

TALES OF EUROPE

Discover films and stories of Europe



2020 FILM SELECTION

★
EUROPA CINEMAS
CREATIVE EUROPE - MEDIA SUB-PROGRAMME

EUROPA
INTERNATIONAL

Tales of Europe is a program co-organized by Europa Cinemas and Europa International
and funded by Creative Europe MEDIA



INTRODUCTION

In our third year of **TALES OF EUROPE**, we continue to promote and support stories that represent the diversity of European cinema. From first-time filmmakers to established voices, the people behind these films move cinema forward in new and exciting ways. With 12 films from nine countries, programmed by Josh Gardner (Founder and President of Cinema Lamont in Detroit, US) and Barbara Twist (US Representative for **TALES OF EUROPE** program), this curated collection ranges from romantic comedies and political thrillers to heart-warming films about overcoming adversity.

TALES OF EUROPE is made possible with the support of **Europa Cinemas**, the network of European exhibitors, and **Europa International**, the network of European world sales. Last year, over one hundred screenings took place from coast-to-coast, giving US and Canadian audiences a unique opportunity to see films they would not have otherwise.

Films selected for our third edition debuted over the last year at top international festivals such as Berlin, Cannes, Sundance, and Toronto. We include films from, and made in, many different European countries: Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Serbia, and the United Kingdom. Themes of immigration and identity continue to be dominant in many of the films. Stories about conflicting cultures are told through comedy and romance, as well as the dark lens of a near-future. Plus stories of superheroes, but not the Marvel kind. And most of all, stories about resilience, about perseverance, and about hope for our future.

This brochure includes the guidelines of the program and the descriptions of the films selected for the 2020 edition which is launched at **Art House Convergence** on January 20, 2020 and available until December 31, 2020.

We would like to thank our partners **Art House Convergence** (network of US art house cinemas) and **EclairPlay** (download platform connecting cinema exhibitors and content owners).

We trust that you will be as excited by **TALES OF EUROPE** as we are, and by the opportunity to bring these 12 European films to your cinema and your communities. We look forward to working with you to celebrate the films and stories of Europe!

- Barbara Twist and Josh Gardner

GUIDELINES

TALES OF EUROPE is available to North American art house cinemas, film societies, festivals and universities.

FILM SELECTION

The program includes 12 European feature films. All films can be booked “à la carte”: there is no minimum or maximum number of films that a venue must choose.

In the event that a venue is showing four films or more from the program as a festival or series, that festival / series should be named TALES OF EUROPE.

BOOKING FEES

Each feature film is available for a **\$325 booking fee for up to two screenings**.

If a venue is showing **four films or more** from the program, each feature film is available for **\$275 booking fee for up to two screenings**.

Please note that domestic shipping costs are not included: outgoing shipping costs are to be paid by each venue / organization.

TIMELINE

All inquiries must be sent at least six weeks before the screening date and addressed to Barbara Twist. Europa International will be the third party between the venue / organization and the world sales in Europe.

FORMAT

All films are available on DCP and on EclairPlay in DCP-quality and the latter is the preferred method of delivery. Physical DCP delivery is made from the US. Some films are available in DVD or Blu-ray if necessary. DVD or Blu-ray delivery is made from Europe.

PUBLICITY

All publicity materials must include the following credit line: **TALES OF EUROPE is a program co-organized by Europa Cinemas and Europa International and funded by Creative Europe MEDIA.**

TRAVEL GRANT

Venues that would like to organize a master class with the director/actor of one of the films shown can apply for a travel grant to fly the talent to the US. A request as detailed as possible (proposed master class, number of students expected, moderators...) has to be sent to Barbara Twist. Europa Cinemas and Europa International will consider the application and if positive, facilitate the contact with the talent.

CONTACT

For all requests and for access to screeners, please contact Barbara Twist.

Email: info@europa-international.org

Mobile / WhatsApp: +1 (616) 634-1220

Skype: barbara_twist

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BANGLA

(Bangla)

DIRECTOR

Phaim Bhuiyan

SCREENPLAY

Phaim Bhuiyan
Vanessa Picciarelli

CAST

Phaim Bhuiyan
Carlotta Antonelli
Pietro Sermoni

DETAILS

2019, Italy
84 min, Color
Romantic Comedy

WORLD SALES

Fandango Sales

FESTIVALS

Chicago
Fort Lauderdale
Rotterdam

Phaim, a young Moslem of Bangladeshi origin born in Italy 22 years ago, lives with his family in Rome's multiethnic Torpignattara neighbourhood, works as a museum steward, and plays in a band. At a concert, he meets Asia, his exact opposite: pure instinct, and no rules. The attraction between them is immediate, and Phaim will have to figure out how to reconcile his love for the young woman with the most inviolable of Islam's rules: no sex before marriage.

Barbara's comment:

The debut feature from the dynamic Phaim Bhuiyan explores his own experiences as a second generation 24-year-old of Bangladeshi origin and the tension between obligation and desire.



DENMARK

(Denmark)

DIRECTOR

Adrian Shergold

SCREENPLAY

Jeff Murphy

CAST

Rafe Spall
Simone Lykke
Thomas Gabrielsson

DETAILS

2019, United Kingdom
91 min, Color
Drama, Comedy

WORLD SALES

WestEnd Films

FESTIVALS

Glasgow, Napoli
Dinard

A hapless sad sack, Welshman Herb (Rafe Spall, *LIFE OF PI*, *THE BIG SHORT*) is on the verge of a breakdown. He just lost his welfare, can't hold down a job, and has no relationship with his son. So when he sees a YouTube video about Danish prisons, where inmates are provided with a flatscreen tv, healthcare, and a job, he gets a bright idea. He'll smuggle himself to Denmark, rob a bank, get arrested, and live out the rest of his days in the lap of prison luxury. But when he meets a charming local and her precocious daughter, he'll have to decide whether to go through with his plan or take a chance on life beyond bars.

Josh's statement :

A delightfully bittersweet comedy, Rafe Spall shines as the downtrodden Herb in this affable twist on undocumented European immigration.



NEW BIZ IN THE HOOD

(Jusqu'ici tout va bien)

DIRECTOR

Mohamed Hamidi

SCREENPLAY

Mohamed Hamidi
Michaël Souhaïte
Khaled Amara

CAST

Gilles Lellouche
Malik Bentalha
Sabrina Ouazani

DETAILS

2018, France
90 min, Color, Comedy

WORLD SALES

TF1 Studio

FESTIVALS

Alpe d'Huez - Audience
Award

Produced by the team behind THE INTOUCHABLES, NEW BIZ IN THE HOOD, is a feel-good French comedy. Frederic Bartel is the charismatic leader of a marketing agency, the Happy Few. After a visit from the tax authorities, it's revealed that the company has claimed to be in a 'distressed' area for the tax benefits despite keeping its office in a posh area of Paris. Fred's options: pay a 1.5million Euro fine or actually move the office to La Courneuve, an impoverished suburb of Paris. Fred chooses the company move, where he meets Samy, who serves as their 'ambassador' to this new neighborhood.

Barbara's comment:

Through its comedic twists and turns, NEW BIZ IN THE HOOD gets the audience thinking about social & class divides and what it means to come together as a community, in this classic fish-out-of-water story.



AREN'T YOU HAPPY?

(Das melancholische Mädchen)

DIRECTOR

Susanne Heinrich

SCREENPLAY

Susanne Heinrich

CAST

Marie Rathscheck

DETAILS

2019, Germany
80 min, Color, Comedy

WORLD SALES

Coproduction Office

FESTIVALS

Berlin, Rotterdam

A girl roams through the city looking for a place to sleep. Along the way she meets young mothers who celebrate motherhood religiously, goes home with an abstinent existentialist for whom sex is “just another market,” and waits for the end of capitalism in a drag bar. Her attempt to write a book doesn't make it beyond the the first sentence of the second chapter, and she finds no space between art galleries, yoga studios, and the beds of strangers. Instead of trying to fit in, she starts regarding her depression as a political issue. Through 15 of the girl's humorous encounters, AREN'T YOU HAPPY? explores our post-modern society between precarity and self-marketing, serial monogamy and neo-spirituality, disillusionment and the pressure to be happy.

With dialogue fit for protest posters, pastel-colored backgrounds, and the perfect dose of humor, the film energetically tackles its complex and serious subject matters without becoming dreary. It takes viewers on a compelling post-modern feminist journey straight from Heinrich's mind.

- Women and Hollywood



BLIND SPOT

(L'angle mort)

DIRECTOR

Pierre Trividic
Patrick Mario Bernard

SCREENPLAY

Pierre Trividic
Patrick Mario Bernard

CAST

Jean-Christophe Folly
Isabelle Carré
Golshifteh Farahani

DETAILS

2019, France
104 min, Color
Drama, Science Fiction

WORLD SALES

Doc & Film International

FESTIVALS

ACID Cannes
Sitges

A refreshingly sensitive and lo-fi take on the omnipresent superhero genre, **BLIND SPOT** follows Dominick, who was born with the ability to turn invisible. But instead of imbuing Dominick with great power and responsibility, his gift or more aptly curse, has led him to a life of loneliness and alienation in the drab Parisian suburbs. Pushing 40, Dominick has kept his unique condition to himself, not even telling his loving girlfriend, until he meets a blind woman who can see this “invisible man” for who he really is. Filmmaking duo Patrick-Mario Bernard and Pierre Trividic premiered this melancholy genre meditation in the adventurous ACID sidebar at the Cannes Film Festival.

Josh's statement:

BLIND SPOT has atmosphere, style, and isn't afraid to make complex statements about race and isolation in the 21st-century. This is the ultimate, stripped-down, art-house version of a superhero story and it blew me away.



LEMONADE

(Lemonade)

DIRECTOR

Ioana Uricaru

SCREENPLAY

Ioana Uricaru
Tatiana Ionascu

CAST

Mălina Manovici
Steve Bacic
Dylan Scott Smith

DETAILS

2018, Romania, Canada
88min, Drama, Color

WORLD SALES

Pluto Film

FESTIVALS

Tribeca, Seattle
Berlinale

While working in the US on a temporary visa as a caretaker, Mara, a 30-year-old single mother from Romania, marries Daniel, an American. After the arrival of her son Dragos, everything seems to have fallen perfectly into place. When the process of getting a green card veers unexpectedly off course, however, Mara is faced with abuses of power on every level and forced to answer a dark question about herself – how far would you go to get what you want?

Barbara's comment:

This debut feature revels in the subtlety and sparseness of Romanian New Wave films, with Ioana Uricaru drawing from her own experiences about immigration and conflict between cultures. The story shines a light on the fallacy of the American Dream, hammering home that America arrived is not America dreamt.



LOVE CUTS

(Reži)

DIRECTOR

Kosta Djordjević

SCREENPLAY

Dragan Nikolić

CAST

Kristina Jovanović
Djurdjina Radić
Mladen Sovilj

DETAILS

2019, Serbia, Croatia
80min, Color, Drama

WORLD SALES

Soul Food

FESTIVALS

New Orleans

It is a scorching August on the streets of Belgrade. A cocky teenage girl, Aja, breaks up with her boyfriend for the umpteenth time. A little while later, while hanging out with her friends, she gets bullied and stabbed by a gang of local kids. For the rest of the day Aja struggles between taking revenge and making up with her boyfriend.

Barbara's comment:

A nothing-out-of-the-ordinary day for Aja is a wild day for everyone else. Aja is like a street superhero whose intense focus on revenge vs. forgiveness gives this film an intense, strong energy, matched by the work of cinematographer Bojana Andric, who shot the film entirely in sequence shots.



FLESH OUT

(Il Corpo della Sposa)

DIRECTOR

Michela Occhipinti

SCREENPLAY

Michela Occhipinti
Simona Coppini

CAST

Verida Beitta Ahmed Deiche
Amal Saab Bouh Oumar
Aichetou Abdallahi Najim

DETAILS

2019, Italy
94 min, Color, Drama

WORLD SALES

Films Boutique

FESTIVALS

Tribeca, Mill Valley
Berlin, Melbourne

Three months out from her arranged marriage, Verida reluctantly participates in gavage, a Mauritian custom where the bride must gain a fuller figure for her future husband, in order to appease her traditional family. With a goal of gaining 20 kilos, Verida must eat over six meals a day and has regular weigh-ins to check on her progress. But as the ritual becomes all-consuming, she can no longer shoulder the expectations of others and discovers her own desires. Michela Occhipinti, in her narrative feature debut, beautifully renders a powerful story of body positivity and self-worth that resonates far beyond Mauritania.

Josh's statement:

An empowering feminist tale, FLESH OUT is visually striking and eye-opening, displaying the universal yet varying pressures women face all around the globe to conform to societal standards.



KATIE

(Katie)

DIRECTOR

Ross Whitaker

SCREENPLAY

Ross Whitaker

CAST

Katie Taylor

DETAILS

2018, Ireland
90 min, Color
Documentary

WORLD SALES

WestEnd Films

FESTIVALS

Galway Film Fleadh
Doctober
Pickford Film Center

A trailblazing portrait of champion Irish boxer, Katie Taylor, who struggles to rebound from a challenging year both in and outside the ring. After taking Olympic Gold at the 2012 London games Katie was on top of the world, but when she crashed and burned just four years later at the 2016 Rio Olympics, her fairytale career hit a major speedbump. Determined not to give up, Katie sets her sights on turning professional and forging her own path in a male-dominated sport. Rivetingly told by documentarian Ross Whitaker, KATIE is an inspiring story of empowerment, perseverance, and dedication.

"A beautifully crafted story of a supreme athlete who thrives by defying the odds. Katie Taylor is the real-life Million Dollar Baby..."

- Screen Daily



ONE LAST DEAL

(Tuntematon Mestari)

DIRECTOR

Klaus Härö

SCREENPLAY

Anna Heinämaa

CAST

Heikki Nousiainen
Amos Brotherus
Pirjo Lonka

DETAILS

2019, Finland
95 min, Color, Drama

WORLD SALES

LevelK

FESTIVALS

Toronto, Palm Springs
Seattle, Cleveland

Estranged from his family and struggling to keep his gallery afloat, curmudgeonly art dealer Olavi is looking to make a career-capping sale before closing his shop for good. When an unsigned painting goes up for auction, he goes all in, thinking it might be a long lost Russian masterpiece. But he'll need the help of his grandson Otto to discover the painting's true identity and to get a second chance at reconciling with his daughter. Award-winning Finnish filmmaker Klaus Haro (THE FENCER) returns with a redemptive tale of family and art in this crowd-pleasing tearjerker.

Josh's statement:

A warm, handsomely told film festival favorite, ONE LAST DEAL had me hooked with its blend of art history mystery and emotionally resonant family drama.



SONS OF DENMARK

(Danmarks Sønner)

DIRECTOR

Ulaa Salim

SCREENPLAY

Ulaa Salim

CAST

Zaki Youssef
Mohammed Ismail Mohammed
Rasmus Bjerg

DETAILS

2019, Denmark
119min, Color
Political thriller

WORLD SALES

New Europe Film Sales

FESTIVALS

Rotterdam, Seattle
Edinburgh

Denmark 2025. One year after a major bomb attack in Copenhagen radicalisation around the country has intensified and ethnic tensions are running high. The next parliamentary election is near, and the extremely nationalist political leader Martin Nordahl is set for a landslide victory. 19 year old Zakaria gets involved in a radical organisation, where he forms a bond with Ali. The two men cannot agree with the current state of the country, which is turning on its own citizens because of their migration background, and decide to act. However, they are both just tools in the hands of people with power. As the men try to make their mark, their brotherhood will be tested and their actions will have grave consequences on their lives.

Barbara's comment:

A powerful feature debut from Ulaa Salim, SONS OF DENMARK pulls you along unwittingly as you go deeper and deeper into the political thriller, never letting up until "the extreme becomes normal and you can't even remember when it wasn't," per Salim. A must-play film in 2020 with mandatory discussion sections after film screenings for your community.



THE WITCH HUNTERS

(Zlogonje)

DIRECTOR

Rasko Miljkovic

SCREENPLAY

Marko Manojlovic
Milos Kreckovic

CAST

Mihajlo Milavic
Silma Mahmuti

DETAILS

2018, Serbia, Macedonia
86 min, Color
Family, Adventure

WORLD SALES

Pluto Film

FESTIVALS

Sundance, Toronto
Cleveland, Minneapolis
Giffoni, Cinekid

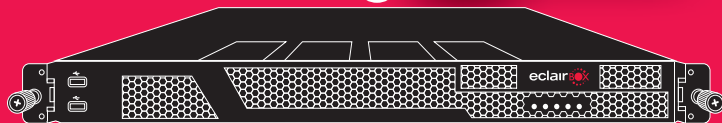
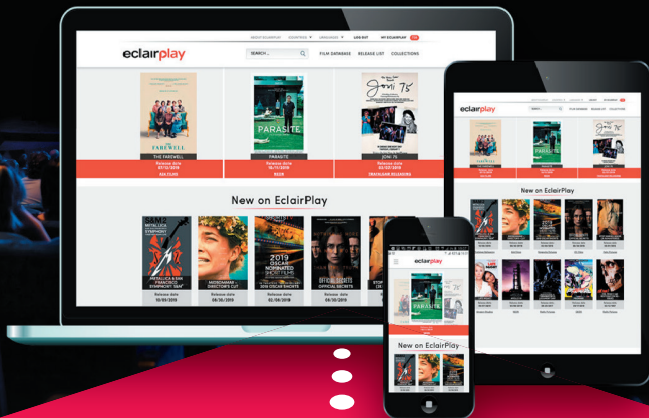
10-year-old Jovan has had cerebral palsy for as long as he can remember. His condition has shaped his everyday life and made him think of himself as invisible to others – particularly his parents and classmates. In the world of his imagination, however, to which he escapes frequently, he is free to be who he wants and possesses the hero superpowers that everybody dreams of. Jovan's (extra)ordinary existence is suddenly shaken up by a new classmate, Milica. Bit by bit, brave and determined Milica tears down the wall that Jovan has built around himself and eventually invites him to join her on a real life adventure – to liberate her father from his new wife, Milica's stepmother, whom she believes is a witch. The quest offers Jovan a reality beyond anything he could have imagined, but in order to become a true hero Jovan first has to learn to accept himself for who he is.

Barbara's comment:

A 2019 Sundance pick, this debut feature puts us firmly in the perspective of Jovan, where we get to experience the highs of his fantastic imagination and the lows of his struggles to fit in. A charming and compelling story for elementary and middle-school children and their parents.



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The Art House Convergence (AHC) is an association dedicated to advancing excellence and sustainability in community-based, mission-driven media exhibition.

Each year our annual conference, regional seminars, and programs provide networking opportunities, educational resources, and define best practices for hundreds of theaters and festivals located throughout North America.

Find out more
www.arthouseconvergence.org

CONTACT

Barbara Twist
info@europa-international.org

#TalesOfEurope

Fatima Djoumer, Head of International Relations, Europa Cinemas
Daphné Kapfer, Managing Director, Europa International
Barbara Twist, US Representative for Tales of Europe program

