

SIBERIAN KANSK FILM FESTIVAL



Siberia's Kansk Film Festival visits London

In collaboration with VideoDOM Studio, CINE FANTOM club (Russia), the FOUNDRY and Genesis Cinema (UK)

Launch – June 11th
Festival – June 12-14th

From its remote beginnings eight years ago in the Siberian town of Kansk, an alternative Russian film festival is making its inaugural trip to London.

The Kansk Film Festival started off as an artistic pun on 'Cannes' - inspired by a troupe of avant-garde Russian film makers who decided to put Eastern Siberia on the map.

'The town was found on the Internet by chance', explains organiser Nadya Bakuradze. 'In Russian, Kansk is pronounced the same as Cannes, so the idea grew as an artistic joke – Siberia having its own *Festival de Cannes*.'

Each year the festival showcases new independent and uncompromising filmmakers and hosts an international film jury. 'We promote young authors and encourage experimental productions looking at the crossovers between cinematography and contemporary art,' says Nadya.

Highlights of this year's festival include *Volga-Volga* – the remake of a 1930's cult Soviet comedy in which the original version is preserved completely, with the exception of the leading actress; *Einstein and Margaret* charting Albert Einstein's love affair with a Soviet secret service employee and *Blind Spot* this year's debut.

Now in its eighth year, hundreds of Russians brave the annual trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway; a total of 4,500 km from Moscow and 300 km from Krasnoyarsk into Siberia's severe sub arctic climate.

'Most Russian film festivals are either for film stars and take place near the sea side, or in the big cities. Ours is the only event that has actually shaped the culture of a region,' says Nadya.

Kansk is an unusual town – it produces 90 per cent of the world's nickel and is almost entirely responsible for Kremlin's wealth. It is also a mere eight hour drive from Krasnoyarsk – Stalin's infamous Gulag Administrative Centre, making many of its citizens descendants of Gulag operators or of Communist dissidents expelled there.

But despite its unusual underpinnings, Siberia shouldn't be alien to the West, says artist Tracey Moberly, who is responsible for bringing the festival to London after an inspirational 2007 visit to Kansk.

'We still think of Russia in Cold War terms and people talk about being "Sent to Siberia" but hardly anyone ever visits - it's an unusual and lovely place with temperatures reaching 40 degrees celcius in the Summer months. The festival offers a chance to experience a new take on Russia, especially Siberia.'

The Siberian Kansk festival launches on June 11 with ***Russian Spirit Returns*** – a poster exhibition at **The Foundry**. Screenings between 12-14 June take place at Bethnal Green's **Genesis Cinema**.

For interviews please contact: Tracey Moberly +44 (0)7951 608787 tracey@foundry.tv

urls: www.genescinema.co.uk www.foundry.tv/kansk/

Event Information

June 11, 09 / The Foundry

RUSSIAN SPIRT RETURNS

The festival launches at the Foundry with a free exhibition of contemporary Russian posters from 7pm.

The Foundry / www.foundry.tv
84, Great Eastern
London
EC2A 3JL
(exit 3 Old Street tube)

SIBERIAN KANSK FILM FESTIVAL

Friday June 12, 09 / Genesis Cinema

Screening 7pm

Shorts and video-art from Kansk Video Festival (Russian program)
evening screening 2 hours total

Saturday June 13, 09 / Genesis Cinema

Screening 3pm

'Volga-Volga', directed by Pavel Labazov & Andrey Silvestrov, 70 min, 2006

Screening 5.30pm

'Einstein and Margaret', directed by Iraida Yusupova and Alexander Dolgin, 90 min, 2006
day / evening 4 hours total

Sunday June 14, 09 / Genesis Cinema

Screening 3pm

Shorts and video-art from Kansk Video Festival (International program)

Screening 5.30pm

Premiere! 'Blind Spot', new film by Oleg Mavromatti, 83 min, 2009
day/evening 4 hours total

Genesis Cinema / www.genescinema.co.uk
93-95 Mile End Road
Whitechapel
London
E1 4UJ

*(Stepney Green-district line)
turn right, keep walking straight cinema on left.
Bus numbers 25 and 205 stop outside the cinema.*

Ticket costs:

£ 7.00

£ 4.50 students/concs

£ 15.00 3 day festival ticket

Booking line: 08700 60 60 61

Program

June, 12th



7pm

Shorts and video-art

Russian Program 93 min

Once upon a time there was Zina / 2007 / 26' / MiniDV / directed by Alexander Belobokov / DOC

An old story or circle of continuity / 2008 / 9'31" / MiniDV / directed by Shvedov Aleksey / EXP

Stokyyard / 2007 / 4'15" / DVD / directed by Vera Myakisheva / ANIM

Wolves / 2008 / 4' / directed by Nadezda Gorokhova / VA

Perfectionist's Catalogue / 2007 / 4'04" / dvd / directed by Ivan Vaschenko / VA

Virtual Stamps Series / 2005 / 5'19" / dvd / directed

by Natalia Lamanova / VA

Cutter # 18 / 2007 2'30" / dvd / directed by Nikita Alekseev and Konstantin Moshkin / EXP

Encoding Stitch by E.R.Gerz / 2006 / 5'30" / dvd / directed by Ekaterina Ilyina / FIC

Animal / 2005 / 3' / dvd / directed by Eugeny Golubeva / ANIM

Death and Girl / 2005 / 2'24" / dvd / directed by Vladimir Seleznev / EXP

Blue Puddle / 2005 / 5'05" / dvd / directed by Ekaterina Maximova / ANIM

Twilight / 2005 / 5'31" / DVD / director Vladimir Logutov / EXP

Tchaikovsky / 2004 / 4'30" / Betacam SP / director Andrey Golovin / ANIM

Let us go drink / 2004 / 4' / DVD / directed by Viktor Nazarov / VA

Mutabor / 2004 / 1'45" / DVD / directed by Zer Gut group / VA

Ilya Muromets 1-2 / 2004 / 1'30" / DVD / directed by Maxim Moiseev / FIC

Magic Tomatoes / 2003 / 3'30" / Mini DV / directed by Dmitriy Bulnygin / EXP

Fine Correction / 2003 / 0'30" / Mini DV / directed by Dmitriy Bulnygin / DOC

Baby Boom / 2004 / 3'30" / Mini DV / directed by Dmitriy Bulnygin / EXP

Spider Rasta Story / 2004 / 1'30" / CD-Rom / directed by Dmitriy Bulnygin / ANIM

730 Days / 2004 / 1'38" / DVD / directed by Zer Gut group / VA

Trophy Films / 2003 / 10' / VHS / directed by O&A Florensky / EXP

June, 13th



dimension.

3pm
Volga-Volga

Directed by Pavel Labazov and Andrey Silvestrov
Production: Videodom Studio
70 min (2006)

In this remake of the cult Soviet comedy musical of late 1930s, the original version has been preserved completely, with the exception of the leading actress and soundtrack. Originally directed by Grigory Aleksandrov and starring Liubov Orlova (Russia's answer to Marlene Dietrich), the story depicts a gifted village girl whom local bureaucrats try to prevent entering a singing competition in Moscow. The lead is replaced by Russian artist Vladislav Mamyshev-Monroe, giving the film an entirely new metaphysical



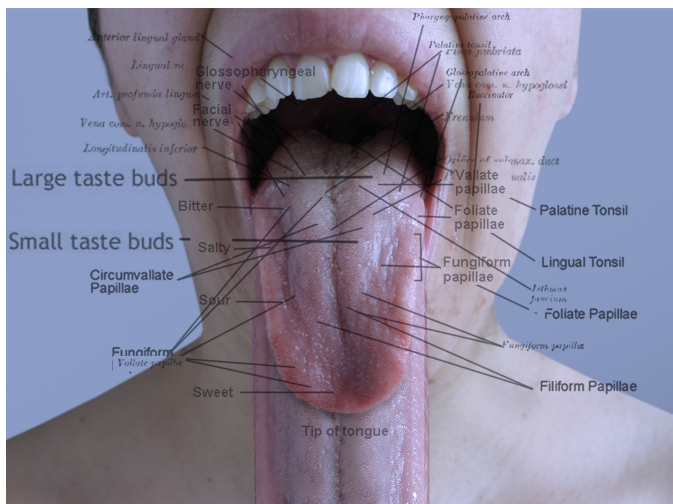
5.30pm
Einstein and Margaret

Libretto: Iraida Yusupova and Vera Pavlova
Video by Alexander Dolgin and Iraida Yusupova
Puppet installation and set design: Alexander Dolgin
Composer: Iraida Yusupova
90 min (2006)

This video-opera charts Albert Einstein's love affair with Margarita Konenkova - the Soviet secret service employee and wife of a celebrated Russian sculptor. Based on a true story, the love affair inspired leading avant-garde composer Iraida Yusupova and poet Vera Pavlova to make 'the opera of all operas'.

Einstein and Margaret exceeds the librettos of most romantic operas by sheer intensity and emotional volatility. Cult contemporary artist Dmitry Prigov and Alexander Dolgin- conceptual photographer and film director have both been involved in producing the film. The score is comprised of six languages which appear as subtitles.

June, 14th



3pm Shorts and video-art

International program
108 min

Surprise! / 2007 / 18' / DVD / directed by Fabrice Maruca / France / FIC

Man OS / 2006 / 13' / DVD / directed by Seidel Roland / Austria / EXP

What business here? / 2006 / 6' / DVD / directed by Spandan Banerjee / India / DOC

Hezurbeltzak, una fosa comun / 2007 / 4'30" / 35mm / directed by Izibene Onederra / Spain / ANIM

Flash Lesson / 2007 / 9'14" / 35mm / directed by Alejandro Lubezki / Mexico / FIC

My tree / 2007 / 6' / MiniDV / directed by Sara Siadatnejad / Iran / EXP

Colorful EU / 2006 / 2' / DVD / directed by Peter Vadocz / Hungary / EXP
ANIM

Cirurgia / 2006 / 2'15" / 35mm / directed by Alberto Gonzalez Vazquez / Spain / ANIM

Taxi? / 2007 / 5' / 35mm / directed by Telmo Esnal / Spain / ANIM

Genesis / 2008 / 8'40" / DVD / directed by Alessandro Vitali / Italy / ANIM

Reality Show / 2007 / 17' / DVD / directed by Federico Schmucler / Mexico / FIC

Alone / 2008 / 3' / DVD / directed by Gerard Freixes Ribera / Spain

Crazy love / 2007 / 03'53" / DVD / directed by Yoel Vazquez / Cuba / VA

Pablo V / 2008 / 2' / DVD / directed by Theo Firmo / Spain – Brazil / VA

The Bellringer / 2007 / 4' / 35mm / directed by Dustin Rees / Switzerland / ANIM

Terminal Communication / 2008 / 2'53" / DVD / directed by Michael Fortune / Ireland / VA

5.30pm Blind Spot

Directed by Oleg Mavromatti
83 min (2009)

Oleg Mavromatti: "It's difficult to describe the film's plot. Maybe it's about America - the idea being to show America in a different way. This is not Hollywood, this film is about vision and points of view. The Hollywood method can be used by any average student without brains. But independent art society is looking for a new language. It's looking for it strangely and painfully."

