

# FILMS *Boutique*

## FALL 2023

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VENICE - COMPETITION / TIFF / NEW YORK / BUSAN

# GREEN BORDER

A Film by Agnieszka Holland



80  
MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE  
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA  
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2023  
Official Selection

OFFICIAL SELECTION

tiff

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL 2023

New York  
Film Festival 61  
2023 Official Selection

2023 - Poland/France/Czech Republic/Belgium - Drama - 147 min

with Jalal Altawil, Maja Ostaszewska, Behi Djanati Atai,

Mohamad Al Rashi, Tomasz Włosok

In collaboration with Kamila Tarabura, Katarzyna Warzecha

In the treacherous and swampy forests that make up the so called “green border” between Belarus and Poland, refugees from the Middle East and Africa trying to reach the European Union are trapped in a geopolitical crisis cynically engineered by Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko. In an attempt to provoke Europe, refugees are lured to the border by propaganda promising easy passage to the EU. Pawns in this hidden war, the lives of Julia, a newly minted activist who has given up her comfortable life, Jan, a young border guard, and a Syrian family intertwine.

TELLURIDE / TIFF - CENTREPIECE / BUSAN

# THE MONK AND THE GUN

A Film by Pawo Choyning Dorji



OFFICIAL SELECTION

tiff

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL 2023



2023 - Bhutan/France/USA/Taiwan - Comedy/Drama - 107 min

with Tandin Wangchuk, Deki Lhamo, Pema Zangmo Sherpa, Tandin Sonam, Harry Einhorn

Kingdom of Bhutan, 2006. Modernization has finally arrived. Bhutan becomes the last country in the world to connect to the internet and television, and now the biggest change of all: democracy. To teach the people how to vote, the authorities organize a mock election, but the locals seem unconvinced. Travelling to rural Bhutan where religion is more popular than politics, the election supervisor discovers that a monk is planning a mysterious ceremony for the election day.

VENICE - HORIZONS / BUSAN

# EXPLANATION FOR EVERYTHING

A Film by Gábor Reisz



  
MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE  
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA  
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2023  
Official Selection



28th BUSAN  
International Film Festival  
4 – 13 October 2023

2023 - Hungary/Slovakia - Drama - 152 min

with Gáspár Adonyi-Walsh, István Znamenák, András Rusznák,  
Rebeka Hatházi, Lilla Kizlinger

It's summer in Budapest, high school student Abel is struggling to focus on his final exams, whilst coming to the realisation that he is hopelessly in love with his best friend Janka. The studious Janka has her own unrequited love with married history teacher Jakab - who had a previous confrontation with Abel's conservative father. The tensions of a polarised society come unexpectedly to the surface when Abel's history graduation exam turns into a national scandal.



TIFF - PLATFORM / SAN SEBASTIAN - COMPETITION / BUSAN

# THE RYE HORN

A Film by Jaione Camborda



2023 - Spain/Belgium/Portugal - Drama - 105 min  
with Janet Novás, Siobhan Fernandes, Carla Rivas,  
Daniela Hernán Marchán, Diego Anido

1971, Francoist Spain. In the Galician countryside María assists women in childbirth. After an attempt to help a young woman in trouble, she suddenly has to hide from the authorities, leave everything behind and flee the country. On her perilous journey to Portugal, María encounters female solidarity and realizes that she is not alone and that, thanks to the help of others, she might finally find her freedom.

LOCARNO / BUSAN

# ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE LAKE

A Film by Lav Diaz



2023 - Philippines/France/Portugal/Singapore/Italy/Switzerland/UK - Drama - 215 min  
with John Lloyd Cruz, Hazel Orencio, Shaina Magdayao, Bart Guingona

When asked what drives a man to search for the truth, Lieutenant Papauran says dejectedly that maybe he just wants to keep inflicting pain on himself. Faced with President Duterte's bloody murders and brazen lies, he continues his struggle to solve a fifteen-year-old case around an ash-laden landscape and an impenetrable lake. It has become a cross he can barely carry but keeps dragging it anyway.



LOCARNO / SITGES - COMPETITION

# BITTEN

A Film by Romain de Saint-Blanquat



 Locarno Official Selection  
Concorso Cineasti del presente



2023 - France - Thriller/Giallo - 90 min

with Léonie Dahan-Lamort, Lilith Grasmug, Cyril Metzger, Maxime Rohart, Fred Blin

1967, Mardi Gras. Françoise is a seventeen-year-old boarder in an all-girls Catholic high school. Convinced that she has only one night left before her death, she sneaks out with her friend Delphine to attend a costume party and live the night as if it was her last.

BFI LONDON

# TERRESTRIAL VERSES

A Film by Ali Asgari & Alireza Khatami



2023 - Iran - Drama - 77 min

with Majid Salehi, Gouhar Kheir Andish, Sadaf Asgari

Terrestrial Verses follows everyday people from all walks of life as they navigate the cultural, religious, and institutional constraints imposed on them by various social authorities, from school teachers to bureaucrats. These stirring vignettes, humorous and affecting, capture the spirit and determination of people amidst adversity, offering a nuanced portrait of a complex society.



AFI FEST

# THE BURITI FLOWER

A Film by João Salaviza & Renée Nader Messori



2023 - Brazil/Portugal - Drama - 124 min

with Francisco Hyjnõ, Luzia Cruwakwyj, Debora Sodré

Through her child's eyes, Patpro will go through three periods of the history of her indigenous people, in the heart of the Brazilian forest.

Tirelessly persecuted, but guided by their ancestral rites, their love of nature and their fight to preserve their freedom, the Krahô never stop inventing new forms of resistance.

SITGES - COMPETITION / FANTASTIC FEST

# TIGER STRIPES

A Film by Amanda Nell Eu



2023 - Malaysia/Taiwan/France/Germany/The Netherlands/Indonesia/Singapore/Qatar

Fantasy - 95 min

with Zafreen Zairizal, Deena Ezral, Piqa

The first amongst her friends to hit puberty, Zaffan, 12, discovers a terrifying secret about her body. Ostracized by her community, Zaffan fights back, learning that to be free she must embrace the body she feared, emerging as a proud, strong woman.



NEW YORK / BUSAN

# THE SHADOWLESS TOWER

A Film by Zhang Lu



2023 - China - Drama - 144 min

with Xin Baiqing, Huang Yao, Tian Zhuangzhuang

Gu Wentong, a middle-aged food critic, is drifting through the local eateries of vibrant Beijing with his younger photographer colleague Oyang. A divorcé with a 6-year-old daughter and estranged from his father for decades, he is looking for a new perspective on life while reconsidering his failings as a father, a son, and a lover.

While the seasons come and go, people get together and move apart. Only one thing will remain the same: The White Pagoda where they all meet sooner or later...