

NYC Travel & Art magazine

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Summer 2016. No:2

A Mesmerizing Experience in ISTANBUL: Prince Islands

Gem of the Blues & Jazz: Harlem Blues & Jazz Band

Unique & Sweet Escape to PRAGUE: The Czech Republic celebrates the 700th anniversary of the birth of the great statesman Charles IV.

Harem of the Ottomans: Exotic mystery of Istanbul

4th NEW YORK
EURASIAN
FILM FESTIVAL

USA
INDEPENDENT
FILM FESTIVAL



partnered with

Full festival Line Up & Program:
MAY 24-30



Prague - Municipal House



New York Eurasian Film Festival &
USA Independent Film Festival
Schedule 3



Unique & Sweet Escape to Prague: 4-5, 21
The Czech Republic celebrates the
700th anniversary of the birth of
the great statesman Charles IV.



NY Eurasian & USA Independent 7-13
Film Festival Program



"I am, like a sprout, pushing 16-17
through the stones"



Gem of the Blues & Jazz: Harlem 18
Blues & Jazz Band



A Mesmerizing Experience in 19
ISTANBUL: Prince Islands



Harem of the Ottomans: Exotic 22-23
mystery of Istanbul



Indulge yourself with Turkish Coffee 25

NYC TRAVEL & ART MAGAZINE

FOUNDER : HAKKI SUBENTEKIN

NEW YORK EURASIA MEDIA ARTS. &

NEW YORK EURASIAN FILM FESTIVAL.

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Dear New Yorkers and film lovers,

It's been a very productive 6 years when we look back on our festival history.

We never thought that the festival was going to be an inspiration for many things we are involved in.

We are proudly bringing 33 marvelous films this season mostly from the US, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, India and Kenya. Likewise, this is the very first year that the US Short films in collaboration with the brand new USA Independent Film Festival celebrates a partnership with the 4th New York Eurasian Film Festival.

We are very proud to serve the communities, support the arts, and to remove the barriers between cultures as two foreign born artist/filmmaker in this multi cultural city.

We remember when we first started to organize New York Eurasian Film Festival and the struggles we had. Being the only festival free to the public in New York. When we declined to charge for this event; People asked us why would we do that? Or who does that? They looked at us as if we were insane but we didn't mind those looks and continued the mission in some venues.

This year our second round will be held in October where we will screen mostly feature films & shorts from Eurasia, US, and all over the world.

We've expanded our venues and the number of the films and days for October 2016.

Undoubtedly, in keeping true to our mission, we are spreading out to represent more cultures and films into all societies.

We would like to thank the Czech Center in New York which welcomed us in their beautiful venue for the very first time.

Our award ceremony will be held in October together as New York Eurasian Film Festival & USA Independent Film Festival.

We wouldn't let our new American baby to be lonely without getting support from it's Eurasian sister:)

Enjoy the films.

Thanks for being here!

Founders

Hakki Subentekin & Yuliya Tikhonova



partnered with

4th NEW YORK
EURASIAN
FILM FESTIVAL



USA
INDEPENDENT
FILM FESTIVAL

SCHEDULE

MAY 24

All Screenings will be held at
Czech Center New York –
Bohemian National Hall's Cinema
321 E 73rd Street
New York, NY 10021



4 pm. Session 1

Retriever, Short, Fiction, 23 min., Czech Republic
Coyote and the Rock, Short, Animation, 9 min.,
Hungary

Resort, Short, Documentary, 25 min.,
Czech Republic

A long time ago in Silesia, Short, Fiction,
16 min., Poland

I was born in your bed, Experimental, Video Art,
10 min., Czech Republic,

The Third Room, Short, Fiction, 18 min., Poland

Retaliation, Short, Fiction, 7 min., Hungary
Hunger, Short, Fiction, 21 min., Poland

7.30 pm. Session II

Coyote and the Rock, Short, Animation, 9 min.,
Hungary

Retriever, Short, Fiction, 23 min., Czech Republic
A long time ago in Silesia, Short, Fiction,
16 min., Poland

AKCEPT "ACCEPT", Feature Documentary,
84 min., Czech Republic

MAY 27, MAY 28, MAY 30

All Screenings will be held at
UnionDocs Center for Documentary Art
322 Union Ave. Williamsburg,
Brooklyn, NY 11211

MAY 27, Friday

8 pm

Misalignment, Short, Fiction, 16 min.,
United States

To Die or Dream, Short, Experimental, 3 min.,
United States

Rain, Short, Fiction, 13 min., United States

Beauty Shot, Short, Fiction, 7 min., United States

Relevance!, Short, Fiction, 6 min., United States

Separation, Short, Fiction, 15 min., United States

Reid's Rocket, Short, Animation 4 min.,
United States

No sex for fish, Short, Documentary, 19 min.,
United Kingdom, Kenya

MAY 28, Saturday

8 pm

Clearance, Short, Fiction, 4 min., United States

Dear 11009, Short Fiction, 9 min., United States,
Rock is not an Attitude, Short, Animation, 5 min.,
United States

We Remember, Short, Fiction, 14 min.,
United States

Sold Out., Short, Fiction, 18 min., United States

A Cross to Burn, Short, Documentary, 5 min.,
United States

Ardoyne., Documentary-Music Video, Short,
4:30 min., United States

Cheese Dog: The Movie, Short, Animation,
15 min., United States

Paper Wrap Fire, Short, Fiction, 13 min.,
United States

MAY 30, Monday

8 pm

Waist Up., Short, Fiction, 4:44 min., United States
Tadaina, Short, Fiction, 15:25 min.,
United States

The Blue Sound of NY, Short, Documentary,
32:45 min., United States

Texting: A Love Story, Short, Fiction, 8 min.,
United States

Bloody Mary, Short, Fiction, 6 min., United States
My First Love, Short, Fiction, 23 min.,
United States

Horn Ok Please, Experimental, Short Film,
27 min., India, United States

THE CZECH REPUBLIC CELEBRATES THE 700TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF THE GREAT STATESMAN CHARLES IV. WHY NOT CELEBRATE TOO?

IN 2016 THE WHOLE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC IS MARKING THE 700TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR CHARLES IV. COME AND JOIN CZECHTOURISM TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MOST FAMOUS MONARCH OF CZECH HISTORY AND VISIT SOME OF THE COUNTLESS EVENTS RELATING TO THIS MEMORABLE ANNIVERSARY.

Civitas Carolina Exhibition in the National Technical Museum

Having been included in the UNESCO list of important world anniversaries, the 700th anniversary of Charles IV's birth is going to be commemorated in the National Technical Museum in Prague by putting on an exhibition presenting building crafts in the times of this most significant ruler. From May 12, 2016 to January 8, 2017 the main exhibition hall will display functional replicas of historical building elements as well as a Gothic battering ram and a medieval man-powered wooden crane. The latter was designed following drawings in period literature and the functionality of the replica was checked during the renovation work at the castles of Točník and Kost.

Charles IV and his time at Špilberk Castle

Various cultural events related to the 700th anniversary of the birth of Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV are to be held in the Moravian landmark – Špilberk Castle. On May 28, the summer stage of Špilberk Castle will put on a romantic evening in the spirit of the

14th century with period music, lyrical poetry and the tasting of period dishes. The romantic "Luxembourg's May Night" will be accompanied with a year-long exhibition called "Was Jobst of Luxembourg a Courageous Knight or Cunning Diplomat?". In addition, you can take a look around permanent expositions including casemates and an exhibition of stone monuments.

Goblins at the Royal Court of Charles IV in the NovýBor Museum

The eighth museum night in NovýBor titled "Archibald, the Goblin, at the Court of Charles IV" will captivate children not only with classical pieces created in the school of glass making, but also by linking this traditional craft with the times of Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV. The museum night will take place on May 28 and you can look forward to a concert of medieval music, theatre and workshops for children. The NovýBor Museum is preparing an all-year round program and on May 18 – International Roman Museum Day, there will be free admission to the exhibition, as well as during the traditional Glass Festival from June 24 to 25.

Castle festivities in the Pilsen Region

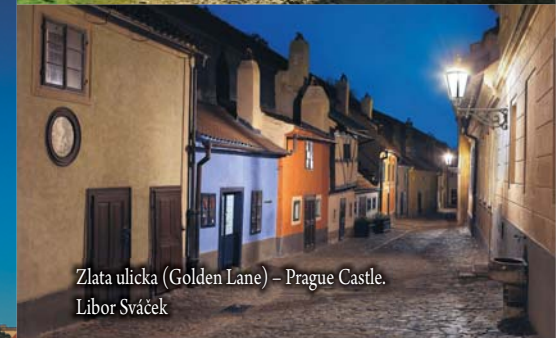
On May 14, precisely on Charles IV's 700th birthday, the Holy Roman Emperor's close friend and confidant Bušek of Velhartice will host a party in his residence. Velhartice Castle will come alive with the sound of period music, astonishing juggling as well as historic dancing. The additional program will be staged also in the outer bailey, where knights on horseback and foot soldiers will display their skills, and on the square, where interesting items will be sold in a stylish marketplace. Quite obviously, the event will include giving blessings and bestowing knighthoods in the local church followed by a parade from the square to the castle.

The stay of Elizabeth of Pomerania, the fourth wife of Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV, at Rabštejn Castle will be commemorated on September 17. This year the traditional cultural event will focus on actual history recalling the time, when the Holy Roman Emperor bought Rabštejn nad Střelou, including the whole estate, from the Pluh Family of Rabštejn, and gave it to his last wife.

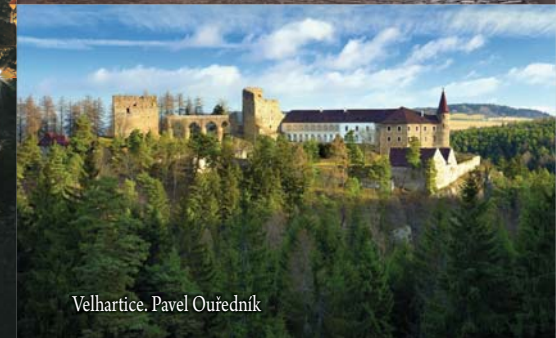
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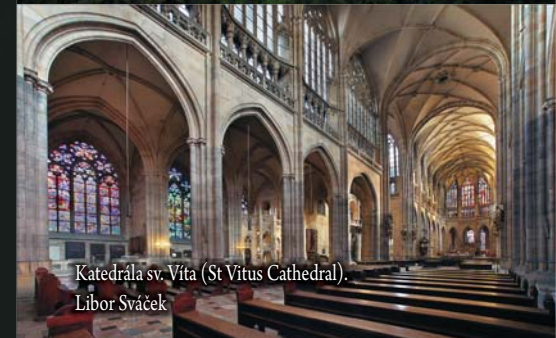
Pernštejn. Ladislav Renner



Zlata ulicka (Golden Lane) - Prague Castle.
Libor Sváček



Velhartice. Pavel Ouředník



Katedrála sv. Vít (St Vitus Cathedral).
Libor Sváček

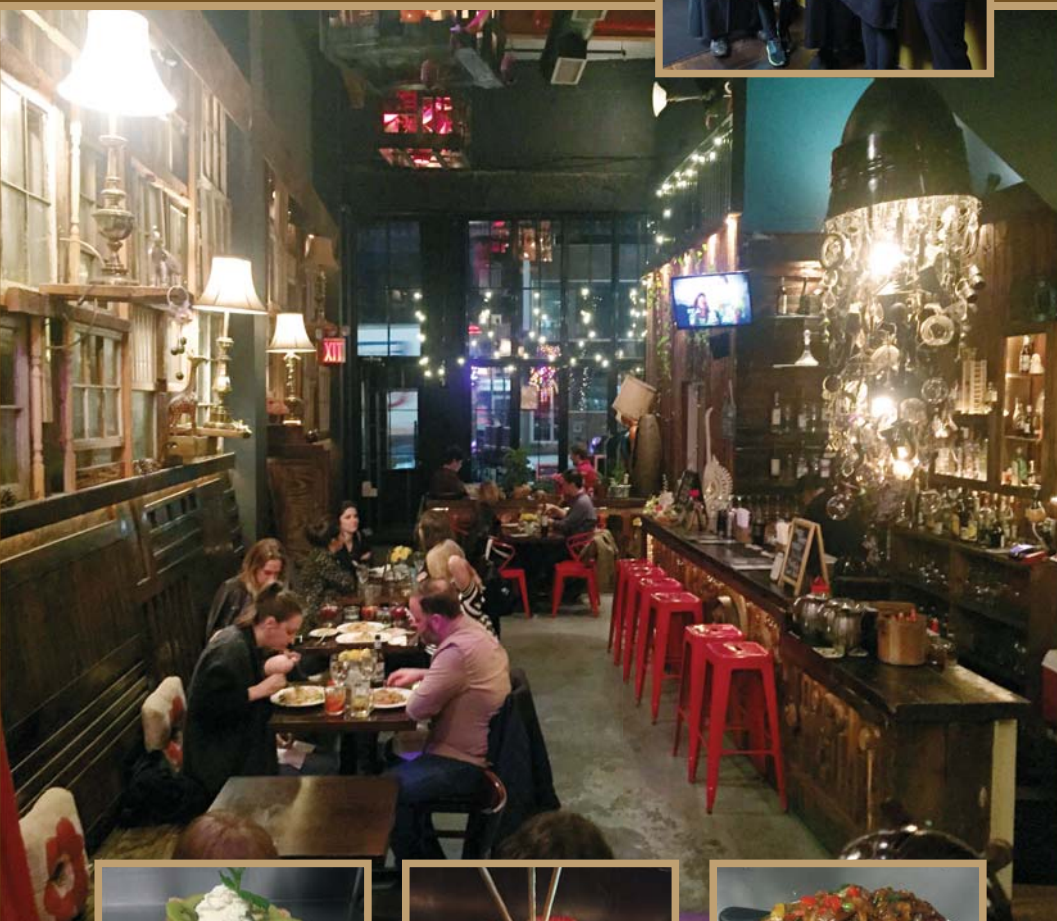


Pilsen. Ladislav Renner



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MAY 24 Czech Center New York at the Bohemian
National Hall (between 1st and 2nd Avenue)
321 E 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021



May 24, Tue., 4 pm, 7:30 pm



Retriever

Directed by Tomáš Klein, Tomáš Merta

Czech Republic, In Czech, 2014

23 min., Short, Fiction

Cannes Cinefondation 2015

When Milan's wife leaves him and takes their son with her, he steals the last memory of a happy family their retriever Goldy. Goldy becomes his guide to his life, mind and soul. A pack of wild dogs together with Goldy are running through Milan's mind and bring him back to his family.

Resort

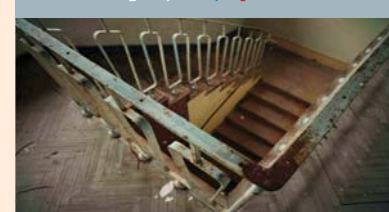
Directed by Martin Hrubý

Czech Republic, in Czech, 2015

25 min., Short, Documentary

In the days of unrestrained capitalism following the revolution, the site came into the hands of now notorious businessmen. This nontraditional documentary portrait, suffused with an air of mystery, captures the genius loci and turbulent history of a hidden summer paradise that was left off every map.

May 24, Tue., 4 pm



May 24, Tue., 4 pm, 7:30 pm



Coyote and the Rock

Directed by Aron Gauder

Hungary, in English, 2015

9 min., Short, Animation

The story of Coyote and Iktome is about generosity. The worldwide awarded film takes us into the spectacular and magical universe of Native American folklore following the adventures of the two famous mischiefmakers of the Great Plains getting into trouble as they bid defiance to Iya, the sleeping magic

A long time ago in Silesia

Directed by Tomasz Protokowicz

Poland, in Polish, 2015

16 min., Short, Fiction

Twin brothers, Rysiek and Stefan live in an orphanage run by nuns. The orphanage is situated in a small Silesian town, where the Poles and the Germans live next to one another. The boys are unlucky to grow up in one of the worst periods in the history of the place during the Third Reich.

May 24, Tue., 4 pm



May 24, Tue., 4 pm



I was born in your bed

Directed by Daniel Pešta

Czech Republic, in Czech 2013

10 min., Experimental, Video Art

The principal theme of the entire project is the current social phenomenon of the Roma question and the stance of the individual in facing this issue. The subject of this creative endeavour is concerned above all with the ambivalent relationship of the individual towards the Roma minority, which is often tied in with a range of prejudices.

Represented by International Video Art Festival  Now&After

The Third Room

Directed by Sukhwa Hong

Poland, in Korean, 2015

18 min., Short, Fiction

One day a middle-aged man with his family took a look on the apartment for moving. After that he makes important decisions...

May 24, Tue., 4 pm



May 27, Fri., 8 pm



Rain

Directed by John Flynn

United States, in English, 2015

13 min., Short, Fiction

A social worker visits the home of an autistic janitor to ask him questions about his job performance.

May 24, Tue., 4 pm



Retaliation

Directed by Dániel Fűzes

Hungary, in Hungarian, 2015 / 7 min., Short, Fiction

Peter is the black sheep of the school. Daily humiliations and atrocities make his everyday life difficult. His only friend, the psychopathic Aron, offers him a radical possibility that could solve all his problems...

Beauty Shot

Directed by Leticia De Bortoli

United States, In English, 2015

7 min., Short, Fiction

A young woman tries to find peace with her self image using a controversial and disturbing product.

May 27, Fri., 8 pm



Hunger

Directed by Marika Krajniewska

Poland, in Polish, 2015

21 min., Short, Fiction

Happened because of a single person, praised by millions. Mother with her children is left in the country. Ukrainian Holodomor starts. Woman finds herself in an extreme situation, observing her dying child, hopeless, without any option of help.

May 24, Tue., 4 pm



May 27, Fri., 8 pm



Relevance!

Directed by Storm Garner

United States, in English, 2014

6 min., Short, Fiction

A young music theory professor and classical composer struggles to avoid the flirtatious gaze of his suddenly famous folksinger student.

May 24, Tue., 7:30 pm



AKCEPT "ACCEPT"

Directed by Jan HUBÁČEK & Lucie VÍTKOVÁ

Czech Republic, in Czech, 2016

84 min., Feature Documentary

US PREMIERE

Lucie is a contemporary composer and since childhood, music has meant everything for her. But her experimental approach is becoming more and more bizarre. Lucie "stitches" her pieces together based on knitting patterns or water turbine schemes. For the general public, however, this kind of approach is hard to accept.

Lucie tries not to be superficial or undersell herself just to be popular amongst the audience. She avoids projecting any emotion or trying to tell a story in her music. She places authenticity above everything else. When she is suddenly struck by the loss of someone close, Lucie remains adrift alone in unexplored corners of sound and noise. Is she still able to compose music without any emotion?

There is Q&A with Accept's filmmaker, Lucie Vitkova

Separation

Directed by Andrew Schwarz

United States, in English, 2014

15 min., Short, Fiction

A recently divorced family, comprised of a mother, father, and little girl, struggles to assimilate to their new lives. The girl, Abigail, resorts to surprising alternative methods to cope.

May 27, Fri., 8 pm



May 27, Fri., 8 pm



Reid's Rocket

Directed by Spencer Noble

United States, in English, 2015

4 min., Short, Animation

A father/son duo live alone together on a wind turbine farm out in the desert. Reid, a young inventor struggles to bring his strictly traditional father into the future of technology.

MAY 27

Screenings will be held at
UnionDocs Center for Documentary Art
322 UNION AVE., WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN, NY 11211

Misalignment

Directed by Jeremy and Nicole Nelson

United States, in English, 2016

16 min., Short, Fiction

Misalignment is a story about love, choices, and discovering what's really important in this quirky, cute romantic comedy.

May 27, Fri., 8 pm



To Die or Dream

Directed by Peilin Kuo

United States, in English, 2015

3 min., Short, Experimental

Chinese American actress, Anna May Wong, is caught in a dark alternate celluloid reality. She relives her cinematic past over and over while deciding how she wants to be portrayed as an actress.

May 27, Fri., 8 pm



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May 27, Fri., 8 pm



No sex for fish

Directed by Xinwei Cui

United Kingdom, Kenya, 2014 / In English and Swahili

19 min., Short, Documentary

No Sex For Fish is a documentary about women and sex trading within a fishing community in Kisumu, Kenya with known high rates of HIV. It profiles several people, mostly women, who live under different circumstances – with or without a boat. Yet all, and in some ways the men themselves, face the exploitation and negative impact of massive gender inequality.

MAY 28

Screenings will be held at
UnionDocs Center for Documentary Art
322 UNION AVE., WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN, NY 11211

Clearance

Directed by Joud Kashgari

United States, in English, 2015

4 min., Short, Fiction

During a routine inspection at the airport, federal marshal Jason Hadley faces off in a battle of wits against secretive traveler from Pakistan.

May 28, Sat., 8 pm



May 28, Sat., 8 pm



Dear 11009

Directed by Aaron Orullian

United States, No Dialogue, 2014

9 min., Short Fiction

Lost in a world of data entry and carbon paper, a lonely office worker starts to suspect that the night worker who shares his desk is a gourmet chef.

Rock is not an Attitude

Directed by Xiaoxiao Tang

United States, in English, 2014 / 5 min., Short, Animation

A stopmotion rock band talks about life before their band: Rock is not only an attitude. Our life is a reflection of our attitudes: just like music, we are all different and unique, but there is no distance between us.

May 28, Sat., 8 pm



May 28, Sat., 8 pm



We Remember

Directed by John Gallagher

United States, In English, 2015

14 min., Short, Fiction

After a night of debauchery, Anders has no idea what to expect when he is summoned to his estranged father's death bed.

Sold Out

Directed by Almudena Caminero

United States, in English, 2014 / 18 min., Short, Fiction

Rosi's old movie theatre is about to close. During its last month, she encounters a mysterious costumer who goes to the theatre everyday.

May 28, Sat., 8 pm



May 28, Sat., 8 pm



A Cross to Burn

Directed by David Brown
United States, In English, 2015
5 min., Short, Documentary

A young artist learns that a lynching occurred on a site that is now a city park and asks that the location be marked with a wooden cross. "truth" about its past and present racism.

Ardoyne

United States, in English, 2014

4:30 min., Documentary Music Video, Short

As the heartwrenching children's paintings the filmmaker had the Belfast children create for the original documentary spring to life, the song ends with a plaintive school girl's poem that visualizes peace in Belfast.

May 28, Sat., 8 pm



Cheese Dog: The Movie

Directed by Justin Ulloa & Jamie Dwyer

United States, in English, 2015

15 min., Short, Animation

A disgruntled employee dreams big of success in this colorful and inspirational fast food fantasy.

Paper Wrap Fire

Directed by Raymond Yeung

United States, In English, Chinese, 2014

13 min., Short, Fiction

A Chinese teenager is left waiting in a community center while his single mother goes to work. A sequence of events unfolds and leads him to an unexpected discovery.

MAY 30

Screenings will be held at
UnionDocs Center for Documentary Art
322 UNION AVE., WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN, NY 11211

May 30, Mon., 8 pm



Waist Up

Directed by Marina Badía Magaña

United States, in English, 2015

4:44 min., Short, Fiction

Axel and David are the candidates for a very special position. Audrey, who is only ten years old, manages the selection phases they go through.

Tadaima

Directed by Robin D'Oench

United States, in English, Japanese, 2015

15:25 min., Short, Fiction

After the closure of the US Internment Camps at the end of World War II, a Japanese American family returns home and must find the strength to rebuild both their house and family amidst the emotional and physical destruction caused by the war.

May 28, Sat., 8 pm



May 30, Mon., 8 pm



The Blue Sound of NY

Directed by Emanuele Michetti

United States, In English, 2015

32:45 min., Short, Documentary

Andy and Dana run a musical instrument repair business in New York. They have to deal with each other almost every day. It's hard to get along, especially for who had been married for years and had gone through a lot of suffering.

Texting: A Love Story

Directed by Jeanette L. Buck

United States, in English, 2014

8 min., Short, Fiction

A short, awkward romantic comedy about love, intimacy, and connection in the digital age.

May 30, Mon., 8 pm



May 30, Mon., 8 pm



Bloody Mary

Directed by Jono Freedrix

United States, in English, 2015

6 min., Short, Fiction

A sophisticated Manhattan loft party takes a deviant turn after an uninvited guest shows up, pestering nearly everyone.

My First Love

Directed by Sun Park

United States, In Korean, 2016

23 min., Short, Fiction

Sunwoo visits his high school around 20 years after the graduation. There he meets his young days and his first love.

May 30, Mon., 8 pm



May 30, Mon., 8 pm



Horn Ok Please

Directed by Nidhi Kathuria

India, United States, 2015

In Hindi and English

27 min., Experimental, Short Film

'Horn Ok Please' is an experimental short/ mockumentary, part real/ part semiautobiographical, with some staged scenarios to achieve the dramatic arc for the film. The story revolves around a struggling filmmaker who had to shelve her first feature film debut due to lack of funds.

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«I am, like a sprout, pushing through the stones»

«Who wasn't in trouble? But only the weak one loses hope.

It is true, there is nothing unchangeable in this world, but evil is also not eternal. Does not the flowering spring come after a cold severe winter?»

«Words of Edification» Abai Kunanbaev

So many events happen in this world every minute. Every 60 seconds the number of residents on this planet increases by 150 people, 144 people change their place of residence. Within the same time, planet Earth receives 360 strikes of lightning, Google gets 2.5 millions of requests, and in this ocean of information, the stories of success and victory over difficulties can be a life buoy.

After a fight with boys, a little Ilyas notices a sprout pushing through the stones, surrounding the village. Behind the visible weakness of the plant, there was a huge amount of energy which enabled the stem to reach the light. The boy kept staring at the plant, trying to solve the mystery of nature, without anticipating, that very soon he would have to face the same challenges in his life.

This scene in the historical Kazakh drama "The Road to Mother", carries in itself a deep sense. Problems arise on everyone's life path, but not all try to overcome them. Some go forward with their teeth clenched, others give up without making any effort. The hero of our story accepts life with its phases and complexities. According to the plot, Ilyas's father is killed in front of the boy who then is separated from his mother by force. For a simple rural boy destiny has brought many

challenges. But he does not give up hoping to meet his mother again.

Through the character of seemingly defenseless boy, the screenwriters of the film project transmitted the strong-willed, independent and powerful spirit of the entire nation. Our ancestors never bowed in submission. And in the most difficult times they were the doers of great historical deeds.

In the kaleidoscope of the events there are periods of the Kazakh-Jungar War, populous revolts against colonial politics of the royal government, the repression of representative of the national elite, the forced collectivization, and the famine of Kazakhstan that led to the death of nearly 1,5 million people of Kazakhstan. The strong-spirited sons of Kazakhs steppes, pushed up towards the stars.

The creators of the film "The Road to Mother" required a colossal amount of work. It was very important to display human emotions, transmit the atmosphere of that time. Without the demonstration of that inner "core" which moves the generation, the movie could become just a soulless illustration.

"Of course here are some human psychological aspects, which seem to have nothing in common with the genre of our historical film, but there is a very fine line, which, if you cross to the other side,

can destroy everything that we worked on. The colors, the atmosphere, the spirit of the time, even to some extent the mimics - played a very important role in our project. It was a huge responsibility that was felt from the first to the last take. If the viewer can take the embedded message of the film in their hearts, and if something clicks inside afterward, means the film's effects worked." - says the director of the film "The Road to Mother" Akan Satayev.

We are all different. Some are tall, others consider themselves intelligent, some are selfish, flexible, talented and some are not. Some are beautiful, rich loving and lonely. But there are certain aspirations and desires which unite different people. The hero of our film "The Road to Mother" defeated all the life challenges because of his great love for his mother. The boy believed and strived to meet his mother and this hope gave him strength. Ultimately this captures the simple human capabilities. Sometimes the circumstances can be against us, but they say: "A road can be conquered by the one who walks it". Kazakh's film "The Road to Mother" must become a light house for those who became lost in the world of made up priorities and "hung up" labels. And every time a small challenge arises in life, you can close your eyes, just like the sprout and push through the stones.





*"Played with guile, grace,
humor and enthusiasm"*
Hartford Courant

The Harlem Blues & Jazz Band

Founded in 1973 by King Oliver's trombonist/blues singer Clyde Berhardt and jazz aficionado Al Vollmer, the Harlem Blues & Jazz Band has its main concept to keep significant side-men of the Classic Jazz Period working and not forgotten. The continued quality of this group has caused the band to be declared a National Treasure and one of the most authentic Swing Bands playing today.

These originals eventually did jump at the Woodside and stomp at the Savoy, with Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, Fats Waller, Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday and other jazz greats. These are the artists who created a new genre of music for America. The band has performed at Lincoln Center in NYC, the Ordway Theater in Minnesota, countless Jazz Festivals, as well as main venues in Europe, including the American Embassy and Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, Russia.

The Harlem Blues and Jazz Band had been in many concerts worldwide from Asia to Europe numerous times since 1973.

Think that there are many jazz groups in the city, but none of the Jazz groups makes you enjoy listening Jazz like Harlem Blues & Jazz Band does, because of their age & experience? Undoubtedly, they know how to capture your soul.

Authenticity plays a big part in the composition of the band.

We asked the founder of the Harlem Blues Jazz Band; Dr. Albert Vollmer. (87)

1) Please tell us why this group is so unique among many Jazz groups in the city?

The Harlem Blues & Jazz Band is unique, because for the most part it has featured musicians who either created or kept the Swing music going. The band is always original and does not copy anyone.

2) Where do you see Jazz's future in the next 50 years? Do you think in today's Jazz is getting much more international and well known music with the new forms?

Succeeding generations will continue to discover the earlier and current form of Jazz. Each era has had representatives, creative and innovations that will excite the emotions of newer listeners. Just like Bach & Beethoven are still appreciated, so with various forms of Jazz be as well.

3) Tell us a few of your all time favorite record albums.

I am mainly excited by the earlier jazz, traditional or classic jazz so albums by King Oliver, Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, Duke Ellington and Count Basie Luis Russel.

4) You've been to a lot of countries in your concerts. Can you discuss some of your musical experiences and exploring and how those expanded your awareness as the founder? Please tell us one of the unforgettable memory regarding your Jazz career?

To present authentic, American Jazz abroad is very important to me. Most memorable experience was on July 4, 2006 when we played outdoors at The American Embassy in Moscow, Russia for a huge Independence Day Party with many foreign dignitaries including Michael Gorbachov.



A Mesmerizing Experience in Istanbul- Prince Islands

During the summer months the Princes' Islands are popular destinations for day trips from Istanbul. As there is no traffic on the Islands, the only transport being horse and cart, they are incredibly peaceful compared with the city of Istanbul. They are just a short ferry ride from both the Asian (at Bostanc and also Kartal) and European sides (from Sirkeci/Eminönü, Kabata and Yenikap) of Istanbul. Most ferries call in turn at the four largest of the nine islands: K nal ada, Burgazada, Heybeliada and Bıyıkada which are open to the public.

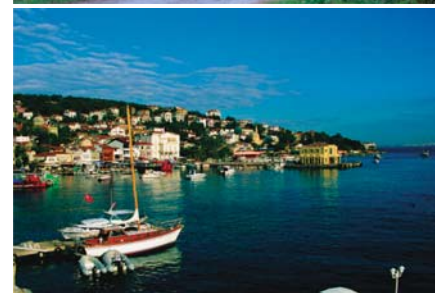
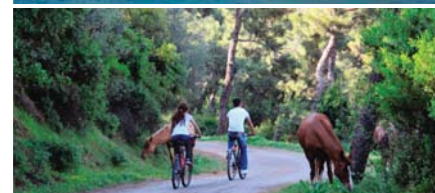
Adalar, the Pearls of Istanbul, was called by various names throughout the history. Before converting to Christianity, Greeks called it "Demonisi" (Demon's Islands); Greek philosopher Artemidoros used the name "Pitiuse" (Pine Islands) and the Roman naturalist Plinius named it Propondidias" (Marmara Islands). After the conversion to Christianity, the islands were called "Papadonissia" (Priest's Islands), "Les Iles des Princes" (Prince Islands) and the Turks called them "Crimson Islands" because of the color of the earth. The most common name is "Prince Islands" due to many princes, princes and emperors being exiled to these islands during the Byzantine reign.

The mild Mediterranean climate reigns in Adalar, with hot and dry summers and mild and wet winters, and the flora consists of pine forests and shrubs. Life in Adalar, with its calm and quiet during winter, begins to revive with the spring. The islands are covered with a green flora throughout the year and the bright yellow mimosas add colour to the scene in spring. The mimosas, which are one of the specialties of Adalar, are picked up and sold in bougainvillea, magnolia, Judas tree, turpentine, linden-tree, cedar and figs are other characteristics of Adalar. Strawberries, both as blossom and fruit ripening in autumn are also specific to Adalar.

Adalar which is described as "Pearls of Istanbul" embraces a variety of natural and architectural beauties protected from the harmful effects of the geographical situation and topographical conditions of the islands. People running away from the chaos of Istanbul from the traffic jam, air pollution, rapid urbanization and rapid growth of the population find a peaceful solace in Adalar. As there is no industry on these islands and as all private motor vehicles are strictly not allowed. For the people who enjoy a quiet, restful way of living, away from the noise, air pollution, heavy traffic and stress, Adalar offers an invaluable alternative, only 14-20 kilometers from Istanbul. The distance is only 2.5 kilometers from the Anatolian.

Passenger ferryboats from Istanbul sail regularly to the Princes Islands (Adalar). On your first visit go to Bıyıkada, the most interesting island, where you can take an island tour by horse-drawn carriage, or rent a bike and tour the island yourself, and have lunch or dinner, and sip drinks, and even perhaps have a swim at one of the tiny beaches.

Enjoy this mesmerizing Islands that is one of the unforgettable trip in Istanbul.





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Continued from the page 5

Coronation and medieval festival in the streets of Prague

Grandiose celebrations to mark Charles IV's anniversary will be staged in Prague, which is organizing a series of events throughout the entire year. The tourist season along with the Year of Charles IV will be launched in Prague Castle as early as April, 3, when visitors can look forward to free admission to major castle sights which normally can be entered only with tour tickets. So with no harm done to your purse you will be able to admire Golden Lane, Cathedral of Sts. Vitus, Wenceslas and Adalbert, Old Royal Palace with "The Story of Prague Castle" exhibition along with St. George's Basilica. Another great draw is the extensive additional program focusing on the life and times of Charles IV.

A pontifical mass will be celebrated in St. Vitus Cathedral on May 14, on the day of 700th anniversary of the birth of Charles IV, who greatly contributed to the spiritual development of the Czech lands. The mass will be attended by leading state officials, church dignitaries and representatives of institutions along with foreign guests. On that same day, you should definitely hit the streets of Prague that are going to be changed into unique places of history and culture during the week-long Medieval Festival. Each of the seven days of the Festival will stage a program focusing on Charles IV's activities undertaken in individual regions and at the same time these regions will present themselves at the Festival with shows of their performers. On May 14, there will be the opening birthday celebration and you should definitely not miss the coronation festivities.

Feasting in a right royal style - medieval banquets throughout the country
Do you fancy tasting some of the delicacies from the times of Kings and Emperors? Then come to the Czech Republic somewhere around May 25 to 29. The prestigious Prague Food Festival which will also celebrate its own round anniversary this year, will offer not only a classic program but also the chance to sample dishes of Charles IV' Court. With the onset of the summer holidays it will be possible to indulge in royal feasting at Pernštejn Castle, since the "Castle Dining throughout the Centuries" exhibition has been installed in the very interiors of the castle palace. A re-enactment of a medieval banquet will be held in Točník Castle from June 6 to 7, and it will be possible to sample medieval dishes in all of the regions of the Czech Republic during town festivities.





Harem Of The Ottomans

Exotic mystery of Istanbul

Source of inspiration of oriental fantasies: The Imperial Harem of the Ottomans

Cem Ulutaş/Istanbul.

Having served as a capital for the Roman, Byzantine, Latin and Ottoman Empire, where the traces of primitive people date back to 400 thousand years ago, Istanbul is the only old residential area in the world that nestled on two continents still uniquely embracing West and East. Istanbul is a city of diversity, colorfulness and deepness, like an eternal source where civilizations meet, unite, split up, speak or kept quiet. 24 hours awake, it's the largest, youngest and most enjoyable city of Europe; maintaining its traditions with an extensive and heavy history while welcoming the light and crazy attitude of the 21st century in a surprisingly free way. Istanbul always offers those willing to understand and feel the world, boost knowledge about mankind and life, a visual and experimental exhibition. It never leaves anyone without a gain.

For a foreigner, one of the most attractive regions of Istanbul, the former capital of the Ottoman Empire, which reigned for 600 years expanding on three continents is Historical Peninsula. Historical Peninsula as well as The Imperial Harem of the Ottomans, which served as a source of inspiration for oriental fantasies at the Topkapi Palace are home to mysteries worth discovering.

The harem, where hundreds of beautiful and attractive women were at a strong emperor's service is the climax of the organization of masculine power in history. Despite the efforts for limitation, the harem went through periods when the number of odalisques were over two thousand. Though Sultan Abdülaziz announced that he would give an end to the harem tradition of his ancestors at a large scale, confining himself to only one lady, there were seven chief wives and around two hundred less qualified odalisques when his reign ended. This situation kept still until it reached to a reasonable amount and harem were fallen apart by Abdülhamit II.

Meaning "The sacred place where everyone is not allowed to enter" in Arabic, the harem exemplifies the secluded family lives in Muslim communities. The word "Harem" was used in two different meanings. First would Express

the "harem of the emperor", latter would express the place a family lived in. In line with the administration principles of the Ottomans, the aim of the palace's harem, as a branch of the Sultan's devshirme household troops, was to form a noble family as well as forming a dynastic aristocracy by wedding odalisques with aghas, who have been educated in The Enderun School, after training them. Topkapi Palace was the living space of the sultan, his mother, his wives, children, brothers and sisters, together with the odalisques in service and the Black Aghas who were the castrated guards of the harem. A group of buildings, which formed this secluded and forbidden space of the dynasty is a complex of high importance in terms of history of architecture with exemplary styles from various periods from 16th to the 19th century. Having been expanded in time with every new person in power, the harem currently has around 300 rooms, 9 baths, 2 mosques, 1 hospital, 1 laundry and a number of dorms.

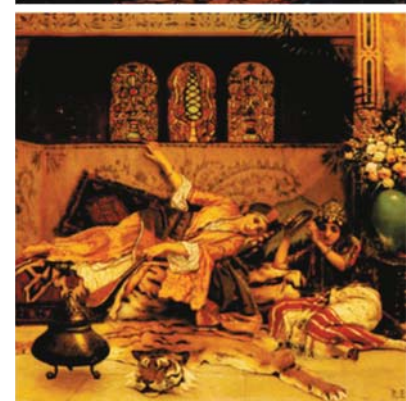
The girls of the harem learned music, dance, crafts and Turkish from their masters. They were certainly educated about the protocol, label, and principles of the Palace. They received education in religion, including ethics and manners. A lot of effort was put on them until they reached a level suitable for a real palace lady. This way, it was ensured that they would be respected by the others with their attitude in case the sultan was attracted to and chose one of them as his wife. There were a few Muslims. Mostly, Croatian, Greek, Ukrainian and Georgian girls were accepted to the harem. On the verge of being sold as a slave in Istanbul, they would become an odalisque in Harem.

A newcomer girl was called a novice. Firstly, she would be taught on the ethics and manners of Islam and Turkish Muslims, religious aspects like worshipping, knitting, sewing, singing, playing saz and arts like story telling. After trained, the novice would become an odalisque. As for the records of world-famous Ottoman historian, Prof. Halil İnalcik: "In local words, they would first besagirt, then kalfa and gedikli when they reached a master level.

Gedikli would directly sent to the sultan's service, taking care of his needs like food, laundry etc. A gedikli, who was taken to the sultan's bed was later called "ikbal" or haseki. Sultan's favorite haseki would become the sultan's lady. A woman, who was considered as the sultan's wife would be given a house and receive a daily wage. When a haseki gives birth to a male, she would obtain a concession. In this system, each odalisque had a wage and a specific dress.

It was never easy to document what happened in a place like the harem in which almost no one outside was allowed to enter. The first official historian of the palace, Naima Sultan abstained from including some subjects in her writings about Murat IV, saying they were "obscene issues". Indeed, it was this mystery which caused a lot more fantasies to be created about the harem. There are people who see this place as the sultan's private brothel, where he would satisfy his personal need at one extreme, but we should also take Murat Belge's approach into consideration. He says: "In the West, we should avoid thinking about the harem as a very common place of merry making where the sultan had total freedom in sex. The sexual life of the sultan was restricted with many unlettered rules. Everyone in the harem, from the chief wives to mothers and leading servants etc., were sharing the whole power in a highly strict discipline. Therefore it is not right to imagine this place and the life within as a stud farm under the rule of a horse."

Was the harem a place where Ottoman Sultans took sexual pleasures to a max or was it an educational institution where the members were trained to be married with senior officers? If you visit Istanbul, see the Ottoman Harem. It is one of the most interesting establishments about relationships between men and women, for yourselves to decide.



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Turkish coffee history and its brewing is the oldest known method of coffee preparation. The cooking of coffee grounds with water in a special coffee pot was known to the Turks since 1600. To be exact, Istanbul was introduced to coffee in 1555 during the reign of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent.

In the Ottoman palace a new method of drinking coffee was discovered: the beans were roasted over a fire, finely ground and then slowly cooked with water on the ashes of a charcoal fire in a special pot called CEZVE. With its new brewing method and aroma, this coffee's fame soon spread even further afield.

Coffee which is actually called KAHVE in Turkish, soon became a vital part of palace cuisine and was very popular in court. The position of a Chief Coffee Maker was added to the roster of court functionaries. The Chief Coffee Maker's duty was to brew the Sultan's or his patron's coffee, and was chosen for his loyalty and ability to keep secrets.

Coffee soon spread from the palace to grand mansions and eventually ending up in the homes of the public. The people of Istanbul quickly became enamored with the beverage. Green coffee beans were purchased and then roasted at home on pans.



TURKISH COFFEE



Turkish Weddings

As well as an everyday beverage, Turkish coffee is also a part of the traditional Turkish wedding custom. As a prologue to marriage, the bridegroom's parents must visit the young girl's family to ask the hand of the bride-to-be and the blessings of her parents upon the upcoming marriage. During this meeting, the bride must prepare and serve Turkish coffee to the guests. For the groom's coffee, the bride-to-be sometimes uses salt instead of sugar to gauge his character. If the bridegroom drinks his coffee without any sign of displeasure, the bride-to-be assumes that the groom is good-tempered and patient.

Turkish Coffee Cup Reading

Turkish Coffee Fortune Reading is one of the oldest cultural practices in Turkey dating back to the 18th century. During the practice, there is a "special" person whose responsibility is to look at the images left at the bottom and sides of the cup after the coffee has been consumed. The cup must be prepared properly before it can be observed for Turkish coffee reading. This person will determine the pattern which will predict the future of the person. The "fortune teller" will also advise the involved party on how to solve their future problems.

How to Make Turkish Coffee

1. Pour in cold water in the coffee pot. You should use one cup of cold water, for each cup you are making and then add an extra half cup "for the pot". Add a teaspoonful of the ground Turkish coffee per cup in the water while the water is cold and stir. The amount of coffee may be varied to taste, but do not forget, there will be a thick layer of coffee grounds left at the bottom of your cup for properly made Turkish coffee. Don't fill the pot too much. If you need to add sugar this is the time to do it.
 2. Heat the pot as slowly as you can. The slower the heat the better it is. Make sure you watch the pot carefully to prevent it from overflowing when the coffee boils.
 3. When the water boils pour some (not all) of the coffee equally between the cups, filling each cup about a quarter to a third of the way. This will make sure that everybody gets a fair share of the foam forming on top of the pot, without which causes the coffee to lose much of its taste. Continue heating until the coffee boils again (which will be very short now that it has already been brought to a boil earlier). Then distribute the rest of the coffee among the cups.
- Since there is no filtering of the coffee at any time during this process, you should wait for a few minutes before drinking your delicious Turkish coffee while the coffee grounds settle at the bottom of the cup.

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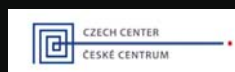
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