Awards, 2004.



A script that looks at social issues, a documentary-style film, and wonderful direction create a combination that put Pérez-Rosados name amongst directors with a style comparable to the Dardenne brothers and Ken Loach. Olga is a young Cuban who arrived in Spain with a scholarship for her studies, thinking that this would be the beginning of a better life. Over time she becomes an illegal immigrant who can not return home. Mari Jo is a young Valencian de la high Ribera, born in a family full of problems, to which destiny has marked his life. They are illegal workers in furniture factory in which they receive two euros per hour. Modest, simple and clear, *Water with salt* is a story of women who are struggling to survive in a society of welfare, as well as great opportunities, and in which they desperately seek what they had lost.

7 VIRGENES

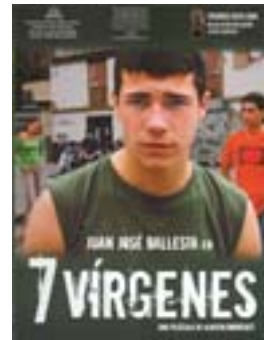
English title: 7 virgins

Spain, 2005 / 1h. 26 min.

Director: Alberto Rodríguez

Cast: Juan José Ballesta, Jesús Carroza, Vicente Romero, Alba Rodríguez, Julián Villagrán.

Awards: Silver Seashell for Best Actor (Juan José Ballesta) in San Sebastián International Film Festival, 2006. Goya Award for Best New Actor (Jesús Carroza), Spain, 2006.



It is summertime in a blue-collar, marginal district of a city in the South of Spain. Tano, a teenager currently serving a sentence in a juvenile reform center, is given a 48-hour leave to attend his brother's wedding. Together with his best friend Richi, Tano plans to enjoy his 48-hour pass to the limit, doing all the things he is normally prohibited from doing. He gets drunk, takes drugs, steals, has sex and hangs out with his buddies. He feels free and exerts that freedom with all the force and audacity of a teenager. By the end of his 48-hour pass, Tano has also witnessed the collapse of all the things he takes for granted in his life: the neighborhood, his family, friends and loved-ones - everything is somehow different for him. More than just two days of freedom, Tano's leave turns out to be a journey into maturity.

IBERIA

English title: Iberia

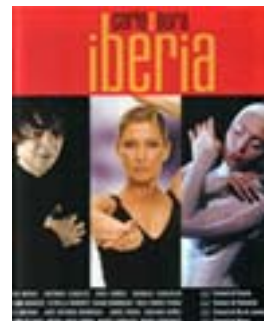
Spain, 2005 / 1h. 36 min.

Director: Carlos Saura

Cast: Sara Baras, Antonio Canales, Aída Gómez, Enrique Morente, Estrella Morente.

Awards: Goya Award for Best Cinematography, 2006.

In his filmography, Carlos Saura maintains a constant interest in music, beginning with *Blood Wedding* (1981), *Carmen* (1983) and *El amor brujo* (1986), continuing with *Sevillanas* (1992), *Flamenco* (1995), *Tango* (1998), *Salomé* (2002) and *Iberia*. In all there is the search for ways and personal style. *Iberia* was conceived as a tribute to the pianist Rosa Torres in the centenary of the Albéniz's suite *Iberia*. Flamenco makes its presence felt and the project leads to what has finally come to be adaptation of twelve multiple prints of the original *Iberia*. For many, it is Spain's music masterpiece. In the film, everything is accommodated with different musical and artistic styles by great pianists and guitarists.



EL BOSQUE ANIMADO: SENTIRÁS SU MAGIA

English title: The Living Forest

Spain, 2001 / 1h. 20 min.

Directors: Manolo Gómez and Ángel de la Cruz

Cast: Animated film with voices of Ignacio Aldeguer, Mar Bordillo, Beatriz Berciano, Lucía Esteban.



Except when there are people around, the mysterious woods of Cecebre resounds with the conversation of the various animals and even the oaks, chestnuts, birches and weeping willows. But when men plant what seems to be leafless tree is actually a telephone pole, which also sprouts a mouth but speaks like his human makers. A scientist decides to catch one mole, Linda, for his dissertation, but his bossy wife takes it and wants them all to make fur-coats since 'mink is out'; Linda's lover Furi escapes, learns the truth about what the trees heard from the telephone wires and sets out to find help in the human world, where everything natural is abused...

FRANCE

LAS HERMANAS ENFADADAS

English title: Me and My Sister

Les soeurs fâchées

France, 2004 / 1h. 33 min.

Director: Alexandra Leclère

Cast: Catherine Frot, Isabelle Huppert, François Berléand.



Louise, younger sister, natural and straightforward, lives in province; Martine, older sister, beautiful and aloof, lives in the Parisian upper middle class. Louise has written a novel. On Monday she will go for an appointment with a publisher in Paris, which may change her life. She comes to live with Martine for three days. During three days, Louise and her obvious happiness exasperate Martine and set her life in glares.....

HASTA PRONTO

English title: Right Now

À tout de suite

France, 2004 / 1h. 35 min.

Director: Benoît Jacquot

Cast: Isild Le Besco, Quassini Embarek, Nicolas Duvauchelle, Laurence Cordie, Fotoni Kodoukaki.

Awards: Best Art Direction in the Gijón International Film Festival, 2004. Official Selection in "An certain regard" Prix Competition in Cannes Film Festival. Best Movie in Punta del Este International Film Festival, 2006.



A school girl falls for a charming young man. After news about a botched bank robbery in which a guard is killed, she learns that her boyfriend was one of the robbers. She decides to hide him and his friends and then they all sneak out of the country. After hiding out and spending all the money, tempers rise and the group splits up. This forces the girl to work her own way back home and deal with her actions and her separation from her boyfriend.

KIRIKOU Y LA BRUJA

English title: Kirikou and the Wild Beasts

Kirikou et les betes sauvages

France, 2005 / 1h. 15 min.

Director: Michel Ocelot

Animated film

Awards: Children's Jury Award in the Chicago International Children's Film Festival, 2006.



In a little village somewhere in Africa, a boy named Kirikou is born. But he's not a normal boy, because he knows what he wants very well. Also he already can speak and walk. His mother tells him how an evil sorceress has dried up their spring and devoured all males of the village except of one. Little Kirikou decides he will accompany the last warrior to the sorceress. Due to his intrepidity he may be the last hope of the village.

MALOS PERDEDORES

English title: Gamblers

Les mauvais joueurs

France, 2005 / 1h. 25 min.

Director: Frédéric Balekdjian

Cast: Pascal Elbé, Simon Abkarian, Isaac Sharry, Linh-Dan Pham, Teng Fei Xiang, Yun Hong Perrotin.

Awards: Manfred Salzgeber Award in Berlin International Film Festival, 2005.



Vahé, Sahak, and Toros run a bonneteau game on the streets of Paris. They're Lebanese-French, of Armenian descent. Vahé also works with his father, a cloth merchant, and is in love with Lu Ann, Chinese French, who's broken off their affair. Vahé wants to make things right: with Lu Ann, with his father's business, and with Yuen, Lu Ann's younger brother, who's on the edge of delinquency and owes money to the gang who arranged his passage from China. Vahé tries to be like a father to Yuen, teaching him a work ethic. When Yuen impetuosity puts his own life in jeopardy, Vahé tries to save him. Will Vahé's impulses and hopes die on the streets of Paris?

LA TRAICIÓN

English title: The Betrayal

La trahison

France – Belgium, 2006 / 1h. 20 min.

Director: Philippe Faucon

Cast: Vincent Martinez, Ahmed Berrhama, Cyril Trolley, Walid Bouzham, Medhi Yacef, Mehdi Idriss.

Awards: Official Selection in Rôtterdam and Toronto Film Festivals, 2006.



The Algerian war has been an almost taboo subject in French cinema. This is autobiographical film for Faucon which examines the complexities of a Colonial situation and the suspicions and tensions that lead to a small and isolated platoon to a dead end. Based on the eponymous novel by Claude Sales, the story takes place in Algeria in 1960, six years after war, while is waiting to be finally independent thanks to the referendum convened by General De Gaulle. French lieutenant Roque, isolated in a post Southeast of Algeria, is at the hand of some thirty men, all conscripts, which include

Muslims. One of them, it caporal Täieb, the interpreter. The role of the detachment is to ensure the security and control of the neighboring village. Fed up with the endless war, all yearn for a return to normal. With some of them, Roque feels confident, however he knows they are quietly supporters of F.L.N. (National Liberation Front), the defenders of Algerian independence. But there is no peace or war here. Roque only seeks to fulfill its mission when, soon, the whole thing changes...

UNA VÍBORA EN EL PUÑO

English title: Viper in the Fist

Vipère au poing

France – United Kingdom, 2004 / 1h. 34 min.

Director: Philippe de Broca

Cast: Catherine Frot, Jacques Villeret, Jules Sitruk, William Touil, Cherie Lunghi, Hannah Taylor Gordon, Richard Bremmer.

Special Jury Prize in Florence's France Film Festival, 2004.



Vipère au poing is a french novel telling the childhood of the author Hervé Bazin. As a young boy, Bazin was confronted with his mother who was a tyrant. She had imposed a very tough way of life in the family manor. For instance, during the winter, she had forbidden any heater in the bedrooms of her children. She was finally nicknamed by them "Follcoche", for Folle (mad) and Cochonne (pig). In 1971, a first film from the book had

been shot for TV with Alice Sapritch playing the mother. At this time, the french viewers had been impressed by her acting. Thirty years later, there is this new adaptation by Philippe de Broca.

OBRAS EN CASA

English title: Housewarming

Travaux, on sait quand ça commence...

France – United Kingdom, 2005 / 1h. 35 min.

Director: Brigitte Roüan

Cast: Carole Bouquet, Jean-Pierre Castaldi, Aldo Maccione, Didier Flamand, François Brion, Alvaro Llanos, Carlos Gasca, Alejandro Piñeros.



Chantal, an advocate involved in defending homeless illegal immigrants, decides to refurbish her flat. Following her convictions she calls Columbian workers, led by an architect. In the mean time, a former client decides he is in love with her; her son and daughter have nearly become homeless; the architect has new plans every day; and other workers fall in love with Chantal, as well...

ITALY

LA VIDA QUE SUEÑO

English title: The Life I Want

La vita che vorrei

Italy, 2004 / 2h. 14 min.

Director: Giuseppe Piccioni

Cast: Luigi Lo Cascio, Sandra Ceccarelli, Galatea Ranzi, Fabio Camilli, Roberto Citran.



An established, famous actor and an aspiring young actress develop a relationship while working together on films. Their mutual attraction and passion draw them together while also pulling them apart.

DESPUÉS DE LA MEDIANOCHE

English title: After midnight

Dopo Mezzanotte

Italy, 2003 / 1h. 30 min.

Director: Davide Ferrario.

Cast: Giorgio Casotti, Francesca Inaudi, Fabio Troiano, Francesca Piccozza.

Awards: Caligari Film Award and Don Quixote Award in Berlin International Film Festival, 2004. David for Best Visual Effects in David di Donatello Awards 2005. Best Actor, Best Editing and Best Film in Flaiano Film Festival, 2004.



In *After Midnight*, the magical Mole Antonelliana (the cavernous Museum of Cinema in Turin, Italy) is the setting and inspiration for a very unlikely love story. One fateful evening, Martino, an avid cinephile and the museum's timid night watchman, comes to the aid of Amanda, an enchanting young fast-food cook on the run from the police after dousing her overbearing boss with hot oil. Martino's dreamy kingdom of silent movie characters becomes a sanctuary for Amanda, as she awaits rescue by her devilish car-jacking boyfriend Angel. Spellbound by the museum, Amanda develops a surprising romantic connection with Martino, who until now has only found companionship in his celluloid dreams. Torn between her newfound feelings for Martino and her troubled relationship with the irresistible Angel, Amanda attempts to balance the affections of her two suitors. Misadventure and chaos ensue as the characters become embroiled in this dubious love triangle. Infused with humor, intelligence, and passion, *After Midnight* is a masterful homage to the silent movie era. Ferrario's daring visual choices and unconventional storytelling make for a charming celebration of love and cinema.

THE NETHERLANDS

MAGONIA

English title: Magonia

Netherlands, 2001 / 1h. 52 min.

Director: Ineke Smits

Cast: Dirk Roofthoof, Willem Voogd, Ramsey Nasr, Amiran Amiranashvili, Antje de Boeck, Geert Hunaerts, Nodar Mgaloblishvili.

Awards: Golden Precolumbian Circle in Bogota Film Festival, 2002. Golden Tulip in Istanbul International Film Festival, 2002.

A sea faring father, a man living on the edge of mental sanity, periodically sees his young son. During the visits, the father tells the boy stories, exotic as well as close to home, about Magonia. This is a mythical place where clouds represent impossible dreams and unfulfilled desires. But the characters in this imaginary place all curiously resemble people now living near the father.



CAMARERO

English title: Waiter

Ober

Netherlands, 2006 / 1h. 37 min.

Director: Alex van Warmerdam

Cast: Alex van Warmerdam, Ariane Schluter, Jaap Spijkers, Mark Rietman, Thekla Reuten, Kees Prins.

Awards: Golden Calf for Best Production Design and Best Screenplay of a Feature Film in The Netherlands Film Festival, 2006.



Although it is not a masterpiece, this movie has memorable scenes. *Waiter* is a collection of *gags*, a strange film that expresses van Warmerdam's sense of humor. The story introduces us to Edgar, waiter with a somewhat sinister hard life. But we will soon discover that this waiter is actually the character in a novel written by a mediocre author who lacks inspiration. Edgar, tired of suffering, arrives at the house of his author, determined to know his future, horrified at the realization that the fruits of his imagination are true.

AUSTRIA

JUGANDOSE LA VIDA A LOS DADOS

English title: You Bet Your Life

Spiele Leben

Austria - Switzerland, 2005 / 1h. 38 min.

Director: Antonin Svoboda

Cast: Georg Friedrich, Birgit Minichmayr, Gerti Drassl, Andreas Patton, Michael Rastl.



A compulsive gambler is forced to take a chance with his own life. The story is about a slacker named Kurt who, after seeing how a dice can win a lot of money in a casino, decides to take the dice into his normal life. Every decision he does is by giving himself six alternatives by the throw the dice; kind of like Two-Face with his coin.

CAFÉ ELECTRIC

English title: Cafe Electric

Cafe Elektric

Austria, 1927 / 1h. 20 min.

Director: Gustav Uciky

Cast: Fritz Alberti, Marlene Dietrich, Anny Coty, Willi Forst, Nina Vanna, Igo Sym, Vera Salvotti, Wilhelm Volker.



A construction worker's daughter meets a young man in the Café Electric, a bar of people with dubious reputations. Hansi can also be found there, to which the destiny has lead her to a life of

prostitution. Max is an engineer who is more concerned with having a good time than with taking care of his daughter work. Erni, the daughter of construction worker Göttlinger, steals a ring from his father and gives it to her friend Ferdl from Cafe Electric. Trouble ensues from there on at Café Electric.

POLAND

EUROPA EUROPA

English title: Europa Europe

Hitlerjunge Salomon

Poland – Germany – France, 1990 / 1h. 52 min.

Director: Agnieszka Holland

Cast: Salomon Perel, Marco Hofschneider, René Hofschneider, Piotr Kozlowski, Klaus Abramowsky, Michèle Gleizer, Julie Delpy, Hanns Zischler.

Awards: Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film, 1992. Boston Society of Film Critics Award for Best Foreign Language Film, 1991. New York Film Critics Circle Awards for Best Foreign Language Film, 1991.



This "incredible, true story" (Los Angeles Times) is at once "eye-opening, harrowing and humorous" (Leonard Maltin) as it recounts the severe actions a young boy must take in order to survive the Holocaust. Based on the autobiography of Solomon Perel, a young German Jew, the film "bounds from one jaw-dropping episode to the next" (The New Yorker) and puts you in the middle of war-torn Europe where ingenuity, timing and luck are the key to survival. Separated from his family at the age of thirteen, Solly takes on various identities to hide his Jewish heritage. First passing himself off as an orphan and later as one of the "Hitler Youth," Solly carries on his charade, hoping desperately to keep his identity hidden and make it through the war alive.

LA DOBLE VIDA DE VERÓNICA

English title: The Double Life of Veronique

Podwojne zycie Weroniki

Poland – France – Norway, 1991 / 1h. 38 min.

Director: Krzysztof Kieslowski

Cast: Irène Jacob, Halina Gryglaszewska, Kalina Jedrusik, Philippe Volter, Sandrine Dumas, Aleksander Bardini.

Awards: Best Actress, FIPRESCI Prize and Prize of the Ecumenical Jury at Cannes Film Festival, 1991.



Krzysztof Kieslowski's international breakthrough remains one of his most beloved films, a ravishing, mysterious rumination on identity, love, and human intuition. Irène Jacob is incandescent as both Weronika, a Polish choir soprano, and her double, Véronique, a French music teacher. Though unknown to each other, the two women share an enigmatic, purely emotional bond, which Kieslowski details in gorgeous reflections, colors, and movements. Aided by Slawomir Idziak's shimmering cinematography and Zbigniew Preisner's haunting, operatic score, Kieslowski creates one of cinema's most purely metaphysical works: The Double Life of Véronique is an unforgettable symphony of feeling.

ROMANIA

SIBIU

English title: Sibiu

Romania, 2007 / 24 min.

Director: Dumitru Budrala

Documentary film

This documentary is a great visual guide of Sibiu, offers us the story of a city with medieval aroma. A city of art, festivals and museums, a genuine cultural capital of Europe that is customized through the diversity of its music and dance, classical and modern majestic notes, the richness of its priceless collections of paintings and



sculptures. Sibiu is an old city that breathes fresh air for its valuable youth with their pores of the cultural and religious variety.

TRAFICO

English title: Traffic

Romania, 2004 / 15 min.

Director: Catalin Mitulescu

Cast: Bogdan Dumitrache y Maria Dinulescu

Awards: Best short film in Cannes Film Festival, 2004



One day, any car, mine or yours, or anyone else's will have problems on the street. Every day we are minute we are exposed, because others have things that I need. But hurry up, look for a taxi, I'm going for a coffee and later, later or tomorrow, who knows, it might be, I don't know... Traffic?

ACANTILADOS DE ARENA

English title: Days of sand

Falez de nisip

Romania, 1983 / 1h. 33 min.

Director: Dan Pița

Cast: Victor Rbengiuc, Gheorghe Visu, Carmen Galin, Marin Moraru, Valentin

Uritescu, Oana Pellea.



The script written by Bujor Nedelcovici is based on the novel "Days of sand," a story that reveals psychological conflicts in which Dan Pița has made a film very close to the Romanian reality in the twentieth century. The main conflict begins between a man socially successful, with good economic and professional position in a time of prosperity; and other, apparently a "nobody", but much stronger and more secure psychologically.

Days of sand is one of the few film made in the Romanian film that unmask the concepts of "new man", faithful to the principles of "socialist ethics and fairness," thus causing great distress at the time of the authorities, who banned dissemination. It was not seen until the early days of 1990.

FINLAND

JUHA

English title: Juha

Finland, 1999 / 1h. 28 min.

Director: Aki Kaurismaki

Cast: Sakari Kuosmanen, Kati Outinen, André Wilms, Esko Nikkari, Markku Peltola.

Awards: Bronze Frog in Camerimage, 1999. C.I.C.A.E. Award - Honorable Mention in the Forum of New Cinema of the Berlin International Film Festival, 1999.



With Juha, director Aki Kaurismaki decides to shoot a silent film with the kind of stories that rescues simple and universally comprehensible, which acts in a film shot today would not have too much interest for the viewer. Rather than follow a model of tragicomic silent film, Kaurismaki show acts (as the marital infidelities) that takes on significances difficult to understand from a current perspective.

This is the story of the wife of a lame farmer, seduced by a man who leaves her pregnant and then tries to exploit her in a brothel, until the release her husband gets at the expense of their own lives.

UN HOMBRE SIN PASADO

English title: The man without past

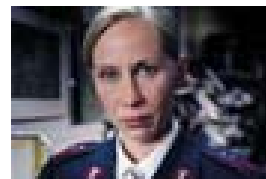
Mies vailla menneisyttä

Finland – Germany – France, 2002 / 1h. 37 min.

Director: Aki Kaurismaki

Cast: Markku Peltola, Kati Outinen, Annikki Tähti, Juhani Niemelä, Kaija Pakarinen.

Awards: Grand Prize of the Jury, Prize of the Ecumenical Jury and Best Actress (Kati Outinen) in Cannes Film Festival, 2002. FIPRESCI Film of the Year 2002 in San Sebastián International Film Festival. Oscar Nomination in Best Foreign Language Film, 2003.



The spare and quirky comedy of Finnish *auteur* Aki Kaurismaki is in delightful form in *The Man Without a Past*. A man awakens after a brutal mugging with no memory; he wanders into the outskirts of Helsinki with his face wrapped like an escapee from a classic horror film. A destitute family helps nurse him back to health and a Salvation Army worker named Irma helps him get a job. Though bureaucrats and policemen who can't seem to cope with this amnesiac's lack of established identity, the amnesiac plants potatoes, manages a rock & roll band, and romances Irma as he builds a new self. Kaurismaki weaves his movies out of small details and careful, cautious steps forward--but by the end, *The Man Without a Past* has become a rich, engrossing, and very funny portrait of the possibilities of life.

SWEDEN

DINAMITA

English title: Deadline

Sprängaren

Sweden, 2001 / 2h. 8 min.

Director: Colin Nutley

Cast: Helena Bergström, Orjan Ramberg, Brasse Brännström, Pernilla August.

Award: Guldbagge Award for Best Supporting Actor (Brasse Brännström) in 2002.

The Victoriastadium is totally destroyed in a bomb attack and Christina Furhage, head-responsible for the Olympic Games in Stockholm, dies with it. Why did someone destroy the stadium and why is Christina murdered? The police desperately seek for clues that will lead them to the perpetrator but without any luck. As the Olympic Games draws near the situation becomes more desperate. Annika Bengtzon, a reporter for *Kvällsposten*, se a connection that no one else sees and without understanding it she starts a carousel that in the end will threaten her own life.



EL BAILE

English title: The Dancing

Danse

Director: Jan Troell

Sweden, 1994 / 20 min.

Documentary Film

The Dancing is not only a film about the interaction between men and women, but also between different cultures, generations and social classes. This short is a personal contribution of Troell to this art form and provides a new dimension and much larger dance. We must emphasize the technical work in the film, as precise and smooth editing rhythm in picture and sound. Images take us to spontaneous children dancing in the street, and passionate sequences of flamenco.



Jan Troell has winner films at international festivals as *Stay in the Marshland*, which won the Grand Prix at the Oberhausen Festival, and *Eeny, Meeny, Miny, Moe* and a mega project composed of the trilogy *The New Land*, *Land of Dreams* and *Hamsum*.

UNITED KINGDOM

EL VIENTO QUE AGITA LA CEBADA

The Wind that shakes the Barley

United Kingdom – Ireland – Germany – Italy - Spain, 2006 / 2h. 4 min.

Director: Ken Loach

Cast: Cillian Murphy, Pádraic Delaney, Liam Cunningham, Orla Fitzgerald, Mary O'Riordan, Mary Murphy.

Awards: Golden Palm in Cannes Film Festival, 2006.

Winner of the Palme d'Or at the 2006 Cannes Film Festival, this gripping drama by Ken Loach (*Raining Stones*) is set during the early days of the Irish Republican Army, when British occupation of the Irish radicalized many a citizen and caused some to take up



arms. Cillian Murphy plays Damien, a medical student on his way to London when he witnesses a couple of atrocities committed by British troops. Instead of becoming a doctor, he turns into a leading and respected figure in an IRA division led by his brother, Teddy (Padraic Delaney). The film provides some fascinating historical insight into the nascent resistance movement as it was in 1920, and Loach brilliantly conveys the profound emotional transition young men had to make to become saboteurs and killers. Loach's realistic style is absolutely mesmerizing, with many scenes built around the dynamics of large groups: contentious meetings, torture sessions, battles, celebrations, and the like. One has the sense of history as a pool of energy, and one also develops a kind of Renoiresque appreciation for the fact that different people on opposing sides of a life-or-death issue have their reasons for believing what they believe. As the story moves along, subtle shifts in the perspectives of men and women who had once agreed to be absolute in their fight for freedom results in a tragic yet understandable schism among Irish patriots. The final half-hour of *The Wind That Shakes the Barley* says a lot about how the Irish, including people who had known one another all their lives, turned their wrath on one another for so many decades. This is an outstanding film, featuring the best performance yet by Murphy (Red Eye).

HERMANAS ANTE LA LEY

Sisters in Law

United Kingdom, Camerun, 2005 / 1h.44 min.

Director: Kim Longinotto, Florence Ayisi

Cast: Beatrice Ntuba, Vera Ngassa.

Documentary Film

Awards: Audience Award in Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival, 2005. C.I.C.A.E. Award in Cannes Film Festival, 2005.



Sisters in law is the first feature film of Florence Ayisi, but the tenth film for Kim Longinotto, experienced documentarian, co director and director of photography. This film is winner of numerous international awards, it aboard human dramas, with sensitivity in the contemporary world. Vera Ngassa, prosecutor, and Beatrice Ntuba, judge, work from the legal system against abuse of power by men or girls abuse by adults. Through some cases of rape, abuse or adultery, this incisive documentary interferes in the work of prosecutors and judges, and accompanying one of them in their daily work in the town of Kumba, Cameroon. *Sisters before the law* builds a challenge to the social base of the domestic violence showing strategies deployed by these women of law in the interstices abandoned by traditions, beliefs and religious or state laws. A documentary that speaks of courage and hope, education and things are changing.

SOL NEGRO

Black Sun

Reino Unido, 2005 / 1h. 15 min.

Director: Gary Tarn

Cast: Hugues de Montalembert

Awards: Special Jury Prize for Best Documentary in the Sarasota Film Festival, 2006. Jury Award for Best Documentary in Newport International Film Festival, 2006.



Being born blind necessitates accommodation to the sighted world from day one, but what kind of struggle does a person face when blinded much later in life? In Hugues de Montalembert's case, not only was his sight taken away but it was the primary sense he utilized for maintaining his chosen profession as a painter. All it took was one mugger's desperate gesture to render him disabled and forever unemployed. Rather than try to re-create the circumstances and do a straight interview with Hugues, director Gary Tarn has undertaken a much more artistic approach to show just what has been lost when you leave the sighted world for one of darkness or extreme blurriness. While Hugues retells his struggles during the intervening years, the screen is filled with images of life in New York city and occasionally the blurry view that Hugues would have of the same scenes the viewer can observe with perfect clarity.