

FILM FESTIVAL

diskussion • vortrag • konzerte

9., 10., 11. & 12. of June, 2009

Place: ARGEKULTUR Salzburg, Josef-Preis-Allee 16, 5020 Salzburg, Austria, +43-662-848784
A Studio West Project, in cooperation with ARGEKULTUR
INTERNATIONAL FILMPROGRAM, LIVECONCERTS, DISCUSSION

INTERNATIONAL FILMPROGRAM

Selection of films: Hermann Peseckas

Tuesday, 9th of June, 19:00 h

OPENING FILM

„Pretty Dyana“ (Dir.: Boris Mitic, SRB 2003, 45 min., serbian with engl. subt.)

The story is about Kosovo refugees. They live in improvised shelters in a Belgrade suburb. They are Gypsies. At this point, we all expect to see the tragedy of these people's miserable lives. Instead, we are drawn into a bizarre setting, where we soon learn that spare parts of old Citroën cars can be used for virtually anything. They are shown building vehicles with a SF appearance, even using the car battery as a private power plant. It is not an eccentric hobby, it is a way to survive. The film follows them throughout Belgrade in search of abandoned 2 CV and Dyana Citroëns. We see them negotiating with owners of wrecked cars. We also find them interacting with police, who are not exactly fans of their recycled vehicles. The filmmaker introduces his characters with humor and empathy, revealing their ingenuity and adaptive skills.

Wednesday, 10th of June, 10:00-12:00 h

SPECIAL: "ASSOCIATION KETANI FOR SINTI & ROMA"

"Ketani means together. Sinti Reality versus Gypsy Cliche". (Dir.: Ludwig Laher. Production: Verein Ketani, AT 2006, 71 min., german/romanes)

In several communities of Upper Austria Sinti clans have had the right of residence since the 18th century. Old people still remember a peaceful living of one next to the other. In this documentary Sinti of all generations describe their experiences: some of them report from the dreadful period of persecution during the NAZI regime and the ignorance in the time after war, others talk about the happy times of travelling, the sticking together, their cultural traditions and their own language.

Some protagonists will be present. Contact: www.sinti-roma.at

Wednesday, 10th of June, 17:00-20:00 h

STRONG WOMEN, GREAT MEN

Ceija Stojka (Dir.: Karin Berger, AT 1999, 85 min., german with engl. subt.)

The film reconstructs the biography of the Austrian Romni Ceija Stojka since the early 1930s. Her life stands as an example for the collective experience of Roma and Sinti. The film describes the

emotions of the author, painter and singer with its roots in a way of living sparsely known in our times.

Director present.

Rubina (Dir.: Laurentiu Dumitru Calciu, RO 2008, 25 min., rum. with engl. subt.)

The film presents the story of Rubina, first health mediator for Local Council in Romania. With Rubina, 46 years old, the Roma people in Botosani County have found their voice. As her confidence has increased over the years, so has theirs. Access to social and health services as well as to education has improved; a new generation of young Roma activists and health mediators has emerged around her.

Shaban (Dir.: Milos Stojanovic, SRB 2007, 52 min., serbian with engl. subt.)

In the Bosnian & Herzegovina city of Mostar Shaban Bayramovic – the king of gypsy music – is editing his new album *Parallely* at „Pavarotti Music Studio“. Back in Shaban’s hometown, the Serbian city of Nis, Shaban and many of his friends tell the tale of the great singers life.

Director present.

Wednesday, 10th of June, 21:30 – 24:00 h

PORRAJAMOS*. TIME OF SUFFERING (*Romanes: Holocaust)

The Black Hearts (Dir.: Bretislav Rychlik, CZ 2008, 88 min., czech with engl. subt.)

The documentary captures the view of four Roma families and was filmed in a Roma village (Slovakia), a rural community (Hungaria), an industry region (Poland) and a suburban Roma community (Czech Republic).

Hidden Sorrows (Dir.: Michelle Kelso, USA/RO 2005, 56 min., rum. with engl. subt.)

This documentary chronicles the rarely told narratives of Gypsy survivors of Nazi persecution in Romania as they remember their experiences during WWII in the context of their lives today. During WWII, Gypsies were slated alongside with Jews and other populations for extermination. Survivors share with viewers their shocking deportation from Romania to camps where they fought to survive by any means. *Hidden Sorrows* reveals the continued struggle of Gypsies for equality in a society that views them as second-class citizens.

Thursday, 11th of June, 17:00-20:00 h

THE ART OF SURVIVING

Natasha (Dir.: Ulrike Gladik, AT 2008, 84 min., german with engl. subt.)

Ulli Gladik meets the beggar in Graz and, after a number of conversations accompanies Natasha to her home in Breznik, a former industrial town near Sofia. Over a period of two years, Gladik visits Natasha in Bulgaria and Austria documenting the young woman's life, her family life and her everyday routine in Bulgaria.

Romale (Dir.: Yoram Porath, ISR 2008, 68 min., slowakian with engl. subt.)

An extremely toxic mine site is home to a community of Roma (Gypsies). Three youngsters strive to fulfill their dreams and leave the community's cycle of poverty, unemployment, imprisonment and death. „Romale“ is a cutting edge document of individual dreams versus realities.

Two Love Stories (Dir.: Shota Bukoshi, Kosovo 2008, 25 min., albanian with engl. subt.)

A visit to two Roma couples in Kosova opens up a parallel world both at the margins and in the midst of Kosovar society. Snapshots from a circle of life, love, labor and loss intertwine to tell very different kinds of stories.

Thursday, 11th of June, 21:30-24:00 h

CURIOUS MOMENTS

Romski Bal (Dir.: Djordje Cenic/Dominik Spitzendorfer, AT 2006, 60 min., serbian with german subt.)

The small town of Guča is where the Serbian trumpet competition is taking place every year. But is it really Serbian music that is performed? „Romski Bal“ shows the double role of Roma musicians between the audience's passion for Trubači and racist discrimination.

Director present.

A Gypsy in the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party (Dir.: Ludmila Zhivkova, BG 2008, 19 min., bulg. with engl. subt.)

Nikolaj Kolev was one of the first Gypsies in Bulgaria with high school education. He graduated in Political Studies and later also Law. From 1958 to 1990, Kolev was an instructor in the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP) and responsible for the Gypsy population which led to the settlement of the community and to the creation of an elite of Gypsies.

The Shutka Book of Records (Dir.: Aleksandar Manic, CZ 2005, 78 min., serbian with engl. subt.)

"The Shutka Book of Records", which the filmmaker describes as an „anthropological documentary comedy,“ tells the incredible story about the champions of Shutka, a small town in Macedonia and one of the poorest places in Europe.

Friday, 12th of June, 15:00-18:00 h

ROMA CLUB. Filmtalks in Club atmosphere

All filmmakers present.

Die Romaschauer (Dir.: Peter Wagner, AT 2004, 75 min., german)

A group of 20 Roma people from Austria are travelling to a music festival in the Bulgarian Town Sliven. The „festival“ turns out to be a small street event in a Roma ghetto. The visitors who came to watch Roma musicians are now watched themselves.

In the Ghetto. The Roma of Stolipinovo (Dir.: Hermann Peseckas/Andreas Kraus, AT 2009, 70 min., bulg. with german subt.)

The Stolipinovo neighborhood in the Bulgarian town of Plovdiv is one of the biggest Roma ghettos in Southeastern Europe. The documentary portraits two Roma leaders, Anton Karagyosov and Mehmet Popasa, and their exhausting fight against racist motivated segregation and the poverty of their families, friends and neighbours. The film describes the ongoing process of turning away from Roma identity by adapting to Turkish culture as a reaction to everyday discrimination.

Viva Constanza (Dir.: Emese Ambrus, RO 2007, 43 min., rum. with engl. subt.)

Tudor Lakatos is a 40 years old Gipsy teacher in the ghetto of Somcuta (Northern Romania). He wants to be famous as an Elvis Presley imitator. He translates most of the King's songs into Gipsy language. Under the name of „Elvis Rromano“ he sets off with his guitar to the port city Constanța to try his luck with „rock and rrom“ (Gipsy rock).