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GEORGIAN FILM FESTIVAL

'Georgian film is a strange phenomenon, special, philosophically light, sophisticated' Federico Fellini

From 29 November, until December 12, the ICA and the British Georgian Society (BGS) will host a short season of the best new feature films and documentaries to come out of Georgia. During the 1990s, a decade of political and social turmoil, the former Soviet state of Georgia has somehow managed to retain its vital and renowned cinematic culture. Having produced such masters as Sergei Paradjanov and Otar Iosseliani, the country continues to develop very talented filmmakers who, judging by the quality of their work, are set to play an important part on cinema's world stage.

Cinema 1. Special preview. Tuesday, November 29, 6.15 pm.

Further dates 4, 7 Dec (see diary for times)

TBILISI, TBILISI

Zaakareishvili's second feature about his native Tbilisi trails his feature debut *They* by 13 years. After the 1993 war in Abkhazia, Zaakareishvili shot and re-shot ***Tbilisi, Tbilisi*** covering the ensuing economic crisis and political chaos - and subsequent scars left upon his city. The film gains a vital and angry realism that is immediate and compelling.

Dir: Levan Zaakareishvili Georgia 2005, 94 mins, subs

The programme also features the short ***No, Friend***, winner of Best Film at the Oberhausen Short Film Festival, Portugal 1998. Starring Levan Abashidze, a famous and greatly admired actor who died fighting in Abkhazia before the completion of the film, the film focuses on the loss of a generation during the war.

Dir: Gio Mgeladze, Georgia 1995, 20 mins. (Shown on Dec 4 and 7 only).

Cinema 1: 1 Dec, 6pm

SPECIAL EVENT: THE OTHER SIDE: ABKHAZIA: ONE SIDE OF A CONFLICT & TEN YEARS ON AND STILL WAITING

The ICA presents a panel discussion and screening of **Abkhazia: One Side of a Conflict** - a Georgian journalist's extraordinary view on life a decade after the war between Georgia and Abkhazia - and **Ten Years On and Still Waiting**, an Abkhaz view on Georgia. Moderated by award-winning journalist John Lloyd, both filmmakers will join the panel discussion after the screenings, offering unique insights into the aspirations of the 'other side'. Organised by Conciliation Resources.

Abkhazia: One Side of a Conflict, Dir: Mamuka Kuparadze, 52 mins, subs. **Ten Years On and Still Waiting**, Dir: Svetlana Korsiaia, 48 mins, subs. Total running time 100 mins followed by discussion

Cinema 2; 3, 5, 8 Dec (see diary for times).

A TRIP TO KARABAKH

Winner of the 'Golden Vine', at CIS and Baltic States Festival, **A Trip to Karabakh** is based on the popular contemporary novel of the same name, by Aka Morchiladze. Following the journey of two young men from Tbilisi in search of hashish who accidentally end up in war torn Karabakh. A poignant and entertaining film about the futility of war.

Dir: Levan Tutberidze, Georgia 2005, 105 mins, subs

Cinema 2: 4, 6, 9 Dec (see diary for times)

GIFT FROM HEAVEN (MATANA MISHAMAYIM)

From the director of *Late Marriage* comes a dark, highly entertaining comic thriller set within the Georgian community in Tel Aviv. It's a film about men, women and diamonds, painting a rough, unapologetic picture of the relationship between the sexes. It's raw, rude and marked by real filmmaking energy, leading *Cahiers du Cinema* to compare it to the work of Scorsese.

Dir: Dover Kosashvili, Israel/France 2003, 110 mins, subs

Cinema 2: 6, 10-11 Dec, 6.30pm

LOST KILLERS

Tsintsadze's tragi-comedy *Lost Killers* is peopled with a heady cosmopolitan mix of gangsters and other unsulubrious inhabitants of the underworld. Branko is from Croatia and his sidekick Merab is

from Georgia, aka the 'lost killers', or contract killers, who show themselves to be utterly incapable of killing anything.

Dir: Dito Tsintsadze, Germany 2000, 100 mins, subs

The programme will also feature *Timekode* starring Ewen Bremner, Malcolm Shields and Hannah Cowlin. Dir: Sandro Jandieri, Digibeta, 11 mins, UK 2003

Cinema 2: 2, 5, 10 Dec (see diary for times)

PUTIN'S MOTHER & ONION TEARS

Seventy-seven year old Vera Putina seemed like any other Babushka, until 1999, when she recognised in Vladimir Putin the son she thought she had lost for ever. This riveting documentary leaves the viewer on tenterhooks and draws no conclusions - whether she is the mother of Putin or not becomes less and less important as this extraordinary story unfolds.

Dir: Ineke Smit, Netherlands/Georgia, 51 mins, subs

The programme also includes *Onion Tears*, in which renowned Georgian composer/musician Rezo Kiknadze is forced, for economic reasons, to move from his homeland Georgia to Germany. This powerful documentary is a wonderful reflection on the challenges of emigration and of living away from your homeland and family.

Dir: Levan Glonti, Georgia 2003, 54 mins, subs. Programme also includes the short *Lullaby*, Dir: Maia Burduli, 1999, Georgia, 3 mins, subs

Cinema 2: 4, 7, 11 Dec (See diary for times)

TRIPLE BILL: WITH RULES (IM HUKIM), MEIDANI & THE DEBT (VALI)

WITH RULES (IM HULIM)

From acclaimed director Kosashvili (*Late Marriage*,) the ICA and BSG are proud to present his inaugural and award-winning film *With Rules*. Winner of the Cannes Cinefondation Prize 1999, *With Rules* is the story of Zaza, a 12-year-old boy from a poor Georgian family living in Israel who steals petty cash from his parents to acquire a unique picture for his album collection, 'Amazing World.'

Dir: Dover Kosashvili, Israel/Georgia 1998, 36 mins, subs
MEIDANI

A fascinating documentary following the inhabitants of Tbilisi's old town, Meidani, a veritable melting pot which has a mosque, a synagogue, an orthodox and a Catholic church in the same vicinity.

Dir: Dato Janelidze, Georgia/Netherlands, 2004, 52 mins, subs

DEBT (VALI)

An award-winning short film about illegal Georgian immigrants in Brooklyn.

Dir: Levan Koguashvili, Georgia/USA 2005, 15 mins, subs

Cinema 1: 12 Dec, 8.45pm

Special Closing Night Preview:

13 (TZAMETI)

A powerful French thriller from 26-year-old first-time Georgian director Gela Babluani (son of director Temur Babluani). A young builder steals the identity of a deceased man and finds himself locked in a deadly world ruled by chance and destiny. Drawn to a remote country house, he becomes a reluctant participant in a game where men gamble on the lives of others. An immersive, impressionistic experience, Babluani's film has little need for dialogue, allowing the inexorable pull of the carefully constructed narrative and Tariel Meliavi's haunting black-and-white photography to guide you into the heart of its mystery. Screening courtesy of Revolver Entertainment.

Dir: Gela Babluani, France 2005, 90 mins, subs

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