

goEast Newsletter #2/2012

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First Festival Highlights

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Experimental, Critical, Daring: The First Cinematic Highlights at goEast 2012

goEast - Festival of Central and Eastern European Film transforms the city of Wiesbaden into a display for current developments in Central and Eastern European cinema from the 18th until the 24th of April 2012. goEast presented the first highlights of its 12th edition at the official Berlinale reception of the festival's organising institution, Deutsches Filminstitut.

goEast Symposium

The **Symposium "RealAvantGarde - With Lenfilm Through the Short 20th Century"** is dedicated to the oldest (Soviet-)Russian film studio Lenfilm. During recent months Lenfilm came to global attention when the projected privatisation was stopped by the protest of the internationally renowned directors Aleksandr Sokurov and Aleksej German. From its establishment in 1918 until the late Perestroika period, Lenfilm was foremost a fertile ground for cinematic experiments and subtle, critical realism. Whether in exploring history, at play with different film genres or alternative (sur)realisms: Lenfilm combines artistic inventiveness and a fascination for social reality; avant-garde and everyday life. The Slavic studies and film scholar Barbara Wurm and the film critic Olaf Möller are heading the symposium. It will focus on the stages of the studio's development, as well as the interrelations between contemporary history and film history in a series of lectures and a panel discussion. The film programme presents a selection from the studio's 1,500 productions, including features such as OBLOMOK IMPERII / FRAGMENT OF AN EMPIRE (1929, Fridrich Ermler), BOLSCHAYA SEMYA / A BIG FAMILY (1954, Joseph Heifitz) and DNI ZATMENIYA / DAYS OF ECLIPSE (1988, Aleksandr Sokurov). The short film section includes some productions that had been presumed lost, such as GOPAK (1931, Mikhail Tsekhanovsky), which is presented as a world premier after its rediscovery.

goEast Portrait

This year, the **Portrait** section presents the first complete retrospective of Russian director **Sergei Loznitsa**: the native Belorussian currently living in Germany with a Ukrainian passport caused an international sensation with his feature film debut SCHASTYE MOYE (MY JOY) in 2010. Previously he had established himself as a documentary filmmaker. His cinematically refined films, all of which are shown at goEast, cast an uncompromising view on post-Soviet everyday life in the Russian hinterland. But Loznitsa also revives the history of Soviet Russia: in his two footage films BLOKADA (BLOCKADE, 2005) and PREDSTAVLENIYE (REVUE, 2008) he explores the siege of Leningrad and Soviet culture ideology of the 1950s, 60s and 70s with the use of original and archive footage.

Beyond Belonging

Following its successful establishment last year, **Beyond Belonging** is now a fixed section of the goEast festival programme. It includes outstanding films from beyond Central and Eastern Europe that are thematically tied to the region. The festival section acknowledges the fact that a changing Europe demands a new point of view. Beyond national and regional borders, out-dated patterns of thought and concepts it is necessary to develop a shared perspective on transformation processes. Inspired by the protest movements that burgeoned across the globe over the past year, as well as the high number of coming-of-age films in current Central and Eastern European cinema, this year Beyond Belonging focuses on the topic of **“Protest”**. Young people in conflict with their parents, student revolts or the collapse of the Eastern bloc: the section’s programme brings together different perspectives on forms of protest and introduces historical and recent productions.

GOEAST PRESENTS

FATHER AND SON / OTEZ I SYN

Father and Son together in a rooftop apartment. They have lived alone for years in their own private world, full of memories and daily rituals. Sometimes they seem like brothers. Sometimes even like lovers. Following in his father's footsteps, Alexei attends military school. He likes sports, tends to be irresponsible and has problems with his girlfriend. She is jealous of Alexei's close relationship with his father. Despite knowing that all sons must one day live their own lives, Alexei is conflicted. Alexei's father knows he should maybe accept a better job in another city, maybe search for a new wife. But who will ease the pain of Alexei's nightmares?

RUS/GER/I/NL 2003

Director: Alexander Sokurow

Screenplay: Sergej Potepalov

Cinematography: Alexander Burow

With: Andrej Shchetinin, Alexej Neymyshev, Alexander Razbash, Fedor Lavrow

86 Min., russ. OV with subtitles

Tuesday, 13.03.2012; 8.00 pm; Caligari FilmBühne, Wiesbaden

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**12. FESTIVAL DES MITTEL- UND OSTEUPÄISCHEN FILMS
WIESBADEN 18.04. BIS 24.04.2012**

HOST

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