

No. 5/1981

January 14, 1981

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

AND ART EXHIBIT

The Commission of the European Communities and the American Film Institute present the first European Film Festival to be held. It will take place from January 27 to February 23, 1981 at the A.F.I. Theater, the Kennedy Center, Washington D.C.

The first European Film Festival will be coupled with an exhibit of art works from the ten countries of the European Community to be presented at the Meridian House, 1630 Crescent Place, N.W., Washington D.C..

The European Film Festival includes the following program:

RATAPLAN (Italy)

Tuesday, Jan 27 8.30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Jan 28 6.30 p.m.

Written and directed by Maurizio Nichetti. Produced by Franco Cristaldi and Nicolia Carraro. With: Nichetti, Angela Pinocchio, Edy Angelillo. 1979, color, 90 minutes. In Italian with English subtitles. Print courtesy of Lorimar Productions.

Writer/director/actor Maurizio Nichetti presents an understandably grateful movie-going public with that rare breed: a sustained visual comedy. Rataplan is witty, modern slapstick of the highest order. Preceded by: Two Decades of Europe, a documentary short courtesy of the European Economic Community.

THE GLASS CELL (West Germany) (Die Gläserne Zelle)

Friday, Jan 30 8.30 p.m.  
Saturday, Jan 31 6.15 p.m.

Directed by Hans W. Geissendorfer. Adapted by Geissendorfer and

Badekerl from the novel by Patricia Highsmith. Produced by Roxy/Solaris Film (Munich). With: Helmut Griem, Brigitte Fossey, Dieter Laser, Walter Kohut. 1978, color, 95 minutes. In German with English subtitles. Print courtesy of Tim Grady/Export Union.

A taut psychological thriller adapted from the Patricia Highsmith novel by the director of Jonathan and The Wild Duck. Winner of Germany's Gold Award as best film of 1978.

Preceded by: Europe of Prejudices, a documentary short courtesy of the European Economic Community.

OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY (France) (L'Argent des Autres)

Monday, Feb 2 8.30 p.m.

Friday, Feb 6 6.30 p.m.

Directed by Christian De Chalonge. Adapted by De Chalonge and Pierre Dumayet from the novel by Nancy Markham. Produced by Fildebroc, FR3, S.F.P. and Films de la Tour. With: Jean-Louis Trintignant, Catherine Deneuve, Claude Brasseur, Michel Serrault. 1978, color, 105 minutes. In French with English subtitles.

A faithful bank clerk is suddenly fired. He fights back, only to find a world of corruption and deceit. Winner of the Cesar (the French Oscar) as best film of the year.

Preceded by: Combattimento, a 10-minute, prize-winning first film by a French student director.

EXPOSURE (Ireland)

Thursday, Feb 5, 6.30 p.m.

Directed by Kieran Hickey. Written by Hickey and Philip Davison. Produced by Roland Hill. With: Catherine Schell, T.P. McKenna, Bosco Hogan, Niall O'Brien. 1978, color, 48 minutes. Print courtesy of B.A.C. Films, Ltd.

This exquisitely played short film finds four people thrown together in an otherwise deserted hotel on the remote west coast of Ireland. Director Hickey examines these four more thoroughly in 48 minutes than most filmmakers could in two hours.

- ALSO -

CRIMINAL CONVERSATION (Ireland)

Directed by Kieran Hickey. Written by Hickey and Philip Davison. With: Emmet Bergin, Dierdre Donnelly, Peter Caffrey, Leslie Lalor. 1980, color, 60 minutes. Print courtesy of B.A.C. Films, Ltd..

Hickey's newest film examines the stress of failing marriage in a country where both Church and State prohibit divorce.

JOHNNY LARSEN (Denmark)

Saturday, Feb 7 5.00 p.m.

Directed by Morten Arnfred. Adapted by Arnfred and Jørgen Melgaard from the novel Home Base Wanted by John Nehm. Produced by Just Betzer. With: Allan Olsen, Frits Helmuth, Karl Stegger, Hanne Ribens. 1979. color, 110 minutes. Print courtesy of the Danish Film Institute.

A young man comes of age during a turbulent six-month period in 1952 Denmark. Allan Olsen has been critically acclaimed in the title role. "Truly beautiful" -- Variety.

Preceded by: Boolean Procedure, a 24-minute, prize-winning, partially animated short about computers and their nasty effects on ordinary life.

A PRIVATE ENTERPRISE (Great Britain)

Monday, Feb 9 9.00 p.m.

Directed by Peter K. Smith. Written by Smith and Dilip Hiro. Produced by the British Film Institute Production Board. With: Salmaan Peer, Marc Zuber, Ramon Sinba, Shukia Bhattarcharjee, Diana Quick. 1974, color, 78 minutes. Print courtesy of the British Film Institute.

In modern-day Birmingham, a young Indian engineer dreams of making his fortune by making and selling plastic toy elephants. "Small, precise and funny." --- Vincent Canby, The New York Times.

Preceded by: 20 Centuries After, a documentary short courtesy of the European Economic Community.

THE TERRACE (Italy) (La Terrazza)

Wednesday, Feb 11 8.15 p.m.

Saturday, Feb 14 6.15 p.m.

Directed by Ettore Scolla. Written by Age and Scarpelli, Scolla. Produced by Pio Angeletti and Adriano De Micheli. With: Ugo Tognazzi, Jean-Louis Trintignant, Vittorio Gassman, Marcello Mastroianni, Stefania Sandrelli. 1979, color, 160 minutes. In Italian with English subtitles. Print courtesy of Pio Angeletti.

From the director of We All Loved Each Other So Much, a star-studded comedy of manners set at a party for intellectuals.

THE GAMEKEEPER (Great Britain)

Thursday, Feb 12 6.30 p.m.

Directed by Kenneth Loach. Adapted by Loach from the novel by Barry Hines. With: Phil Askham, Rita May, Andrew Grubb, Peter

Steels. 1980, color, 84 minutes. Print courtesy of ATV Network, Limited.

A subtle, intelligent film about a working class family from the director of such highly-acclaimed works as Kes and Poor Cow.

THE IDLERS OF THE FERTILE VALLEY (Greece)  
(I Tembelides Tis Eforis Kiladas)

Sunday, Feb 15 5.00 p.m.

Written, produced and directed by Nikos Panaytopoulos. Based on a story by Albert Cossery. With: Olga Karlatos, Yorgos Dialegmenos. 1978, color, 118 minutes. In Greek with English subtitles. Print courtesy of the Greek Embassy.

This sarcastic but understated allegory of bourgeois society won first prize at the 1978 Locarno Film Festival. An all-male family succumbs to terminal ennui in a secluded mansion and only the beautiful, victimized maid can save them.

MELANCHOLY TALES (The Netherlands)  
(Zwaar moedige Verhalen Voor bij de Centrale Verwarming)

Tuesday, Feb 17 6.30 p.m.

Directed by Bas vander Lecq, Guido Pieters, Ernie Damen and Nouchka van Brakel. Adapted by Guus Luijters from the short story collection Melancholy Tales for Beside the Central Heating by Heere Heersma. Produced by Matthijs van Heyningen. With: Hugo Metsers, Pleuni Touw, Lex Goudsmit, Jon Bluming. 1974, color, scope, 89 minutes. In Dutch with English subtitles. Print courtesy of Cine International.

Four short stories by Heere Heeresma are adapted for the screen. "An unusual, most attractive film." --- National Film Theatre, London.

Preceded by: Life and Death, a 7-minute animated short that won the European Community award.

HOME SWEET HOME (Belgium)

Thursday, Feb 19 6.30 p.m.

Directed by Benoit Lamy. Written by Rudolph Pauli and Lamy. Produced by Jacqueline Pierreux. With: Claude Jade, Jacques Perrin, Marcel Josz, Elise Mertens. 1973, color, 90 minutes. In French with English subtitles. Print courtesy of Unibelfilm.

The inhabitants of a Brussels old folks home revolt against the forces of authority. Fast and funny, Home Sweet Home emerges as an octogenarian Zero de Conduite.

SISTERS, OR THE BALANCE OF HAPPINESS (West Germany)  
(Schwestern, oder die Balance des Glücks)

Friday Feb 20 6.30 p.m.  
Saturday Feb 21 7.00 p.m.

Written and directed by Margarethe von Trotta. Produced by Bioskop Film/WDR. With: Jutta Lampe, Gudrun Gabriel, Jessica Früh, Rainer Delventhal. 1979, color, 95 minutes. In German with English subtitles. Print courtesy of Cinema V.

"... a fine film that addresses the conflict between two sisters, one of whom has molded herself into the very image of traditional success, the other tortuously discovering that she cannot fit into the mold ...." --- Walter V. Addiego.

FIRST COMMUNION (France)  
(La Communion Solemnelle)

Monday, Feb 23 8.30 p.m.

Written and directed by Rene Feret. A Les Films Argebeuse/FR3-INASFP Production. With: Claude-Emil Rosen, Claude Bouchery, Vincent Pinel, Patrick Fierry. 1976, color, 105 minutes. In French with English subtitles. Print courtesy of Xavier Gelin.

A chronicle of life in two intermarried French families - peasants from Picardy and miners from the Pas de Calais. The changing rhythms of country life are shown with warmth and intimacy.

Preceded by: Luxembourg, an 18 minute documentary on the country, produced by RTL Productions.

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