

26th edition of the European Union Film Festival to digitally kick-off from November 1

- 60 films in 37 languages from across Europe and India to be screened at the 26th European Union Film Festival; EUFF to pay homage to Indian cinema legend Satyajit Ray
- The Festival begins from 1 November. Audiences can register through the Festival Scope and the EUFF website

New Delhi, October 28, 2021: Cinema, in all its forms, continues to be a powerful medium, which binds us, helps us to stand united, beyond all borders. It provides a medium to share our feelings, our fears as well as our hopes, a window into our innermost selves. Providing a “Window To Europe”, the much-awaited 26th edition of the **European Union Film Festival** will be available in its virtual avatar from November 1st onwards— featuring outstanding, award-winning European cinema that bring forth inspiring stories, all from the comfort and safety of our homes. It celebrates the diversity and depth of European cinema and culture. Film aficionados can register free of cost for access to the film festival and related events. The Festival is organized by the Delegation of the European Union to India, Member States and associate countries, in collaboration with Indian and European partners.

The month-long festival features an exciting line-up of 60 films, in 37 languages across 8 genres that explore unique stories, experiences, and histories with artistic storytelling from across 27 Member States and associate countries, celebrating the most recent cinematic triumphs at Cannes, Locarno, San Sebastian, Karlovy Vary, and Venice, amongst others. The festival will also pay homage to legendary Indian filmmaker **Satyajit Ray**, on his 100th birth anniversary, with the projection of the seminal *Pather Panchali*. A special contemporary Indian section, *curated by the Dharamshala International Film Festival*, includes six films in four Indian official languages namely Hindi, Marathi, Malayalam and Bengali.

The festival has something for every kind of cinephile to enjoy. From *Contemporary European Cinema*, *European Masters of Cinema*, *Co-productions*, *a short film selection*, *films on climate change*, *Film Education*, *Contemporary Indian Cinema* to *Indian masterpieces*, the festival will have eight sections. EUFF will pay tribute to **Europe's extraordinary cinematic legacy**, by hosting, in collaboration with **Il Cinema Ritrovato Festival**, a unique set of fabulous films, that have been digitally restored and remastered helping bring the continents t's formative films to new audiences and generations.

Commenting on the significance of the EUFF, **H.E. Ugo Astuto, Ambassador of the European Union to India, said** “*The 26th edition of the European Film Festival will provide viewers a window to Europe, taking them in a journey across the Continent through the eyes of our storytellers. The very positive feedback after our last edition has encouraged us to include again a section on classic masterpieces from both Europe and India. We hope you will enjoy the month-long festival.*”

Bringing a slice of Europe to India, the Festival will showcase movies from European countries, **including 27 Member States**, comprising Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. Switzerland will be also represented at the Festival.

Curated by the film curator and programmer **Veronica Flora**, with **Valerio Caruso**, Director of Cineuropa, EUFF India will take the Indian audience to a journey into the everyday life of people and

countries, where the particular becomes universal, constantly poised between pain and joy, frustration and ecstasy, fear and courage.

EUFF film curator Veronica Flora commented, "*The screen is a window. Cinema is a journey. Thanks to this extraordinary form of art, we have the opportunity to look out over the theatre of the world into the abyss of the human soul. Cinema gives an insight into our generation and lets us glimpse into the future. Through the wide and multiform variety of films presented in this EUFF India 2021 edition, we'll get to know stories of people standing up together for their rights to equality and freedom; listen to the voices of children fighting to go to school and hear about our generation's increasing awareness to defend our planet in the face of climate change.*"

EUFF curator Valerio Caruso added, "*EUFF India offers again to its audiences a great multi-sensorial cinematographic experience, immersing it in the musical mosaic of different languages spoken in Europe: sounds and intonations resulting from the historical, mutual influences between cultures. In their amazing intertwining of similarities and differences, we can again find the reflection of the wealth and strength of our societies. We will also bring to the audience a series of online side events featuring directors, producers and experts to reflect on the nature of cinema, in the context of growing international cooperation. During these talks, we'll discover cinema's interdependence with other arts - from painting to music, from theatre to literature, from poetry to photography - and the role of cinema as a fundamental tool for new generations.*"

Kaleidoscope

Rich in genres, themes, influences and spread across generations, the films in this year's line-up provide a distinctive window to Europe. The festival features eight specially curated sections: '*Eurorama: European Cinema Today*', '*Contemporary Indian Cinema*', '*Poetry on Screen: Masterpieces of Indian Cinema*', '*Masters of European Cinema*', '*Film Education: Growing up with Cinema*', '*Green Cinema: Addressing Climate Change*', '*Cinema together: Co-production in and out of Europe*' and '*In a Few Words: A Short Film Selection*'.

In collaboration with *Il Cinema Ritrovato Festival*, the line-up will explore the recent history of the continent as told by some of its most compelling chroniclers. From the pioneering Hungarian director Márta Mészáros' *The Girl*, to Oscar-winning *Closely Watched Trains* by the Czech director Jiří Menzel, Roberto Rossellini's neorealist drama *Rome, Open City*, and the essential *The Last Stage* by Wanda Jakubowska, this section provides a singular and in-depth look at Europe in the mid-20th century.

Furthermore, in this section, in the perspective of the interrelation between different forms of art, in the bicentenary year of the birth of one of the most famous writers of all time, Gustave Flaubert, the European Union Film Festival in India in collaboration with the French Embassy in India will celebrate his most emblematic and immortal masterpiece, *Madame Bovary*, showing Claude Chabrol's 1991 film adaptation, starring the sublime Isabelle Huppert, accompanied by a focus on the archetypal character of the masterpiece of French literature, curated by Institut Français and the French Book Office.

As a tribute to the enduring legacy of Indian cinematography and on the birth centenary of Satyajit Ray, in the section *Poetry on Screen: Masterpieces of Indian Cinema*, the Festival will offer viewers a deep dive into such classics as the seminal *Pather Panchali* and the revolutionary *Kalpana* by Uday Shankar. A contemporary Indian section has been especially curated by the *Dharamshala International Film Festival*, bringing to screens diverse in-depth stories from across the country.

Socially relevant topics

Globally relevant issues such as **climate change, gender equality, women's empowerment**, and **LGBTQI rights** are also addressed across the film selection. The climate emergency is addressed in a series of features and shorts, highlighting its widespread impact, and the solutions emerging from the crisis. Cinema doesn't just tell us about climate change but can also directly act to contribute to combat it: during the linked side event we'll enter the dimension of the increasingly widespread best practices of the "green shooting" protocol.

Co-production and Film Education

The festival will also feature a series of co-productions as a tribute to the spirit of collaboration in European cinematography, while film literacy and the promotion of audio-visual works find mention in the special section for young audiences called *Growing Up With Cinema*, which will take an inside look at film education with the participation of European and Indian experts.

Indo-European Cultural Exchanges

Rich in genres, themes, influences and spread across generations, the films in this year's line-up provide a distinctive window to Europe. They will be complemented by a number of special side events featuring European and Indian cinema industry talent, and will discuss the most pressing issues raised in the selection. Among Indo-European Exchanges most intense will be a script development workshop for professional Indian scriptwriters – the culmination of the *Journey to Europe* call launched by the Delegation earlier this year, and a testament to the Festival's support for enhancing EU-India creative and cultural exchanges. Thirty young talented Indian scriptwriters selected by a call will be involved and supported in training activities during the Festival and two of them will be awarded with a cultural journey to meet the film community in one of the most important European film festivals to continue developing their film projects in 2022.

Access to the Film Festival

Tickets for the Film Festival and related side events will be free for audiences. Audiences can register through the Delegation's website and social media channels. The Film Festival will run till 30th November. Once registered, viewers can log in at their convenience. Register here:

<https://www.festivalscope.com/page/euff-india-a-window-to-europe/>

For more information on the EUFF visit: <https://euffindia.com/>

About the European Union

The EU, which consists of 27 countries, has the world's second largest economy and its third largest population, after China and India. Though richly diverse, the countries that make up the EU (its 'Member States') are all committed to the same basic values: peace, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. By creating a frontier-free single market and a single currency (the euro) which has been adopted by 19 Member States, the EU has given a significant boost to trade and employment.

EU-India relations: For over 55 years, the EU and India have worked together to reduce poverty, prevent disasters, expand trade, secure global public goods, enhance security around the world and promote joint research in energy, health, agriculture and many other fields of mutual interest.

EURORAMA: EUROPEAN CINEMA TODAY

Country	Film Title	Production Details	Genre
Austria	Little Joe	dir. Jessica Hausner, Austria, United Kingdom, Germany, 2019, 105'	Sci-fi
Belgium	Lola	dir. Laurent Micheli, Belgium, France, 2019, 87'	Drama
Bulgaria	The Father	dir. Kristina Grozева, Petar Valchanov, Bulgaria, Greece, 2019, 87'	Drama
Croatia	The Staffroom	dir. Sonja Tarokic, Croatia, 2021	Drama
Cyprus	Patchwork	dir. Petros Charalambous, Cyprus, Israel, Slovenia, 2021, 88'	Drama
Czechia	Bird Atlas	dir. Olmo Omerzu, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia, 2021, 92'	Drama
Denmark	Shorta	dir. Frederik Louis Hviid, Anders Ølholm, Denmark, 2020, 108'	Drama
Estonia	Goodbye Soviet Union	dir. Lauri Randla, Estonia, 2020, 91'	Comedy
Finland	Ladies of Steel	dir. Pamela Tola, Finland, 2020, 91'	Comedy
France	Red Soil	dir. Farid Bentoumi, France, 2020, 86'	Drama
Germany	The Audition	dir. Ina Weisse, Germany, France, 2019, 99'	Drama
Greece	Her Job	dir. Nikos Labôt, Greece, France, Serbia, 2018, 90'	Drama
Hungary	Bad Poems	dir. Gábor Reisz, Hungary, France, 2018, 97'	Drama/Comedy
Ireland	Dating Amber	dir. David Freyne, Ireland, United Kingdom, 2020, 92'	Comedy
Italy	Small Body	dir. Laura Samani, Italy, France, Slovenia, 2021, 89'	Drama
Latvia	Oleg	dir. Juris Kursietis, Latvia, Belgium, Lithuania, France, 2019, 108'	Drama
Lithuania	Runner	dir. Andrius Blazevicius, Lithuania, Czech Republic, 2021, 87'	Drama
Luxembourg	Hytte	dir. Jean-Louis Schuller, Luxembourg, Belgium, 2019, 76'	Drama
Malta	Perpetual Child	dir. Stephanie Sant, Malta, 2020, 10'41	Drama
Malta	Mister Teddy is Angry	Fabrizio Ellul, Malta, 2021, 4'03	Animation
Malta	Hallini Hanini	Samira Damato, Malta, 1964, 14'10	Drama
Netherlands	Gold	dir. Rogier Hesp, Netherlands, 2020, 90'	Drama
Poland	25 Years of Innocence. The Case of Tomek Komenda	dir. Jan Holoubek, Poland, 2020, 112'	Drama
Portugal	The Domain	dir. Tiago Guedes, Portugal, France, 2019, 166'	Drama
Romania	Marona's Fantastic Tale	dir. Anca Damian, Romania, France, Belgium, 2019, 92'	Animation

Slovakia	The Man with Hare Ears	dir. Martin Šulík, Slovakia, Czech Republic, 2020, 104'	Comedy
Slovenia	Inventory	dir. Darko Sinko, Slovenia, 2021, 106'	Drama
Spain	Schoolgirls	dir. Pilar Palomero, Spain, 2020, 97'	Drama
Sweden	Charter	dir. Amanda Kernell, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, 2020, 94'	Drama
Switzerland	Spagat	dir. Christian Johannes Koch, Switzerland, 2020, 110'	Drama

Contemporary Indian Cinema

India	Yeh Freedom Life	dir. Priya Sen, India, 2018, 70'	Documentary
India	About Love	dir. Archana Atul Phadke, India, 91'	Documentary
India, United Kingdom	When Hari Got Married	dir. Ritu Sarin, Tenzing Sonam, India, United Kingdom, 2012	Drama
India	Chuskit	dir. Priya Ramasubban, India, 2018, 89'	Drama
India	Ee. Ma. Yau.	dir. Lijo Jose Pellissery, India, 2018, 120'	Drama
India	Mukti Bhawan	dir. Shubhashish Bhutiani, India, 2016, 99'	Drama/Comedy

Poetry on Screen: Masterpieces of Indian Cinema

India	Pather Panchali	dir. Satyajit Ray, India,	Drama
India	Kalpana	dir. Uday Shankar, India, 1948, 155'	Dance/Musical

Environment and Climate Change

Switzerland	Fifty Steps	dir. Niccolò Aiazzi, Switzerland, 2020, 54'	Documentary
Denmark	Journey to Utopia	dir. Erlend E. Mo, Denmark, 2020, 89'	Documentary
Finland, France, Morocco	School of Hope	dir. Mohamed El Aboudi, Finland, France, Morocco, 2020, 78'	Documentary

Cinema Together: Co-production in and out of Europe

France, Canada, Ivory Coast, Senegal	Night of the Kings	dir. Philippe Lacôte, France, Canada, Ivory Coast, Senegal, 2020, 90'	Drama/Fantasy
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Austria, Germany, France, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Turkey	Quo Vadis, Aida?	dir. Jasmila Žbanić, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Austria, Germany, France, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Turkey, 2020, 102'	Drama

Masterpieces of European Cinema: In collaboration with the Cinema Ritrovato Festival

Spain	That Happy Couple	dir. Juan Antonio Bardem, Luis García Berlanga, Spain, 1951, 82'	Comedy
Hungary	The Girl	dir. Márta Mészáros, Hungary, 1968, 80	Drama
Poland	The Last Stage	dir. Wanda Jakubowska, Poland, 1948, 109'	Drama
Bulgaria	We Were Young	dir. Binka Zhelyazkova, Bulgaria, 1961, 110'	Drama

Italy	Rome, Open City	dir. Roberto Rossellini, Italy, 1945, 103'	Drama
Czechoslovakia	Closely Watched Trains	dir. Jiří Menzel, Czechoslovakia, 1966, 88'	Drama/Romance
France	Madame Bovary	dir. Claude Chabrol, France, 1991, 143'	Drama/Romance
Film Education: Growing Up With Cinema			
Italy	My Brother Chases Dinosaurs	dir. Stefano Cipani, Italy, 2019, 101'	Drama/Comedy
Romania, France, Belgium	Marona's Fantastic Tale	dir. Anca Damian, Romania, France, Belgium, 2019, 92'	Animation
Germany	Too Far Away	dir. Sarah Winkenstette, Germany, 2020, 89'	Drama
Spain	Avalanche	Children's Age- 16-17 years old, (Cinema en curs/A Bao A Qu), 2018, 16'	Drama
France	I have a Cabin	Children's Age- 6-10 years old, (La Cinémathèque française Cinéma, cent ans de jeunesse), 2018, 6:35	Adventure
Spain	Through the Museo del Prado. Glances and Portraits of a Museum	Children's Age- 6-17 years old, (Cinema en curs/A Bao A Qu), 2018-19, 23'	Drama
India	The Letter	Children's Age- 10-17 years old, (La Cinémathèque française Cinéma, cent ans de jeunesse), 2018, 7:51	Documentary
In A Few Words: A Short Film Selection			
Canada	Kokota: The Islet of Hope	dir. Craig Norris, Canada, 2016, 29'	Documentary
Germany	Geo-Engineering	dir. Yannick Stark, Germany, 2020, 2'	Animation
France	Thermostat 6	dir. Mylène Cominotti, Sixtine Dano, Marion Coudert, Maya Avron, France, 2018, 4:48'	Animation
Belgium	A Sister	dir. Delphine Girard, Belgium, 2018, 17'	Drama