

goEast Highlights**CHCE SIĘ ŻYĆ / DAS LEBEN IST SCHÖN / LIFE FEELS GOOD**

(Poland 2013, Director: Maciej Pieprzyca, 107 min)

As a child Mateusz is diagnosed with cerebral palsy. His family and friends resign themselves to a condition they believe to be mental as well as physical. But the boy himself is anything but resigned: he dedicates his life to convincing the people around him of his intelligence. LIFE FEELS SO GOOD takes the viewer on a helter-skelter journey through a life defined by the search for love, respect and acknowledgement. Based on a true story, the film won a Silver Lion at the Gdynia Film Festival and the audience award at the Montreal World Film Festival in 2013.

German premiere

Alpha: Thu, 10 April / 8:00 p.m.

Rex Darmstadt: Fri, 11 April / 8.15 p.m.

Caligari: Fri, 11 April / 10:00 p.m.

PŘÍBĚH KMOTRA / DIE GESCHICHTE DES PATEN / THE GODFATHER'S STORY

(Czech Republic 2013, Director: Petr Nikolaev, 99 min)

František Vedral's motto runs: Win any game life throws at you. And life, in the eyes of the fearless mafia boss for whom no goal is unrealistic and every means is justified, is crime. For years he's nimbly kept one step ahead of the detectives assigned to his case. In the midst of this battle of wits the team of detectives begins to wonder: are we hunters or prey? PŘÍBĚH KMOTRA / THE GODFATHER'S STORY, one of the most successful Czech films of 2013, is torn between laughter and tears as it contemplates phenomena like brutal privatization, fraud and corruption – part of everyday life in post-communist societies.

German premiere

Alpha: Fri, 11 April / 8:00 p.m.

Alpha: Sat, 12 April / 10:00 p.m.

KERTU / KERTU / KERTU.LOVE IS BLIND

(Estonia 2013, Director: Ilmar Raag, 97 min)

Kertu is not like other people. As far as the locals on the Estonian island of Saaremaa are concerned, the shy postwoman with girlish features is slightly mad. During the summer solstice celebrations Kertu suddenly disappears. The next morning she's discovered in the home of Villu, a permanently drunk would-be Don Juan. No question about it for her family and the rest of the village: Kertu didn't go with him of her own free will. When the postwoman turns out to be pregnant, the fury of her dominating, aggressive father knows no bounds. KERTU, a stirring and dramatic tale of love between two outsiders, packed Estonia's cinemas when released last year. Director Ilmar Raag's previous film, EESTLANNA PARIISIS / A LADY IN PARIS, opened goEast in 2013.

Alpha: Fri, 11 April / 10:00 p.m.

Alpha: Sun, 13 April / 6:00 p.m.

goEast Specials

goEast Reading: Jaroslav Rudiš

Ole is forty. He used to be a punk, a ladies' man, and musician. Today he runs "Helsinki", a smoky bar in a big city in East Germany. When it is closed Ole takes a journey into the darkest point in his past: in 1987 he tried to flee to the West with his girlfriend Nancy via the green border to Czechoslovakia. Nancy died trying... The bestselling author Jaroslav Rudiš will read (in German) from his fourth novel "The End of Punk in Helsinki". He has become familiar to fans of Central and Eastern European cinema since the remarkable film version of his graphic novel ALOIS NEBEL from the year 2013.

House of Literature "Villa Clementine": Thu, 10 April / 7:30 p.m.

goEast Party: Baltic Balkan + Schwarzmeer BBQ

Vilnius, home of Baltic Balkan, was always a melting pot of different cultures with music to match. After Baltic Balkan started up in 2009 their reputation soon spread beyond the Lithuanian club scene. Inspired by Yugoslav punk rock, Klezmer and Gypsy music, their wildly romantic mixture of Baltics and Balkan makes it hard to stay still – as the legendary 2012 goEast Party showed! With local hero Schwarzmeer BBQ at the turntables, the guests from Lithuania will have all the support they need.

Cultural Centre "Schlachthof" / "Räucherzimmer": Fri, 11 April / 11:00 p.m.

PIRVELI MERTSKHALI / WIE DER FUSSBALL NACH GEORGIEN KAM / THE FIRST SWALLOW (USSR 1975, Director: Nana Mchedlidze, 73 min)

A tiny Georgian village is in the grip of football fever at the beginning of the 20th century. While the men blithely go about setting up a team and visiting the beach for daily training sessions (some need reminding that certain rules apply), the women watch on with growing displeasure as chaos mounts and the menfolk neglect their duties and families. After people notice that a victory over the neighbouring village team does wonders for their own community's reputation, the battle for the ball turns into a major social event. Nana Mchedlidze offers a spirited, witty account of the birth of Georgia's first football team.

Festival Centre: Sat, 12 April / 8:00 p.m.

Table Football Tournament and Party

Directly following the Georgian football comedy it's all about forming teams and participating! At the festival's own table football tournament we will see if a World Cup qualified team from Germany, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina or Russia will bring home the bacon – or even a newly formed transnational teams? Gregor Maria Schubert will make the dance floor shake in the fan zone. The director of the *Lichter Filmfest Frankfurt International* will make some noise with his tunes. Registration for participation in the table football tournament via info@filmfestival-goEast.de or at the info counter in the festival centre.

Festival Centre: Sat, 12 April / 9:30 p.m.

goEast Matinee

Guests: Anja Antonowicz, Jens Klüber, Jördis Triebel (invited), Alexander Scheer (invited)
Moderation: Rudolf Worschech (epd Film)

WESTEN / WESTEN / WEST (Germany 2013, Director: Christian Schwochow, 102 min)

East Berlin in the late 1970s. Nelly Senf, a doctor of chemistry, is allowed to leave the German Democratic Republic together with her son Alexey. After crossing the border, the mother and son land in Marienfelde refugee centre in Berlin, where she is subjected to close scrutiny by the secret services of the allied powers. Having just escaped constant surveillance by the Stasi in the GDR, she feels unpleasantly reminded of the life she'd wanted to put behind her. Her day-to-life in the transit zone between East and West becomes increasingly overshadowed by questions and doubts, and the prospect of a fresh start seems to be slipping away. WEST is the tale of woman whose search for a new life requires her to decide who she wants to be and what kind of life she wants for her son and herself.

Caligari: Sun, 13 April / 11:00 a.m.

Slovak Cinema Now: Panel Discussion

In connection with the 2014 focus on Slovakia, goEast joins forces with the Slovakian Film Institute to stage a panel discussion that aims to identify the current position of Slovak cinema. Several renowned experts and producers have been invited to discuss currents and tendencies as well as political and societal influences confronting directors and the country's film industry. The audience can expect an interesting discussion exploring the perspective of Slovak cinema against the background of a process of social transformation extending into the present day.

Panel Members:

Peter Badač (Producer)

Eva Křížková (Film Critic)

Alexandra Strelková (Director of the National Cinematographic Centre of the Slovak Film Institute)

Zuzana Liová (Director)

Moderation: Martin Blaney (Film Critic)

Festival Centre: Mon, 14 April / 4:00 p.m.

goEast Closing Party: Zaitsa + I Can't Dance (DJ)

Zaitsa's recipe for success involves nothing more than a pinch of Eastern European folk laced with jazz, pop and Balkan beats. Frankfurt-based frontwoman Olga Zaitseva stems from Ukraine and brings audiences to the boil with her powerful vocals, maniacal violin and explosive stage presence. Dance if you dare! And stay on the floor for I Can't Dance and a heady mixture of funk, sixties sounds, and rock 'n' roll lasting into the early hours.

Kulturpalast: Tue, 15 April / 11:00 p.m.