

THE 21ST ESPOO CINÉ INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ON AUGUST 20-29, 2010

FATIH AKIN'S SOUL KITCHEN TO OPEN ESPOO CINÉ INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The 21st edition of Espoo Ciné International Film Festival takes place on August 20-29, 2010 in Espoo, Finland. The festival opens with Fatih Akin's latest film *Soul Kitchen*, a music-driven comedy about a Greek restaurateur. The events of the film take place in the director's hometown, Hamburg. The festival's closing film is Thomas Vinterberg's *Submarino*, a hard-hitting and controversial masterpiece straight from the competition programme of the Berlinale telling the story of two brothers who have drifted apart.

The hard core of the festival programme is formed by new European drama. French films feature strongly in this year's selection, which includes *The Refuge*, the latest film by François Ozon starring Isabelle Carré in her last weeks of pregnancy, *Going South*, a film full of summer and youthful glow by Sébastien Lifshitz, and *Hadewijch*, Bruno Dumont's psychological portrayal of fanatic faith. One of the most discussed French films of 2010 so far has been Emmanuelle Bercot's *Student Services*, based on the autobiographical novel of "Laura D." from a few years ago whose protagonist is a young student who finances her studies by means of prostitution. A special Italian flavour is added to the programme by the festival's long-time favourite filmmaker Ferzan Özpetek's latest film *Loose Cannons*.

Films confirmed to the line-up straight from Cannes include Olivier Assayas' epic *Carlos*, based on the story of the most famous terrorist of the past century, the legendary Jackal, and Woody Allen's latest, entitled *You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger*.

The Méliès d'Argent competition programme for European fantasy films features *Amer*, the debut feature by the established short film directors Hélène Catet and Bruno Forzani that recently won the debutante Grand PIX at CPH PIX in Copenhagen, and *Vampires*, a blood-soaked vampire comedy directed by Vincent Lannoo, which won the Audience Award at the Brussels Fantastic Film Festival.

Espoo Ciné was extended from six to ten days in 2009. The 2010 edition starts in the newly renovated Kino Tapiola, and expands after the initial weekend to the Espoo Cultural Centre and the Bio Rex Sello in Leppävaara. The complete festival programme features approximately 100 films and will be published in July on week 29 on the festival's website.

This year the festival also launches collaboration with the Espoo Museum of Modern Art (EMMA): an exhibition entitled *Expo Ciné*, arranged jointly by the festival and the museum within the museum's premises, will investigate the latest developments of digital cinema. To celebrate U2's shows in Helsinki in August, the festival's traditional outdoor screening will this year feature Phil Joanou's concern film *U2: Rattle and Hum*.

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