

"Exposed": New Films of the New Europe

July 14-16, 2006

South Side Works Cinema, 425 Cinema Drive

South Side Works Theatre presents a sampling of the Best in Contemporary New European Cinema, including noteworthy recent cinematic productions from such countries as Poland, Latvia, Czech Republic/Slovakia, Serbia, Croatia, and Hungary. Most films have received prestigious awards at national and international film festivals. Each feature-length film will be preceded by a recent outstanding short (whether documentary or animated). All films are subtitled or are in English. All are Pittsburgh premiers. Tickets \$8.50, \$10 on opening night.

**LOVE, dir. Vladan Nikolic, Serbia/US, 2005; language: English, (93 min).
Friday, July 14, 7:00 (opening night); Sunday, July 16, 5:15**



In this stylish, atmospheric thriller, a hit man (Serb? Croat? Muslim?) who learned his deadly craft in the Balkan wars, his beautiful former lover, and her police officer boyfriend all cross paths in lower Manhattan. The looping, nonlinear narrative structure and crisscrossing fates of its colorful characters may remind many of PULP FICTION, but instead of recycling the hipster argot and rap rhythm of that influential L.A. movie, LOVE gives us a wintry, present-day New York City that is very much a cosmopolitan metropolis, a city of immigrant hustlers and their Old World accents - the Yugoslavian hit man, the German doctor, the French coquette, and the Neapolitan crook, and many others. LOVE is all the more stimulating because of the elegant simplicity with which it was made; aside from its thriller plot, the spare visual composition, and beautifully lit scenes are alone more than reason enough to see this picture. Recipient of Best Director Award, (USA) Tiburon IFF, California, 2005; Young Jury Award for Best Film, Barcelona Digital FF, 2006; Special Mention, IF&TvF, Switzerland, 2005.

Vladan Nikolic is an award winning filmmaker from Belgrade, Yugoslavia, who now lives in New York City. Before coming to New York, he worked as a director for the first independent TV network in Yugoslavia. Nikolic has worked as writer, director and editor on feature films, documentaries, commercials and music videos. He also teaches Film Directing, Production and Digital Filmmaking at The New School, Film Video Arts, and at NYU.

WHAT IS A MAN WITHOUT A MOUSTACHE? dir. Hrvoje Hribar, Croatia, 2005, (109 min). [Friday, July 14, 9:15 \(opening night\)](#); [Sunday, July 16, 3:00](#)



In dry and poor Dalmatian inland time stands still. A contemporary story that could take place anytime tells a history of a young widow, an ex-alcoholic priest, former emigrant and his German daughter, a local haiku poet, the priest's twin brother the general and his lover, a female Minister of Defense. This love story comedy is about people fighting obstacles in their minds, planted there by tradition and common patterns of behavior. All characters struggle in an awkward way for their own little right to love and be loved. The movie beat out heavyweights including "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe," "King Kong" and "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" to retain number one spot at the Croatian box office. Recipient of Best Actress Award, Sarajevo FF, 2005:Audience Award, Zagreb FF, 2005.

HRVOJE HRIBAR was born in Zagreb, Croatia in 1962. He received a degree in TV and Film Directing from the Academy for Film and Drama. He has worked as an assistant director, screenwriter, radio-play writer and essayist. As a director, producer and screenwriter he has several shorts (Stop Eating), features (Tranquilliser Gun), documentaries (Once There Was a Man) and TV films to his credit. WHAT IS A MAN WITHOUT A MOUSTACHE is his second feature film.

SOME SECRETS, dir. Alice Nellis, Czech Republic/Slovakia, 2002, (100min). [Saturday, July 15, 5:00](#); [Sunday, July 16, 7:15](#)



A dark and absurd road-movie comedy in which Grandmother fulfills her dream, Mother stops treating her daughters like children, the daughters stop treating their husbands like idiots and

father's ashes get spread all over the country. Setting out to dispose of grandfather's ashes in his Slovakian homeland, moments of neat visual humor abound, as when the mother warns granny to mind her eyes when drinking a cocktail with sticks in it. Scenes at the Czech-Slovak border, where the group is refused passage with the ashes, sharply satirize the absurd bureaucracy that has sprung up after the breakup of former Czechoslovakia. Director Nellis creates a charming portrait that reveals how the families that seemingly get along the worst sometimes love each other more than any others. The movie also finds room for observations on the darker side of human nature. Recipient of 9 wins & 9 nominations! (New Directors Prize, San Sebastian IFF 2002; Fipresci Prize & Best Screenplay, Thessaloniki IFF, 2002 "For the humorous way of narrating a dramatic story with a brilliant command of all film devices"; The Golden Arc, Paris IFF, 2003; The Best Actor for Igor Bares: Tribeca IFF - New York 2003; Best screenplay, Festroia IFF - Portugal 2003; Best First Film The San Sebastian Film Festival, 2002).

ALICE NELLIS into her 30's specialized in English and American studies at Charles University of Prague. She worked as writer and director in Czech TV and then moved to features. Her first feature *EENY MEENY* began as an exercise for a Film Academy scriptwriting class, where it won a prize and from there went into production. Garnering a slew of Czech awards, the film went on to international festivals and won the SKYY prize at San Francisco IFF in 2000.

MY NIKIFOR, dir. Krzysztof Krauze, Poland, 2004, (100 min).

Saturday, July 15, 7:15



Mystery and contradictions shroud the man who called himself Nikifor. What is known is that he was an illiterate street painter who spent most of his life in abject poverty, usually in dire need of food and often without a roof over his head. So how was it that he became perhaps the most fascinating figure in the 20th-century European art scene and is now considered to have been one of the world's finest naïve painters? Polish director Krzysztof Krauze takes several strands of factual events and uses real-life characters to weave a heartfelt character study of a lonely man who was possessed by his art. With a painter's eye, Krauze has ingeniously styled his film like one of Nikifor's canvases, with muted monochrome tones suddenly bursting with unpredictable swaths of color. Also deserving of high praise is the amazing cross-gender performance by Polish actress Krystyna Feldman in the title role. Recipient of 14 wins & 7 nominations (Grand Prix for Best Feature Film and Best Actress for Krystyna Feldman, Karlovy Vary IFF, 2005; Gold Hugo Award- Best Film and Silver Hugo Award – Best Actor for Roman Gancarczyk, Chicago IFF, 2005; Best Foreign Film, Denver, IFF 2005).

KRZYSZTOF KRAUZE. After studying camera at Lodz Film School (1978), he went on to direct for Semafor Studio Irzykowski Film Studios and the TOR creative group. His short and medium-length work has often been awarded at festivals, and Krauze was made a member of the European Film Academy in 2001. His debut, *New York — 4 A.M., 1988*, took a Bronze Lion at the Polish FF in Gdynia. Other films include *Street Games (1996)* and *The Debt, 1999* (shown in

Pittsburgh at Through Polish Eyes Film Festival in 2001) which earned him Best Director at the Philadelphia IFF. My Nikifor took four years to realize.

Shorts in the Film program:

Documentary short: "For a Miracle," dir. Jaroslaw Sztandera, Poland, 2004, (17 min).

Friday, July 14, 9:15 (opening night); Sunday, July 16, 3:00



Hoping for a miracle, 500 disabled persons make a several-days pilgrimage from St. Mary's Church in Katowice to Lourdes, France in an over-crowded train. This chronicle of their odyssey documents modern-day accoutrements such as sermons en route and blessings by intercom. Recipient of several international awards including Grand Prix Jury Special Prize Chicago International Documentary Festival USA

Documentary short: "Dreamland," dir. Laila Pakalnina, Latvia, 2004, (35 min).

Saturday, July 15, 7:15



There are places we don't want to know anything about; places that we would rather pretend don't exist at all. One such place is a dumpsite. From the humans' point of view, it is a ghastly place, a stinking desert of trash. But it's a desert that is teeming with life. The astounding profusion of insects, reptiles, birds and mammals, all intertwined in an existential life-death relationship, imparts to it a strangely alluring dream-like quality. This non-verbal, observational documentary bears some similarity to Microcosmos.

Animated short: "Fallen Art," dir. Tomasz Baginski, Poland, 2004, (5 min).

Friday, July 14, 7:00 (opening night); Sunday, July 16, 5:15



In an old forgotten military base far from civilization, a group of deranged military officers nurture their insanity. A “very black comedy” is how Tomek Baginski, an author of Oscar-nominated “The Cathedral,” characterizes his work. “Fallen Art” tells a very unusual story full of unexpected plot twists and turns but succeeds on its own terms as a superb and fully realized work of filmmaking. The film has won several awards including Best Animated Short Award at Arizona Film Festival (USA), Beverly Hills Film Festival (USA) and Best Animation film 2005 at Festival de courts métrages des Îles de la Madeleine (France)

Documentary short: “Philosophy according to Hippolit ” dir. Pawel Jurga, Poland, 2004, (24min). **Saturday, July 15, 5:00**



The 86-year-old farmer Hippolit lives alone in the most primitive conditions in the Polish countryside. For six years he has been trying to bring to his house his Polish family from Ukraine who would like to live in Poland. For them he remodels his house and fights for the recovery of his land, which was illegally seized.

Documentary short: “Microcosmos. Movie for Piano”, dir. Sandor Sillo, Hungary, 2003 (23 min). **Sunday, July 16, 7:15**

The individual parts of this montage film are taken mainly from newsreels showing the tragic experiences of 20th-century Hungarian history on film. In this experimental documentary based on the Bartok's instructive piece /Microcosmos/, the director invents stories for the faces by extracting what is the typical from the imprint of history.

The Film Festival "Exposed" is presented by Festival Director Jolanta Lion with the generous collaboration of Krzysztof Kamyszew (Society for Arts/Chicago), Daniela Urem (Doors Art Foundation) Wanda Bershen (Red Diaper Production). Sponsored by the SouthSide Works "Exposed". Contact: jolalion@yahoo.com, 412-445-6292.

