EU Kinoteka 2015-16

**Title:** European Union

**Genre:** Latest European Films

**Year:** 2015-16
Dear Students,

The Delegation of the European Union to India is happy to bring to you the Kinoteka film project – a selection of 13 European films travelling to universities, colleges and film schools across India.

Culture celebrates the infinite variety of life in a ways both realistic and improbable. But it also brings together people from different walks of life and, indeed, from widely different circumstances, as nothing else actually can. Film, the enduring addition of the 20th century to popular culture, reaches out to all of us, the old and young, the rich and not so well off, the socialist and the conservative, the doctor and the dilettante, in a most hospitable way. Sitting in a darkened hall in front of a screen we can laugh together at the absurdity of situations, relive the horrors of history, explore the beauty of distant landscapes, and celebrate the awakening of first love which all have experienced and cherished. For a few rupees or euros, we become these larger than life characters on the screen and forget our differences.

This year, we bring you, among others, the stories of a team that decides to follow a dream which takes them on a journey to the First World Football Championship; of a man who runs away from his girlfriend but collides with a bride who has run away from her wedding; of Gianluca and Elena who go looking for those who are poisoning the fish and the waters and the Hungarian-Romanian family of circus artists who must find new and dangerous acts to entertain their audiences.... These, and many other charming or unsettling stories, are the oeuvre of the Kinoteka film project.

Enjoy!
Synopsis:

A Frenchman falls in love with a hot-tempered Bulgarian village girl. Following the call of his heart he starts looking for the village where she lives without knowing the character and the language of the people living there.

“The Foreigner” is a romantic comedy bearing the spirit of the French movies from the seventies.

Cast: Lubomir Kovatchev, Sanya Borisova, Niki Iliev, Valentin Goshev, Elen Koleva, Assen Blatechki, Catherine Gautier, Christopher Lambert

Bulgaria

Producer: Niki Iliev, Alexander Menkadjiev, Mihail Menkadjiev

2012 | 94 mins
Synopsis:
The story is a romantic comedy about a man who takes to the road to escape the pressure of proposing to his girlfriend, only to come across a bride who has just run out on her wedding.

Cast: Melia Kreiling, Orestes Sophocleous

Cyprus

Producer: AMP Filmworks, Full Moon Productions, AB Seahorse Film Productions
2014 | 85 mins
Synopsis:

Helmi, is born into the house of Baron von Strandmann in Old-Town Tallinn, in 1908. The only thing that she knows for sure about her past is that her mother was an Estonian servant girl. Everything else is a discovery during a life that runs the course of a century – a life that has quite a lot of surprises in store for Helmi.

Director Hardi Volmer’s historical love story combines the grotesque of early silent films with the melodrama of the golden age of cinema and elements of both the epic and the comic.

Cast: Sandra Uusberg, Priit Võigemast, Anu Lamp, Tõnu Oja, Ita Ever, Aarne Üksküla, Hendrik Toompere jr jr, Ain Mäeots, Peeter Oja

Estonia

Producer: Anneli Ahven
2013 | 135 mins
Synopsis:

Öllers and Niederränder are business consultants. For years, they've toured the globe as the highly-paid grunts of international capitalism. However, they've always maintained a distance to the reality “out there”, which they only perceive as a dusty silhouette behind the windows of their air-conditioned luxury hotels. So far, both managers have always believed they've had everything under control. But suddenly they have to deal with a new colleague. She's been brought in to replace their old pal Hellinger, who has an unexpected “career jump” – becoming a co-partner in the company. But this is only the beginning of the terror yet to come. Why does Hellinger throw himself out of a window so soon after arriving at the peak of business success? And what about the rumours of a hostile corporate takeover? Nerves become increasingly frayed. AGE OF CANNIBALS is a coolly remote, grotesque and shrill story about the fall from the Temples of Hubris to the Hades of wretchedness. Meanwhile, Muslim guerrillas have also stormed the hotel. (Ralph Eue)

Cast: Sebastian Blomberg, Devid Striesow, Katharina Schüttler

Germany

Producer: Milena Maitz
2014 | 93 mins
Synopsis:

Eleni Karapanos (Myrto Alikaki), professor of cardiology in London – has been estranged from her father (Elias Logothetis) for over fifteen years now, ever since defying his wishes she left Greece to relocate to England. Kyriakos who had been a refugee child in Serbia after the war has never forgiven her for leaving her country. One day, Eleni’s husband Harris loses his job in a big corporation and is posted to China indefinitely. The prospect of a new uprooting prompts Eleni to make a “return” trip to her homeland. Before embarking upon a distant journey, Eleni wants to bridge the distance between her and her father, but also give her daughter Anna a “home” if she ever needs it. On a deeper level though what she really needs is to find a way back “home” herself. On the pretext of responding to one of her father’s calls she takes Anna and comes to Greece, for the Easter holiday. But when she reaches home nothing she finds is as she expects. A Serbian woman, Nina (Mirjanna Karanovic), is living with Kyriakos, looking after his big estate. Kyriakos has been harbouring a few secrets of his own.

Cast: Myrto Alikaki, Elias Logothetis, Mirjana Karanovic, Nikos Orfanos, Gennad Patsis

Produced by: Michael Sarantinos, Eleni Atsikbasis, Vasilis Katsoufis
2013 | 108 mins
Synopsis:

In the hope of a better life a Hungarian-Romanian family of circus artists escapes from the Ceausescu dictatorship in Romania to the West in the early 1980s. Once there, if they want to stay in the ring they have to come up with something exotic. The mother devises a special act: she hangs by her hair in the circus dome. However, her daughter Aglaya gets terribly worried that her mother will fall to her death, and this fear becomes an everyday burden for her to bear. Yet one day - following the family tradition - she herself becomes "The Woman with Hair of Steel".

The story is about the members of a refugee family of circus artists, their enforced interdependence, their eventual break-up and the joy and curse of belonging together - all seen from the viewpoint of the young Aglaya.

Cast: Eszter Ónodi, Zsolt Bogdán, Babett Jávor, Piroska Móga, Iván Kamarás, Adél Jordán

Hungary

Producer: András Muhi, Ewa Pusczczynska
2012 | 116 mins
Synopsis:

Between the depths of a story of miracles and the abyss, Gianluca and Elena go fishing for the truth about the evils infesting the Mediterranean Sea to find out who is poisoning the fish and the waters? A half-serious inquiry on pollution and superstition. Will it always be funny?

The film was at RIFF - Roma Independent Film Festival 2014 in the National Feature Film Competition, where it was voted the Best Italian Feature Film.

Cast: Elena Di Cioccio, Gianluca Sportelli, Alberto Basaluzzo

Producer: Ines Vasiljevic, Cristiano Gerbino

2014 | 74 mins
Synopsis:

Oskars (almost 18 years old) and Matīss (already 18) work as pizza bakers. It’s a temporary job for them, of course. They have huge plans for the future – studying at Oxford for instance. But one evening their lives are turned upside down. Most likely they’ll be charged with the kidnapping of a child.

Cast: Pauls Iklāvs, Reinis Stabiņš

Latvia

Producer: Laila Pakalniņa, Kaur Kallas
2012 | 63 mins
Synopsis:
The film begins in 1942 in a small village in Luxembourg under Nazi occupation. Through the eyes of Chrëscht Knapp, 11, son of a carpenter, we meet his family and the people of the village. Most are engaged in one way or another in the resistance, but some work with the occupier...

Cast: Claude Wagner, André Jung, Michèle Clees, Pol Greisch, Josiane Peiffer, Ulrich Eichenberger, Alain Hoffmann, Myriam Muller, Steve Karier, Shirin Fabeck, Mike Lacour, Christian Kmiotek, Luc Feit, Marie-Paule Von Roesgen, Thierry Van Werveke

Producer: Samsa Film
1990 | 89 mins
Synopsis:

Three friends, all on the edge of their twenties call themselves by animal names; Badger (Kristina Tothová), Hyena (Milan Ondrík) and Pigeon (Lubomír Bukový). Despite enjoying whiling away hours together in their favourite bar, they can’t help but feel something is missing - each yearning to meet their soul mate.

After years of fantasizing about a woman’s voice on the radio, Badger finally decides to try and meet her. But Badger’s life takes an unexpected twist when his friends discover that a man is trying to kill him. The assassin is a Russian ex-hit-man hired to kill Badger for his work as a state prosecutor against the local mafia. In a bizarre twist, the killer happens to be the husband of the radio speaker, with whom Badger has just started a romance. A fanciful search for love takes on a darker tone when it becomes a race to stay alive...

Cast: Kristína Tóthová, Milan Ondrík, Lubo Bukový

Slovak Republic

Producer: Juraj Krasnohorský

2012 | 85 mins
Synopsis:
A story about one soccer team that decides to follow a dream that takes them on a journey to the First World Football Championship in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1930. A dream that allows them to become true stars and living legends.

Cast: Milos Bikovic, Petar Strugar, Nina Jankovic, Danina Jeftic, Vojin Cetkovic, Viktor Savic, Nikola Djuricko, Nebojsa Ilic, Milutin Karadzic, Branimir Brstina, Sergej Trifunovic

Producer: Dejan Petrovic

2010 | 140 mins
Feed Me with Your Words
Director-Martin Turk

Synopsis:
Robert travels from the Slovenian countryside to Torino in order to work on his research on Jesus' handwriting. He mysteriously disappears after starting to believe that a certain homeless person is Jesus who has returned to Earth before judgment day. Despite the unresolved conflicts from the past, Robert's brother Matej and his father Janez sets out to look for him. But Robert's disappearance and the departure of the two men upset the family's fragile equilibrium, as Matej's wife and daughter are left alone to take care of the grandmother, who is suffering from dementia.

The film consists of three complete stories, which happen individually and simultaneously. Together, they represent the portrait of a family and its complex relationships.

Cast: Boris Cavazza, Sebastian Cavazza, Jure Henigman, Mass Derganc, Miranda Caharija, Iza Veselko Maurizio Zacchigna

Slovenia

Producer: Ida Weiss
2012 | 88 mins
Synopsis:
Raul, a farmer who tries to grow organic food, hires Iurie to help him in the fields. Iure is a Moldavian wrestling fighter, but in order to earn a living he has to work in whatever comes his way. Slowly, their personal histories intertwine with those of three solitary women: Maria, an elder who has to leave the country house where she has always lived to join a retirement home; Rose, a nurse from the Philippines who just arrived in the country; and Maribel, a prostitute who has less and less clients. The destinies of all these characters become entwined as the summer goes on. The Plague is a film of intertwining stories that offers a moving portrait of life in the outskirts of Barcelona. The main characters are not actors. They play themselves after four years of working with the director. This long process has permitted Ballús to reveal the uncertainty and the rebel spirit that underlies contemporary crisis-hit Spain.

Cast: Raül Molist, Maria Ros, Rosemarie Abella, Iurie Timbur, Maribel Martí

Spain

Producer: El Kinògraf Film Productions
2013 | 85 mins