

# About The Festival

We welcome you to the 3rd installment of Behind the Curtain Festival, an Eastern and Central European Film Festival that spreads across venues in Birmingham each autumn. We celebrate and bring you the spirit of the best of Eastern European cinema and culture through Film, Music, Discussions and Workshops.

We are delighted to share with you our selection for this years festival. This year we will bring to you 17 feature and short films from 12 countries screening during the 10 festival days. Catch our screenings in venues in North, South and Central Birmingham. Again, this year our Festival Hub is based at our eclectic space Centrala.

Behind the Curtain is organized and initiated by the Polish Expats Association and is part of Birmingham Festivals.

## VENUES:



Centrala , Unit 4 Minerva Works, 158 Fazeley Street, Birmingham B5 5RT



ORT cafe, 500-504 Moseley Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham B12 9AH



The Electric Cinema, 47-49 Station St, Birmingham B5 4DY 4



mac birmingham, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham B12 9QH



Erdington Welcome Centre, 109 High Street, Erdington Birmingham B23 6SA

## GET IN TOUCH:



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Instagram @centrala\_space

# Festival Opening Party

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Friday 18 November, 7pm until late  
Centrala, Tickets: free

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Join us at Centrala, our Festival Hub to celebrate the opening of our festival in true Central and Eastern European style with music, film with free food and drinks!

We present an evening filled with music and film, from Young Polish Classical violinists taking inspiration from traditional Polish music to Klezmer bands, Balkan folk musicians and culminating with ex-Grindcore Experimental Electronic Pioneers.

Expect a selection of specialty Eastern European drinks and cocktails, delicious Polish cakes and doughnuts and more!

We will screen tasters of the Festival's Films during the evening and a tribute to the late great Polish director Andrzej Wajda.

Performances during the evening:

## Cracovia Quartet:

Katarzyna Deja, Olga Eckert, Maja Pluta, Edwin Podolski  
Cracovia quartet are 4 young open minded undergraduate violinists from Birmingham Conservatoire.

## Ajde Trio - Klezmer band

Ajde Trio met at Birmingham Conservatoire, they bring the sounds of traditional Balkan folk to Britain. Consisting of Katarzyna Deja on violin Antonio Mura on double bass and Tom Goodger on guitar.

## Paweł Żaba - composer/accordionist

Paweł Żaba will be singing a variety of Polish songs - mostly folk songs - which he learnt aurally from Poles and Anglo-Poles over the years.

## Earth is Flat

Earth Is Flat is a new project by two Polish producers, Kamil Ilcewicz and Kamil Bogusławski. After meeting in a Grindcore band they decided to take a new path and create their own style of composition. Earth Is Flat is a visual and musical experiment that mixes trippy melodies, broken beats and deep bass wrapped up in never ending ideas.

## Workshop - Make your own Film Poster

Friday 18 November, 3.30pm – 5.30pm  
mac birmingham, tickets: free, age: any age

Saturday 26 November 1pm – 3pm 5.30pm  
Erdington Welcome Centre, tickets: free,  
age: any age



An all age workshop to create a Film Poster, we will explore traditional poster making techniques, using painting, collage and screen print to create new versions of posters of your favourite film. The workshops will be led by Birmingham artist and educator: Małgorzata Adamowska. Both workshops are drop in, no booking required, although space is limited to 20 visitors at a time. All children need to be accompanied by an adult. We will provide aprons but please mind that poster making maybe messy

## Classic Children's Animations

Saturday 19 November, 2pm  
Erdington Welcome Centre, Tickets: free

Saturday 26 November, 3pm  
Centrala, Tickets: free

An Afternoon of the ever popular classic Eastern European children's shorts, from the adventures of Reksio the cartoon dog to Krecika the mole. These films can be enjoyed by all ages.



## Reverse/ Rewers Poland 2009

Saturday 19 November, 6pm  
Erdington Welcome Centre, Tickets: £4.50  
Age: 15+

Directed by Borys Lankosz, black comedy, 99 min,  
eng subtitles

Year 1952. In the middle of the capital foundations of Palace of Culture are being raised. Sabina has turned thirty and her mother tries to find her a husband. Grandmother rates the candidates yet the girl isn't interested in any of them... One day in dramatic circumstances she meets Bronisław, a young man with the looks of peasant movie star. The man is vulgar yet Sabina gets passionate abo-



ut him... His presence begins series of surprising events that will change the lives of three ladies.

## Daisies with live music accompanied by Matthew Edwards and the Unfortunates

Saturday 19 November, 6pm

Erdington Welcome Centre, Tickets: £4.50, Age: 15+



Screening of the Věra Chytilová's surreal masterpiece 'Daisies' with live music performance from Matthew Edwards and the Unfortunates supported by Ben Peers.

Matthew Edwards and the Unfortunates is a cinematic art-pop group based in both Birmingham UK and San Francisco CA. The groups' debut album 'The Fates' came out in November 2014: \*\*\*\* Mojo, \*\*\*\* Shindig, 8/10 Uncut. Matthew has collaborated with Fred Frith (Henry Cow), Eric Drew Feldman (Cpt Beefheart, PJ Harvey) and Dagmar Krause (Slapp Happy). The groups' second record 'Folklore' will be

released in early 2017. They are collaborating with BAFTA award winning filmmaker Jonathan Hodgson on a series of short films to accompany the album.

Daisies/Sedmikrásky Czechoslovakia 1966

*Directed by Věra Chytilová, comedy-drama, 79 min, eng subtitles*

A satirical, wild and irreverent story of rebellion, Chytilová's classic of surrealist cinema is perhaps also the most adventurous and anarchic Czech movie of the 1960s.

## The Promised Land/Ziemia Obiecana + Q&A Poland 1975

Sunday 20 November, 6pm

Centrala, Tickets: £4.50, Age: 15+

Directed by Andrzej Wajda, drama, 79 min, eng subtitles

Andrzej Wajda is one of Poland's most celebrated filmmakers, but until now there has been little chance to see one of his most critically acclaimed films, 1975's *The Promised Land* (*Ziemia Obiecana*) in its original, three-hour cinema version. A new restoration is giving audiences a chance to appreciate the film as Wajda originally made it. It's well worth discovering; both for its artistic innovation and to explore its deep thematic connections with the rest of his work and with Polish cinema as a whole.

The Film is an exploration of the forces that mo-



uled Poland during the years of Partition and Industrial Change. It revolves round an ill-assorted trio who stand as representatives of different aspects of Polish life during the late 19th century.

## Listen/ Чуй and General Mood Discussion Film Club

Wednesday 23 November, 6pm

Centrala, Tickets: £4.50

A screening of two different approaches of film responses to archival histories of Radio Free Europe, the only radio transmitting from Western to Eastern Europe behind the Iron Curtain.. Post screening Birmingham and Romanian based artist Irena Botea and John Dean and Bulgarian Film maker Diana Ivanova will discuss their approaches and methods.



Listen/ Чуй  
Romania 2014

Directed by Diana Ivanova, documentary, 76 min, eng subtitles  
The film tells the personal stories of three women who share in a very emotional manner what Radio Free Europe meant to them and their families.

General Mood

Romania 2015

Directed by Irena Botea, Jon Dean, documentary, 24 min, eng subtitles

The film embodies a performative archive through exploring the process of categorization and anecdotal information gathering that constitutes much of the Radio Free Europe archive. Filmed on location in Budapest, fragments of original text create a fractured narrative of meta-archival sources that are materialized through the process of following the trail of Radio Free Europe, an institution sponsored by the CIA until 1971. The category of 'General Mood' is explored through questioning the structure and content of research methodologies designed to create 'national pictures'.

## Turin Horse/ A Torinói Ló Hungary 2011

Thursday 24 November, 5.30pm

mac birmingham, Age: 15 + Tickets: £6/£8



Directed by Béla Tarr, Ágnes Hranitzky, drama, 146 min, eng subtitles

Taking its cue from Nietzsche's famous encounter with a mistreated horse on Via Carlo Alberto, The Turin Horse depicts the aftermath of this seemingly innocuous but destructively profound confrontation. Following a man and his daughter in their daily routine, a bizarre series of disturbing events slowly begin to strip life of its very essence resulting in a terrifying, all-consuming finale.



## Soul at Peace/Pokoj v Duši

Slovakia 2009

Thursday 24 November, 6pm

Centrala, Tickets: free



Directed by Vladimír Balko, drama, 97 min, eng subtitles

Tono, a man in his forties, is released after many years in prison and tries to resume his life as an ordinary citizen. The film is a compelling tragedy about crime and its consequences, the desire to start afresh in spite of spectres from the past, about faith in good things, and a pensity towards evil.

## Beyond the hills/

După dealuri + Q&A Romania 2014

Friday 25 November, 6pm

mac birmingham, Age: 12+, Tickets: £8/ £6



Directed by Cristian Mungiu, drama, 155min, eng subtitles

Two friends who grew up together in an orphanage are reunited after years apart, one has taken orders while the other wants them both to return to the new life and life of freedom she has in Germany. While staying together in Voichita's remote and austere nunnery their relationship and sexuality begin to tear apart the tight-knit fabric of the sect, resulting in a terrifying act that would send a shockwave through the church.

## United States of Love/Zjednoczone Stany Miłości

Poland 2016

Friday 25 November, 8 pm

mac birmingham

Age: 18+

Tickets: £4.50



Directed by Tomasz Wasilewski  
drama, 106 min, eng subtitles

Channelling the spirit of Fassbinder, Tomasz Wasilewski's third feature is a visually striking portrait of women seeking happiness in the aftermath of the Soviet Union's collapse.

# Concert of Post-Paradise

Friday 25 November, 7pm

Centrala, Tickets £5

Post-Paradise is a concert series curating regular new music events in Birmingham, showcasing local composers and artists amongst guests from around the UK and abroad. The November edition of the series is an Amsterdam Special and will feature Luke Deane & Ragnar Olafsson, Maya Felixbrodt & Geerte de Koe and more. There will be music, video, blind dates and things done backwards.



## Maidan + Q&A

Ukraine 2014



Friday 25 November, 7pm

ORT Café, Age: 12 +, Tickets: £4.50

Directed by Sergei Loznitsa, drama, 127 min, eng subtitles

Maidan chronicles a civil uprising against the regime of president Yanukovich which took place in Kiev (Ukraine) in the winter of 2013/14. The film follows the progress of the revolution: from peaceful rallies, half a million strong, in the Maidan square, to the bloody street battles between the protestors and riot police. Maidan is a portrait of an awakening nation, rediscovering its identity. Director Sergei Loznitsa rises above current political issues and looks at the nature of the popular uprising as a social, cultural and philosophical phenomenon. A powerful mix of enthusiasm, heroic struggle, terror, courage, aspiration, people's solidarity, folk culture, passion and self-sacrifice, Maidan is a stunning cinematic canvas combining classical film making style and documentary urgency.

## The Last Family/ Ostatnia rodzina

Poland 2016



Saturday 26 November, 12 pm

The Electric Cinema, Age: 15 +  
Tickets: £13.90, £10.50, £8.70, £5.90

Directed by Jan P. Matuszyński, drama, 123 min, eng subtitles

Based on the bizarre true story of the cult Polish painter Zdzisław Beksiński, *The Last Family* is the first narrative feature from the director of the award-winning documentary *Deep Love*.

Beksiński is a gentle man with arachnophobia, despite his hard-core sexual fantasies and his fondness for painting disturbing dystopian works. He is a family man who wants only the best for his loving wife Zofia, neurotic son Tomasz and the couple's ageing mothers. But Beksiński never believed that family life would always be sunshine and rainbows. As he tapes everything with his beloved camcorder, the 28-year Beksiński saga unfolds through paintings, near-death experiences, dance music trends and funerals ... A drama full of dark humour and a tale about the confrontation between dreams and reality.

## Music Video Klub and O!PLA ACROSS THE BORDERS #4 presents: 5 YEARS IN POLISH ANIMATED MUSIC VIDEOS

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Saturday 26 November, 8pm

Centrala, Price: Free



This special Polish Edition of Music Video Klub is prepared in collaboration with O!pla Across the borders, a Music Animation Festival based in Poland. The animated music video is a fast growing genre in Poland; with established animation artists collaborating with musicians to newcomers experimenting and bringing new influences to the genre.

Music Video Klub is a monthly Open reel Music Video Klub for producers or fans of music video to showcase work, show their favourite films, discuss, network and learn from each other. Just turn up on the night with Usb, DVD or email in advance [realvelour@hotmail.com](mailto:realvelour@hotmail.com)

## In Bloom/Grdzeli Nateli Dgheebi + Q & A Georgia 2014

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Saturday 26 November, 6pm

mac birmingham, Age: 15 +

Tickets: £8/£6

Directed by Nana Ekvitimishvili, drama, 102 min, eng subtitles

A coming-of-age drama entwined with a political statement, In Bloom underscores its well-worn themes with strong performances and palpable real-world tension.



## Son of Saul/ Saul fia + Q&A Hungary, 2015

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Sunday 27 November, 6pm

mac birmingham, Age: 15 +

Tickets: £8/£6

Directed by László Nemes, drama, 107 min, eng subtitles

Anchored by a riveting and intensely brave performance from newcomer Géza Röhrig, Son of Saul is a remarkable exploration of one of humanity's darkest moments. Visceral, gripping and immensely powerful, it is one of the boldest and most remarkable debuts in recent memory - and is already being heralded as a masterpiece of world cinema.

