

Dance in the Rain

Among the modern nation-states that made up the former Yugoslavia, the Republic of Slovenia represents an exceptional national culture and contributor to world cinema. As a result of its unique geography, situated adjacent Italy and Austria, the small nation (population 2 million) has historically been the Yugoslav entity most receptive of Western influence and thus, among the most cosmopolitan of its counterparts. Indeed, Slovenia, always the rebel, was the first to question free market effects on its society, even as it was the first Yugoslav breakaway republic to integrate them after its independence in 1991. In its cinema, Slovenia also "begged to differ," offering lyrical, achingly poetic and free-spirited stories of misfits, rather than the broad, polemical tableaux that characterized so much Eastern bloc cinema. Rarely have such introverted characters and eccentric stories conveyed a zeitgeist and a national character with such subtlety and restraint, nor observed geopolitics with such oblique precision. This series offers a selection of some of the most influential, revealing and formally fascinating Slovenian films from mid-century forward, including selections from the country's recent output, representing some of the cutting-edge talents of Slovenia's contemporary cinema.

Curated by Vera Mijojlic and Shannon Kelley.

Special thanks to: Nerina T. Kocjancic, Slovenian Film Center.

Co-presented in association with
the South East European Film Festival
and Slovenian Film Center

Slovenia Begs to Differ

All films from Slovenia, in Slovenian with English subtitles except where noted.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 7:30 PM
VALLEY OF PEACE (Dolina Miru) 1956
DIR: France Štiglic. SCR: Ivan Ribič. CAST: Tugomir Štiglic, Evelyne Wohlfeiler, John Kitzmiller.
Two children lose their families in an air raid and take to wandering the countryside, dodging Yugoslav partisans and invading Fascist forces, seeking a storied "Valley of Peace." Taken under the wing of a stranded U.S. paratrooper, their faith in their deliverance is alternately vindicated and sorely tested in this strangely lyrical film that reflects Slovenia's dogged pursuit of its own destiny in the tumultuous 20th century.
35mm, b/w, in Slovenian, German and English w/ English s/t, 88 min.

KEKEC 1951
DIR: Jože Gale. SCR: J. Gale, Franc Milčinski. CAST: Matija Barl, F. Milčinski, France Presetnik.
This Alpine tale introduced the resourceful lad "Kekec," already a popular folk character, to the screen. Clever Kekec brings peace to his mountain village, outwitting the evil poacher Bedanec, who terrorizes the locals. A Slovenian David-and-Goliath story, the delightful film and plucky Kekec himself were lovingly adopted by Slovenians well-acquainted with foreign influence, and doggedly devoted to cultural preservation and self-direction.
35mm, b/w, 91 min.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 7:30 PM

VESNA 1953

DIR: František Čap. SCR: Matej Bor. CAST: Metka Gabrijelečič, Franek Trefalt, Olga Bedjanič.

Three strapping college students, loath to study, hatch a plot to romance the daughter of their math professor to secure the answers to a coming exam—but love soon complicates the perfect plot. Produced in the newly socialist Yugoslavia, this whimsical film bursts with optimism in youth. A perennial favorite, the film is the namesake of Slovenia's highest film honor, the Vesna. 35mm, b/w, 96 min.

100% SLOVENIAN (Američanke) 2005

DIR: Hanna Slak.

An amusing but thoughtful documentary portrait of several contemporary American women of Slovenian descent. Regardless that their ties to the mother country are generations old, their feeling that they are "100% Slovenian" demonstrates the intensity with which national identity infuses the Slovenian character.

Digital video, color; 50 min.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 7:30 PM

DANCE IN THE RAIN (Ples V Dežju)

1961

DIR/SCR: Boštjan Hladnik. CAST: Miha Baloh, Duša Počkaj, Ali Raner.

This elegant and enigmatic love story centers on a brooding young painter and an older actress. Uncertain of their choices in life, each acutely aware of time slipping away, they verbally savage one another, between admitting (often only internally) their love for each other. A study of archetypes as much as characters, the penetrating drama masterfully weighs whether life's plateaus are cause for disillusion or hope.

35mm, b/w, 104 min.

A SAND CASTLE (Pešeni Grad) 1962

DIR/SCR: Boštjan Hladnik. CAST: Ali Raner, Milena Dravič, Ljubiša Samardžić.

Boštjan Hladnik's genre-bending road picture gathers a group of new friends (two men and a mysterious young woman) in a madcap automobile excursion to the ocean. The pleasures they find there prove as transitory as the sand castles that they build. A tour-de-force of absurdist, physical comedy, the film subtly interrogates the supposed panacea of materialism, leisure, and the flight from one's own history. 35mm, b/w, 96 min.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 7:00 PM

STRONGHOLD OF TOUGHS (Grajski Biki) 1967

DIR: Jože Pogačnik. SCR: Primož Kozak. CAST: Kole Angelovski, Hana Brejchová, Janez Rohaček.

"It's wonderful to be young in our homeland," sings a youth choir over the loud speakers in a juvenile hall for orphaned boys, where young Peter dreams of reuniting with his father. Peter's subsequent run-ins with a charismatic gang leader portray a clueless society with inept bureaucrats turning a blind eye to its underclass.

35mm, b/w, 88 min.

PAPER PLANES (Na Papirnatih Avionih)

1967

DIR: Matjaž Klopčič. SCR: CAST: Snežana Nikšič, Polde Bibič, Stanislava Pešič.

A photographer tired of the jaded milieu of an early advertising age under socialism romances a young ballerina. The Triple Bridge, fountains and rooftops of the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana, and the ski resorts of the Slovenian Alps are the dreamy 1960s backdrops for this great love story. Disarmingly believable as the inexperienced naïf, Snežana Nikšič, as the ballerina, steals the show.

35mm, b/w, 81 min.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 7:00 PM

RAFT OF THE MEDUSA (Splav Meduze)

1980

DIR: Karpo Aćimović-Godina. SCR: CAST: Olga Kacjan, Vladislava Milosavljević, Boris Komnenič.

Two schoolteachers with big dreams take off from their muddy backwater village and travel with fellow drifters and performance artists through Yugoslavia of 1920s, with a 'lightness of being' and pure joy that was not to be repeated. This watershed film of the Slovenian and Yugoslav cinema burst onto the scene in 1980 and re-introduced modernism, asserting a wonderful, nihilistic rebellion against all canons.

35mm, color, in Slovenian and Serbo-Croatian w/ English s/t, 101 min.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 7:30 PM

GRAVEHOPPING (Odgrobadogroba)

2005

DIR/SCR: Jan Cvitkovič. CAST: Gregor Bakovič, Drago Milinovič, Sonja Savič.

In this deft, ironic comedy by Jan Cvitkovič, every tragedy has its grimly humorous side. Grave hopping funeral orator Pero is busy eulogizing for laughs and ineptly wooing a local girl while his father stages comical suicide attempts and his free-spirited sister defies the small town ennui. The graveside humor and comic relief shows the characters' resilience all the way to the last, formidable scene.

35mm, color; 103 min.

9:06 2009

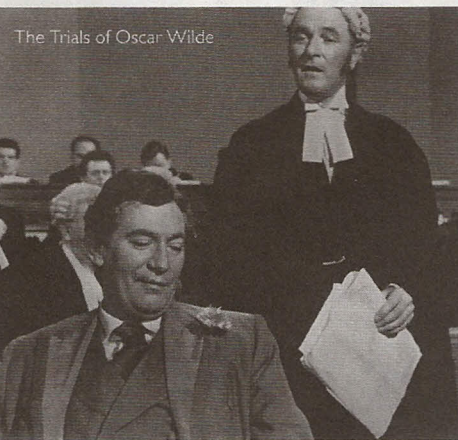
DIR: Igor Šterk. SCR: I. Šterk, Siniša Dragin. CAST: Igor Samobor, Labina Mitevska, Silva Cusin.

A film noir par excellence and a first-rate psychological drama, Igor Šterk's *9:06* takes us to Ljubljana, where police inspector Dusan (Igor Samobor in a terrific performance) investigates an unusual suicide. The investigation soon turns into obsession as he moves into the apartment of the deceased, assuming the identity of the dead man and reliving the victim's, as well as his own, shattered life.

35mm, color; 71 min.

UCLA Film & Television Archive
and The Andrew J. Kuehn Jr.
Foundation present

THE LEGACY PROJECT SCREENING SERIES



The Legacy Project is a collaborative effort bringing together the UCLA Film & Television Archive and Outfest to collect and restore queer film and video. We screen prints from this valuable and unique collection on a bimonthly basis.

Tonight's screening represents the first in a year-long series of Legacy events supported by a special grant from The Andrew J. Kuehn Jr. Foundation. The Archive is pleased and grateful for this extraordinary support.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 7 7:00 PM

THE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE 1960

DIR/SCR: Ken Hughes. CAST: Peter Finch, James Mason, John Fraser.

Ken Hughes' widescreen account of playwright Oscar Wilde's fall from public grace is a gripping depiction of one of the most fantastic scandals of the modern era. Peter Finch invests his portrayal of Wilde, convicted in a show trial of conducting an affair with a younger man, with rare sympathy and dimension. Filmed in Technirama, the film abounds with period detail.

35mm, Technicolor; 123 min.

