



Press kit 2007

34th Ghent International Film Festival

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P R E F A C E

3 4 t h F l a n d e r s I n t e r n a t i o n a l F i l m F e s t i v a l G h e n t

A cordial welcome to the 34th edition of the Flanders International Film Festival Ghent.

We were very proud when the prominent journal Variety put us among the fifty “must attend” film festivals in the world some weeks ago! That distinction is an encouragement to continue on the chosen route. We'll do it this year with our focus on the South American and more specifically Argentinean film and music.

In an increasingly competing environment it is not easy to programme a film festival. Different interests have to be reconciled. A distributor likes to use a festival to launch his film; that's why the dates of the festival and these of the release of the film may not diverge too much. Festivals are bidding up among themselves, so directors and stars can't easily be trapped. And because more and more films are only screened at festivals, the financial demands of sellers and sales agents are raising increasingly.

This year the festival is opening with the European première of "Closing the Ring" by Lord Richard Attenborough, who was here a few years ago as UNICEF ambassador and left as a friend of the festival. If I examine the programming of recent years, I can't but conclude that we really have an eye for the world around us. It is not a coincidence that we once opened with "Omagh" and that we start with "Sand and Sorrow" in Arts Centre Vooruit this year, thus going from Irish terrorism to the disgraceful situation in Darfur. Film makers don't sketch a fine picture of what we do with our biblical talents or otherwise. But being blind for it would be worse. Luckily it isn't always as extreme as in the films mentioned. In "Sicko", Michael Moore actually scoffs at it.

In our closing film, "It's a Free World", Ken Loach puts his finger on the sore spot in his own peerless way when he deals with the exploitation of foreign workers. And at the moment this film is being screened, the festival jury will already have passed judgment on the twelve films that have competed in this edition for a prize money of well over 115,000 euros!

Some years ago, Argentina found itself unexpectedly in one of the heaviest financial crises of its history; many were very pessimistic about the future of the Argentinean film. There was barely money to make films. Nevertheless, the film makers didn't give up and now they are again prominently in the footlight. In their films they testify to a new dynamism in their country.

When it comes to music and film, the Film Festival Ghent and Argentina were doomed to meet each other one day. Let me give you a sound advice. Enjoy the tango, because, according to some, it is 'three minutes of love', but don't forget to discover some other music documentaries and music genres such as the chamamé. Don't miss the performance of Gustavo Santaolalla who comes to Ghent this time not as a soloist, but with his Bajofondo Tango Club. A real feast! Choosing for Argentina (and a little bit for South America) meant for the festival staff opting for new things. We follow the same course in other fields, not only in 'A Look Apart' by Cis Bierinckx, which has gradually become a tradition, but also in the activities of our Industry Office.

It has been repeatedly underlined that film is a medium that hasn't changed for more than a hundred years. It was made on celluloid and only in the reproduction of sound a tremendous improvement was made with Dolby Stereo and its derivatives. The rising digitalisation and the substitution of celluloid by bits and bytes, has started a revolution of which we are experiencing the first effects at the moment, but whose consequences are incalculable. 'Cinema in Transition' summarises the issue perfectly; to investigate the many aspects of it, we joined hands with Vooruit, Mediadesk, IAK, Argos and the Huis van Alijn.

I hope you will explore our varied programme with pleasure. Don't forget the extensive 'Almost Cinema' offer in the Arts Centre Vooruit and enjoy three-day music with a.o. Alberto Iglesias, Harry Gregson-Williams, Mychael Danna and the Flemish jazz musician Jef Neve.

May I also draw your attention to our initiative to give the underprivileged the opportunity to attend a film screening for a symbolic price of 1 euro? That's how we answer Minister Bert Anciaux's appeal to make culture more accessible to everyone.

I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of this 34th edition and I wish all of you a successful and enriching festival.

Jacques Dubrulle
Managing Director

OFFICIAL SELECTION SPECIALS

34th Flanders International Film Festival Ghent

Pre-opening: Sicko

8/10/2007

After tackling topics like US gun violence in "Bowling for Columbine" (2002) and President George W. Bush in "Fahrenheit 9/11" (2004), Michael Moore investigates the flaws in the American health care system this time. Fifty million people are locked out, because they cannot afford to pay private insurance. Based on testimony from both experts and 'the guy in the street', the film probes the medical issues of a complex system. It points out that even patients who are members of HMOs, and thus insured to some degree, may not receive adequate care, because the top priority of these medical insurance companies is their own profit. They'll do anything to avoid spending a lot of money.

Press screening Sicko: Monday 8 October, 9.30 am @ Kinepolis 2

Triple movie kick off

The 34th edition of the Flanders International Film Festival-Ghent kicks off on Tuesday October 9 featuring not one but 3 movies. ***Closing the Ring***, a very strong European première opens the section Festival Previews in the presence of Lord Richard Attenborough. The same evening the competition is launched with ***Die Fälscher*** by Stefan Ruzowsky and in Vooruit the section Almost Cinema is opened with the movie ***Sand & Sorrow***, a documentary about the Darfur genocide.

In ***Closing the Ring*** Lord Richard Attenborough tells us a story in two different time zones. It starts during WWII when 3 pilots fall in love with the same woman, Ethel. A few dozen years later, the truth comes to light when in Northern Ireland a boy digs up a ring in which are engraved the names of Ethel and one of the pilots. He wants to know more...

The movie stars Shirley Maclaine, Christopher Plummer, Neve Campbell and Mischa Barton. Lord Attenborough can look back on a vast career. He acted in about 70 movies (a.o. *Jurassic Parc*). The first movie he directed was the war musical *Oh! What a lovely war*. In total he directed 10 movies but peaked in 1982 when he delivered his masterpiece *Ghandi*, winning 8 Academy Awards. Lord Richard Attenborough was our esteemed guest in 2004 when he visited us as a Unicef ambassador and featured in "An Evening with..." at Art Centre Vooruit.

Our festival warmly welcomes his Lordship once again along with the cast of *Closing the Ring*, which will come to our theatres in spring next year. It will be distributed by A-Film.

The competition opens with ***Die Fälscher***, the Austrian candidate for the Academy Awards. The movie tells us the story of a huge and well organised counterfeiting in Nazi Germany. Salomon "Sally" Sorowitz, Berlin's champion of forgery, is arrested by Nazi inspector Friedrich Herzog. His lovely life changes abruptly when he is sent to the Mathausen concentration camp. He is ordered to produce masses of false dollars and British Pounds to destroy the allies' economies. In return for their favours the counterfeiters can live in comfortable barracks. Adolf Burger is one of them. But he is reluctant to use his talents for the benefit of the Nazis and tries to sabotage the operations whenever he can. *Die Fälscher* is based on Adolf Burger's book *Des Teufels Werkstatt*. Ruzowitsky wanted to make as truthful a report as possible and so he worked closely with Burger himself, who celebrated his 90th birthday this year. Ruzowitsky made his debut in 1996 with the movie *Tempo* and then directed a.o. the horror movie *Anatomy* and the comical war movie *All the Queen's Men*. In 1998 he won the Grand Prix for Best Movie at the Flanders International Film Festival-Ghent with *Die Siebtelbauern*, a story about a farmer's family. *Die Fälscher* is distributed by ABC.

The third opening movie is ***Sand & Sorrow***. It will open the section Almost Cinema, a co-production with the Art Centre, Vooruit. *Sand & Sorrow* is about the Darfur Conflict, and is staged in the refugee camps by the Sudanese border and the mass graves of Darfur itself and even switches to the US Senate.

Director Paul Freeman creates a shocking image of the sorrow of a people that stands to be destroyed due to political obstinacy and the shameful indifference of a world only watching. Actor George Clooney who insisted on getting this "forgotten conflict" on the agenda lends his voice to *Sand & Sorrow* and co produces. *Sand & Sorrow* is distributed by Paradiso.

<p>Press screening <i>Closing The Ring</i>: Monday 8 October, 2pm, Kinopolis 8 Press screening <i>Die Fälscher</i>: Tuesday 9 October, 11.45am, Kinopolis 9</p>

The closing film: It's a Free World...

19/10/2007

It's a Free World (Ken Loach) - UK 2007

"It's a Free World" is based upon the plight of Eastern European migrants who provide a cheap labour pool for wealthier European Union nations. The story centres around the brash and blonde Angie, who is laid off from a recruiting company that brings workers from Poland to the United Kingdom. Angie persuades her flat-mate and long-time friend Rose to take a huge leap into the void and start their own recruiting agency. They buy a computer, create a website and, with Rose working out of their "office," Angie sets out every day on the company's new motorbike to build a clientele. Before long, they have a comfortable little business going. Foreign workers are easy to find, and Angie's charm, guile and guts get them hired by contractors looking to shave costs at every turn. They know they are treading a fine line of legality, but Angie and Rose have a pact: they will only deal with legal immigrants. But, as they say, stuff happens!

Perss screening It's a Free World: Friday 19 October at 10 pm, Kinopolis 2

SECTIONS & CIRCUITS

34th Flanders International Film Festival Ghent

The festival sections

Competition

The Flanders International Film Festival - Ghent has been organising a competition on the Impact of Music on Film as its recurring theme since 1985. Musicals, rockumentaries and other music films are excluded from the competition, which emphasises the creative role of music in the general concept and effect of a film. In feature films, music has a distinct dramatic impact: it is an integrated part of the narrative structure and has to bring depth or distraction. The jury has to choose these films whose music adds greatly to the end result. Four prizes will be distributed: Grand Prix for Best Film, Georges Delerue Award for Best Music, Robert Wise Award for Best Director and Sabam Authors Award for Best Screenplay. For the thirteenth consecutive year the Flanders Film Festival organises a competition for Belgian Shorts. This program is also a part of the Official Selection.

Festival Previews

Apart from the feature films in the competitive section "The Impact of Music on Film", the festival also presents a selection of films that are set to open in Belgium in the next few weeks and months. The most important criterion for the selection of these features is their quality. Belgian distributors have kept their best films for the festival and we are grateful for their support. This "Festival Previews" section could not be organised without their kind support. We do hope that these distributors who are absent today will be part of the selection in future editions.

World Cinema

World Cinema presents films from all corners of the world. From your cinema seat you'll come in contact with the most exotic films and filmmakers from countries and cultures you may hardly have heard about. For these all but everyday film discoveries - that for one reason or another do not reach the theatres - the festival is often the only remaining screening platform and the ideal place to bring them under the attention not only of the public, but also of film distributors, buyers for television, theatre owners and programmers. About ten of these films will be subtitled by students of the College of Higher Education Ghent - Department Translation Science in close collaboration with Broadcast Text Brussels. Another ten will be screened in simultaneous interpretation thanks to these students.

A Look Apart

A Look Apart is not an outsider of the festival, but a well-considered and inherently developed adventurous part of the programme. Each year, curator Cis Bierinckx keeps looking for cutting edge filmmakers and films about and of our times. This year attention is being paid to some onrushing Austrian filmmakers. Antonin Svoboda proves in "Immer nie am Meer" that it is possible to make an interesting character sketch using only three actors in a rather claustrophobic situation. In "Kurz davor ist es passiert", a new and tightly stylistic semi-documentary, Anja Salomonowitz focuses on the international trade in women and its devastating consequences. A Look Apart is a varied and committed programme without compromises, which causes confusion, sets people thinking and plunges them in a cinematic adventure. Walter Hill, Ruben Inaz Castro, Xiaolu Guo, Antonin Svoboda, Anja Salomonowitz, Brillante Mendoza, Denis Conte en Rithy Pahn and others invite you to join them.

COMPETITION

‘Impact of Music on Film’

3 4 t h F l a n d e r s I n t e r n a t i o n a l F i l m F e s t i v a l G h e n t

This year the Flanders International Film Festival - Ghent will hold its “Impact of Music on Film” competition for the 23rd time. This competition does not focus on films about music, but on films in which the music makes an essential contribution to the final result.

Seven jury members will award four prizes: Best Film, Best Music, Best Director and Best Scenario. The jury will also judge the Prix UIP short film competition. As the Festival is the first organisation to nominate a Prix UIP candidate, all the films nominated for the Prix UIP 2006-2007 will be shown at the Festival.

This year’s jury consists of Jury President Kathleen Turner (Actrice, United States), Bálint Kenyeres (Director, Hungary), Peter Van Den Begin (Actor, Belgium), Stephen Woolley (Producer, United Kingdom), Maria Köpf (Producer, Germany), Alex Heffes (Composer, UK) and Adam Nordén (Composer, Sweden). The awards will be presented on Wednesday 17 October.

The Awards

The Grand Prize of the Flemish Community for Best Film

The value of this prize is 20,000 euros. It is a distribution premium intended to promote the release of the winning film in Flanders and Brussels (in at least five cinemas).

The Georges Delerue Prize for the Best Music

This is a distribution premium of 10,000 euros to promote the release of the winning film in Flanders and Brussels (in at least five cinemas).

The SABAM Prize for the Best Scenario

The value of this prize is 10,000 euros. This is also a distribution premium intended to promote the release of the winning film in Flanders and Brussels (in at least five cinemas).

De Robert Wise Award for Best Director

The value of this prize is 5,000 euros. Again, this is a distribution premium to promote the release of the winning film in Flanders and Brussels (in at least five cinemas).

The Prix UIP short film competition

The Prix UIP will be awarded to the Best European Short film for the seventh time running. This prize was created in collaboration with distributor United International Pictures (UIP) and the European Film Academy, the organisation behind the European Film Awards. The director of the winning European film in Ghent will receive a prize of 2,000 euros. In addition, the winning film will be automatically nominated for the European Film Award for Best European Short 2007 (Prix UIP), which is worth 10,000 euros.

The jury

Kathleen Turner

Kathleen Turner burst onto the movie scene in a star-making blaze when she was cast opposite William Hurt in Lawrence Kasdan's neo-noir thriller "Body Heat" (1981). Her portrayal of the murderous Matty proved to be her breakthrough. She was again cast as a woman using sex for manipulation in "The Man With Two Brains" (1983) and in the erotic "Crimes of Passion" (1984). Not wanting to get typecast by this point, Turner next played a dowdy author who gets caught up in an exciting South American adventure with dashing Michael Douglas and sleazy Danny De Vito in "Romancing the Stone" (1984). The film was a smash hit and Turner found herself a star. The following year, the trio reunited for the sequel, "The Jewel of the Nile", and in 1989, for "The War of the Roses". Other high points of that period included Turner's performance as a ruthless hit woman in "Prizzi's Honor" (1985) and her Oscar-nominated role in Francis Ford Coppola's moving "Peggy Sue Got Married" (1986). In 1988, she re-teamed with William Hurt for a supporting role in Kasdan's "The Accidental Tourist". That same year, she gave a devastatingly sexy performance as the voice of Jessica Rabbit in "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" In the '90s she played the completely psychotic suburban housewife who goes on a killing spree in John Waters' "Serial Mom" (1994) and starred in "The Virgin Suicides" (1999) by Sophia Coppola. Nowadays Turner is mainly playing on Broadway.

Bálint Kenyeres

Bálint Kenyeres was born in Budapest. After studying philosophy, history and film theory, he graduated as a film director at the Budapest Film and Theatre Academy in 2006. Since then he has been a member of the European Film Academy. His short film "Zaras" (1999) was in the official selection of the Venice Festival and in more than thirty other international festivals, winning a dozen awards. "Before Dawn" won the European Film Award for Best Short Film in 2006.

Peter Van Den Begin

Belgian actor Peter Van den Begin is well-known from various roles in Flemish television series, among which "Moeder, waarom leven wij?", "Windkracht 10", "Matroesjka's" and "De Parelvisers". Van den Begin also starred in many films among which "Alles moet weg", "Dief!", "Le bal masqué", "Team Spirit I, II and III", "De duistere diamant", "Buitenspel" and "Een ander zijn geluk". The television audience chiefly knows him as Debbie in the Flemish television series "Debbie and Nancy".

Stephen Woolley

Stephen Woolley has spent a lifetime in movies. He had his own cinema, The Scala in London, which won acclaim for its original and alternative programming. In 1982, Woolley launched Palace Video with Nik Powell, releasing titles such as "Eraserhead" and "Mephisto". Palace distributed some 250 independent and European movies from "The Evil Dead", "Diva", and "Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence" to "When Harry Met Sally". Woolley's producing career flourished, with a range of critically acclaimed and successful films. "Breakfast on Pluto" has continued his long-term partnership with director Neil Jordan, which began with "The Company of Wolves" in 1983. Woolley was until recently Chairman on the BAFTA film committee. In 2005 he made his directorial debut with "Stoned".

Maria Köpf

Maria Köpf was born in Munich. She studied American Literature and Film and Theatre Sciences in Berlin and New York and was a programmer and leader of the Berlin arthouse cinema Sputnik together with Stefan Arndt. In 1995 she started working at X-Filme, as from 1999 as a producer (a.o. "Paul Is Dead" and "Liegen lernen" by Hendrik Handloegten, "Der Krieger und die Kaiserin" and "Heaven" by Tom Tykwer, "Wie Feuer und Flamme" by Connie Walther, "En Garde" by Ayse Polat and "Ein Freund von mir" by Sebastian Schipper). In 2000 she became co-manager of X-Filme Creative Pool. She left the production house in 2006 to occupy herself fully with Maria Köpf Filmproduktion.

In April 2007 she started as the Managing Director and Producer at the newly founded Zentropa Entertainments Berlin GmbH.

Alex Heffes

Alex Heffes is one of Britain's leading film music composers. He studied at the prestigious Oxford University and subsequently started writing music for various projects. His versatility is also obvious in his work as a film composer. He wrote merry tunes for "Late Night Shopping", intimate melodies for "Touching the Void" and stirring action music for the Dutch film "Vet Hard". Last year, Heffes' career reached a high point with the much-praised score for "The Last King of Scotland" by Kevin Macdonald, the British director with whom he often works together.

Adam Nordén

Young composer Adam Nordén is not new to the festival. In 2001, the 35-year-old Swede was nominated at the World Soundtrack Awards for the Discovery of the Year. That was an appropriate nomination, because in recent years, Nordén has grown into a much sought-after and versatile composer for various film and television productions. He wrote the music for a.o. "Zozo", the Swedish submission to the Oscars and for eight instalments of "Beck", a popular thriller series. In 2004, Nordén started his international career with the soundtrack for two films featuring action hero and countryman Dolph Lundgren.

Films in competition

THE BAND'S VISIT - Eran Kolirin - Israel 2007

A small Egyptian police orchestra comes to Israel in order to play a concert there. Due to circumstances, nobody comes to pick them up and they are left stranded at the border. The lack of communication between Haled, an arrogant but charming violin player, and the local girl at the information desk, sends them to a small, almost forgotten place in southern Israel. They get there on the night of the Shabbat, which leaves them with no public transportation, until the next day. Having to wait overnight, they interrupt the life of three locals - Iztzik, who is having a marital crisis with his wife; Papi, who is having his long awaited first date that night; and Dina, the owner of the local café, who is charismatic and strong, but also very lonely. That dreamlike and magical night becomes an allegory to the hope that had shone for a few years in the Middle East, and now has vanished but, hopefully, is not gone. A story of love, hope and dreams; a funny-sad tale that may have happened if things were just a little different.

EL BANO DEL PAPA - Enrique Fernández & Cesar Charlone - Hongarije 2006

1988. The announcement of the Pope's visit has the inhabitants of Melo particularly agitated. More than 50,000 people are expected to attend. The poor townspeople know what this means: 50,000 pilgrims in need of food and drink, paper flags, souvenirs, commemorative medals. Brimming with enthusiasm, the villagers not only hope for divine blessing, but above all for a small share of material happiness. Beto, a small time smuggler who scrapes a living from his trips by bicycle to the Brazilian border, decides to build a toilet in front of his house and rent it out to the visitors. But before he can build the WC, Beto rushes headlong into trouble. He has to increase his risky journeys across the border. And he has to bury his long-cherished dream of buying a moped. He even loses his most precious possession - his bicycle. But he is determined to make it back in time for the divine event. An alternately touching, humorous and poignant story of human dignity and solidarity.

BUDDHA COLLAPSED OUT OF SHAME - Hana Makhmalbaf - Iran 2007

Amidst the wreckage beneath the ruined statue of the Buddha, thousands of families struggle to survive. Baktay, a six-year-old Afghan girl is challenged to go to school by her neighbour's son who reads in front of their cave. Having found the money to buy a precious notebook, and taking her mother's lipstick for a pencil, Baktay sets out. On her way, she is harassed by boys playing games that mimic the terrible violence they have witnessed, that has always surrounded them. The boys want to stone the little girl, to blow her up as the Taliban blew up the Buddha, to shoot her like Americans. Will Baktay be able to escape these violent war games and reach the school?

EKKO - Anders Morgenthaler - Denemarken 2007

Simon is a police officer who recently lost custody of his six-year old son in a divorce. Desperate, he abducts his son and takes him to the country where they hide out in a vacated summerhouse. Simon wants to spend one last holiday alone with his son, but their week together becomes a nightmare, reviving bad memories. Soon the ghosts from his past threaten to drive Simon mad.

DIE FÄLSCHER - Stefan Ruzowitzky - Oostenrijk/Duitsland 2007

Berlin, 1936. Salomon Sorowitsch is the Jewish king of counterfeiters. Before the war he mingled in a world of gamblers, gigolos, and prostitutes, and life was a mere game to him. But in 1944 he is arrested and sent to concentration camp. When he is moved to Sachsenhausen, he fears the worst. But on his arrival he is greeted by Friedrich Herzog, who is here on a secret mission: Sorowitsch and a group of hand-picked professionals are to produce fake foreign currency to cripple the economies of Germany's allied opponents. To this end, a golden cage has been created for the expert team of fakers: two 'first class' barracks that are transformed into a fully equipped counterfeiter's workshop. But one thing is made certain from the outset: they face death should their work lead to failure. This puts them in an unbearable moral dilemma: cooperating with their executioners will prolong the war and may mean victory for the Germans. Perhaps they can save their own skins, but

they will put the lives of so many of their fellow-sufferers in jeopardy. All of a sudden, it's no longer a question of survival, but one of conscience.

IN MEMORIA DI ME - Saverio Constanzo - Italië 2007

Finding himself in an existential crisis, Andrea decides to join a monastery. The young man embarks upon a novitiate, during which the order will examine whether he is genuinely called to join the order and take his vows. As the priests instruct him in matters of belief, Andrea discovers that there is more to the religious community of priests, monks, novices and retired clergy than silence and prayer. The monastery becomes a universe, in which every look and every sound seems to suggest intrigue, since the novices are asked to point out any weaknesses they are able to detect in the others. To him, his life of prayers, rituals and hours of reading is characterised by constant surveillance and continuous questioning. At the same time, the novices do their best to abandon themselves, and by so doing, find their way to God. Yet, in spite of considerable support from the abbot, Andrea fails this mystic test of his true belief, and decides to put the order behind him. A venture that others have attempted before him ...

LA LEÓN - Santiago Otheguy - Argentinië/Frankrijk 2006

In a labyrinth of rivers and streams, Alvaro leads a humble and lonely life. Fishing and reed-cutting are his only sources of income. Out here, it is as if time has stood still. Alvaro's homosexuality and his passion for books make him an outsider in this region of Argentina. The only link between this forlorn part of the world and the city on the mainland is skipper El Turu's little boat, "El León", that carries islanders back and forth, once a day. A rough and sometimes violent man, El Turu is convinced that Alvaro poses a threat to the remote island community and its prevailing values and virtues. Moreover, since he regards himself as the tacit ruler of this world, he is determined to enforce these values. Intolerant and unrelenting, he bullies Alvaro whenever he can - although his actions display an increasing lack of propriety and dignity. Yet if truth be known, his aggressive rejection of an alternative existence only serves to conceal his inner emotional turmoil ...

THE SAVAGES - Tamara Jenkins - VS 2007

The film is a brilliantly comic look at the fate of two grown siblings forced to re-examine their family lives and their career paths when they have to team up to care for their aging father. Wendy Savage is an aspiring playwright languishing in temporary jobs in New York City and courting perpetual dissatisfaction through an affair with a married neighbour. Wendy's brother, Jon, is a theatre-arts professor living in Buffalo and slogging through an overdue book on Brecht. Neither sibling is fulfilled by their pursuits, and things quickly take a turn for the worse when they are called upon to arrange care for their ailing father, Lenny. Lenny's ability to manage for himself has run out, and he must leave his Arizona retirement community. Wendy and Jon have to get over long-standing tensions - with each other, with Lenny and with the world at large - to find their dad a suitable place to live out his days.

SAVIOR'S SQUARE - Krysstof Krauze & Joanna Kos-Krauze - Polen 2006

After selling his flat, and before his new home has been completed, Bartek, heavily in debt, asks his mother if he and his family can come and stay for a while. He has no idea that he is being conned and that he will be dependent on his mother's income. The differing interests and needs of the central characters, forced into co-existence, give rise to unpleasant conflicts. Lack of privacy demoralises Bartek's wife Beata, who has to look after her small children and put up with the selfishness of her family. Animosity grows between the two women and Bartek, fed up with the constant squabbling, takes off. In the heat of the moment, desperate Beata does something very foolhardy, and the legal outcome begs the question: "Who is guilty?" The filmmakers took the socio-ethical dimension of their drama from real life, hence the style of their testimony about the ordinary ambitions of their contemporaries, their attitudes and destinies.

TAKVA - A MAN'S FEAR OF GOD - Ôzer Kiziltan - Turkije/Duitsland 2006

Muharrem has worked quietly as a simple clerk for over 30 years in the same traditional Istanbul neighbourhood where he was born. He leads a solitary and meagre existence of prayer and sexual

abstinence and strictly adheres to the most severe Islamic doctrines. Muharrem's religious devotion attracts the attention of the leaders of a rich and powerful religious group. His reputation for being trustworthy and dutiful prompts them to offer him job as a rent collector for their numerous properties. Muharrem is provided with a new set of clothes, a mobile phone and a computer. All at once he finds himself in a world that he had previously succeeded in evading. Before long he begins to encounter hypocrisy and alcoholic excess; to his own consternation he becomes domineering and proud, and even becomes an unwitting accomplice in a con trick. To make matters worse, he is tortured day and night by the image of a seductive woman who haunts his dreams. The balance of his devout existence is in ruins and his fear of God's punishment is tearing him apart.

THIS IS ENGLAND - Shane Meadows - VK 2006

It's 1983, and the schools are breaking up for summer. Shaun is 12 and a bit of a loner, growing up with his mum in a grim coastal town, his dad killed fighting in the Falklands War. On his way home from school where he's been tormented all day for wearing flares, he runs into a group of skinheads, who against expectations turn out to be friendly and take him under their wing. Soon Shaun discovers parties, girls and snappy dressing, and finds some role models in Woody, Milky and the rest of the gang. But when an older, overtly racist skinhead returns home from prison, the easy camaraderie of the group is broken, and Shaun is drawn into much more uncomfortable territory. Based largely on his own experience as a youngster, this is Shane Meadows' most mature and fully realised film. Handling the complexities of masculinity, violence and race with sensitivity and a lightness of touch, it's hard to imagine a film that would better capture the mood of the time, or that could have any greater an understanding of the allure of being part of a gang.

YOU, THE LIVING - Roy Andersson - Zweden 2007 (Lumiere/BFD)

"You, the Living" is a tragic comedy and a comical tragedy about Man - his greatness and wretchedness, his joy and sorrow, his self-confidence and anxiety. A being we want to laugh at and cry for at the same time. Roy Andersson's motto is simple: man is fascinated by man. Accordingly, he's interested in all the glories and weaknesses of mankind. Liberated from linear narrative structures, he takes Man to task in a series of tableaux depicting various situations - daily life, happy moments, worries and philosophical questioning... This film of atmosphere with a dream-like quality reflects his personality: ambiguous, ferocious and provocative.

SHORT FILMS

34th Flanders International Film Festival Ghent

Short films are often overlooked in the world of film, but this is certainly not the case at the Flanders International Film Festival - Ghent. The film festival will be organising no fewer than three short film competitions: the Belgian Short Film competition in collaboration with the National Lottery, the ACE Competition for Short Films by Flemish Students, and the Prix UIP Ghent 2007. Furthermore, the films of the Prix UIP Winners 2006-2007 will be shown at the Festival.

Belgian Short Film competition in collaboration with the National Lottery

A special jury consisting of Belgian film critics, film makers and producers will consider ten Belgian short films that have been produced in the past year on both sides of the linguistic boundary. The winning director will receive the National Lottery Award for Best Belgian Short Film as well as a prize of 5,000 euros.

Ace Competition for Short Films by Flemish Students

In collaboration with ACE Digital House, the Festival will be organising for the fifth time a competition for all short films produced by students of the Flemish film academies RITS, KASK and Sint-Lukas. The prize consists of a premium of 2,000 euros for the director and a post-production premium of 7,500 euros. The winner can for example decide to use this prize for an off-line and online montage, if desired complemented by different digital image and sound finishes.

Prix UIP Ghent 2007/EFA

International competition intended to give European producers of short films a helping hand. The international jury will award 2,000 euros to the winner. The winner will be nominated automatically for the Prix UIP for Best European Short Film, a competition organised by the European Film Academy.

Prix UIP Winners 2006-2007

This is a selection of short films made by filmmakers who won the local Prix UIP Competition at various European film festivals in 2006 and 2007. This selection therefore represents the best European short films. These directors compete for the first prize of 10,000 euros, a substantial sum which should make it a lot easier for the winner to embark upon a new film project. Be sure not to miss this selection, because it shows the work of the next generation of film makers who will follow in the footsteps of directors such as Lukas Moodysson, Nanni Moretti and Pedro Almodóvar. With thanks to the European Film Academy.

A complete overview of all shorts, in competition or otherwise, can be found on www.filmfestival.be

FOCUS ON ARGENTINA

34th Flanders International Film Festival Ghent

The modern Argentinean cinema, which originated in the beginning of the nineties, distinguishes itself by theme, imagery and plot. Nevertheless, it can't be described easily, because it is more than ever alive and continuously in motion. In spite of the difficult economic and political situation in the country, recent Argentinean film makers underline the personal more than the political aspect. Their films are realistic and personal stories in which the actual problems of the country only take place in the background. This realistic, personal approach creates a great diversity inside the Argentinean cinema.

There is for example "XXY", the gripping story by Lucía Puenzo about a fifteen-year-old bisexual girl; or "UPA! (Una Película Argentina)" by Santiago Giralt, Camila Toker and Tamae Garateguy, which is a rather ironic approach of the Argentinean cinema. But there is also "La Antena" by Esteban Szapir, who creates with his film an imaginary world with beautiful, almost poetic visual effects. In "M", director Nicolás Prividera uses the cinema as a means to look for 'the truth'. And in "El desierto negro", the feature debut of composer Gaspar Scheuer, we are introduced to the difficult life of the gauchos, the Argentinean 'cowboys' who wandered the endless pampas in the 20th century. This beautiful, poetic film with its impressive photography that is reminiscent of the film noir is also a perfect example of the Argentinean western.

Argentina is a vast country that stretches from the deserted plains of Patagonia to the moonscapes in the North, with Buenos Aires in its epicentre. The country has always had to fight for its existence during the suppression of a.o. the Spaniards. From this history arise a lot of contradictions, frustrations and misunderstandings, which are still present in the everyday lives of the Argentineans. The new cinema is part of the heritage of this history and feels out the borders of the everyday reality. With its focus on Argentina, the Flanders International Film Festival Ghent contributes to a better understanding of this Argentinean history and reality, while making the public aware of the fact that every living being has its own story in which politics do not necessarily get the upperhand.

This introduction on the Argentinean cinema has been written by the Argentinean director Fernando Zuber, whose film "Soledad al fin del mundo" was presented at the festival last year.

The festival shows:

La Antena (Esteban Szapir)
Born and Bred (Pablo Trapero)
La Càscara (Carlos Ameglio)
Ciudad en Cielo (Hernan Gaffet)
El Desierto Negro (Gaspar Scheuer)
Estrellas (Frederico León & Marcos Martínez)
La León (Santiago Otheguy)
M (Nicolas Prividera)
Manuel de Falla, Músico de Dos Mundos (José Luís Catineira de Dios)
El Otro (Ariel Rotter)
La Puta y la Ballena (Luís Peunzo)
Los Pasos de Antonio (Pablo Bauer)
UPA ! Una Película Argentina (Tamae Garateguy, Santiago Giralt & Camila Toker)
Las Vidas Posibles (Sandra Gugliotta)
XXY (Lucía Puenzo)

THE MEMORY OF FILM

34th Flanders International Film Festival Ghent

Tribute Walter Hill

During his remarkable career, Walter Hill has been a writer, director and producer on projects ranging from classic westerns to action-packed thrillers and buddy comedies, all marked with his unique visceral style. He has made a successful foray into television, receiving Emmy and Directors Guild of America Awards in 2005 for the pilot of the groundbreaking neo-western "Deadwood." Most recently Hill directed the critically acclaimed mini-series, "Broken Trail," chronicling the waning days of America's West. The film, which starred Robert Duvall and Thomas Haden Church, premiered on AMC to brilliant reviews and record-breaking numbers, and was awarded The Best of the West by the Golden Boot awards in August 2006. Sony Pictures Home Entertainment released "Broken Trail" on DVD in Fall 2006. The film won three Emmy Awards a fortnight ago.

Hill's distinguished career began with screenplay credits for "Hickey and Boggs" (1972), "The Getaway" (1972) and "The Drowning Pool" (1975). In 1975, he made his directorial debut with "Hard Times," a Depression-era boxing drama.

Hill produced Ridley Scott's Oscar-winning science fiction blockbuster "Alien" (1979) and served as writer, producer or executive producer on the next two sequels in the legendary film series. He is known as one of the foremost action filmmakers directing the smash hits "Southern Comfort" (1981), "Johnny Handsome" (1989), "48 Hrs." (1982), "Another 48 Hrs." (1990) and "Last Man Standing" (1996).

Hill's exploration of the American western began in 1980 when he directed "The Long Riders," which marked the beginning of his critically acclaimed Western trilogy, continuing with "Geronimo" (1993) and ending with "Wild Bill" (1995).

The festival shows:

The Getaway (1972)

The Warriors (1979)

Alien (1979)

The Long Riders (1980)

Southern Comfort (1981)

48 Hours (1982)

Streets Of Fire (1982)

Johnny Handsome (1989)

Geronimo (1993)

Broken Trail (2007)

Walter Hill is to receive his Lifetime Achievement Award at Kinopolis Ghent on Friday 12 October at 7.30 pm, followed by the screening of "Broken Trail". Kathleen Turners will hand over the award

Found Footage Film

On the occasion of the lecture on 'Focus on Found Footage', the festival programmers have put together a programme with found footage films. For many film makers found footage has been a source of inspiration to knock up a story. The young Jonathan Caouette for example has reconstructed his life in the impressive "Tarnation". With amateur images and recorded telephone conversations, he has created an extraordinary multimedia magnum opus. Director Peter Delpout started juggling with images from the Dutch Film Museum, where he worked, to make "The Forbidden Quest", in which he makes his audience believe in the incredible story about a missing ship. And in "Grizzly Man", Werner Herzog, the German legendary director, uses the film material of a killed bear lover to establish the border between animal love and insanity. Together with "Capturing The Friedmans", "Lyrisch Nitraat", "El Perro Negro: Stories from the Spanish Civil War", "Welt Spiegel Kino" and the short films "Geschiedenis van de Onbekende soldaat" and "Just Like The Movies" they are part of the History Replayed Found Footage.

The festival shows:

Capturing The Friedmans
The Forbidden Quest
Grizzly Man
Lyrisch Nitraat
El Perro Negro: Stories from Spanish Civil War
Tarnation
Welt Spiegel Kino

And short films *Geschiedenis van de Onbekende soldaat* and *Just Like The Movies*.

Focus on Found Footage, Monday 15 October from 9 am to 6 pm at Zebrastraat Gent. Ticket: € 8, students € 4..

ALMOST CINEMA

34th Flanders International Film Festival Ghent

CO-PRODUCTION VOORUIT ARTS CENTRE & FLANDERS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL GHENT

Almost Cinema spends twelve days on the border between film, media art and music.

Almost Cinema invites artists who are inspired by cinema, but who refuse to conform to its idiosyncrasies and instead choose to walk off the beaten track. The result is a fascinating balancing act between film, media art, drama and music. After last year's success, Vooruit will again be setting up a video and installation trail which will welcome national and international artists. Apart from that, every evening, we will be serving you films, music documentaries, performances of all sorts, concerts and talks about (almost) cinema. Whether it is plastic arts, music or drama: every art form is somehow connected to cinema.

Almost Cinema kicks off on the 9th of October with Sand and Sorrow, a heart-piercing documentary about Darfur. Shocked by the fact that the crisis in Darfur received so little media attention, documentary film maker Paul Freedman (US) decided to make a film about the subject. He chose to use a serene approach: no excessive information, but images that speak volumes and gripping interviews. None other than actor George Clooney (US) lent his voice to Sand and Sorrow while also co-producing. (More on www.sandandsorrow.org.) After the screening of the film, Sudanese singer Rasha will take the stage. She grew up in Khartoum and therefore has an insider's view of the situation in Sudan. Fleeing from ethnicity conflicts, she moved to Spain ten years ago. On stage, Rasha uses her powerful voice to mix traditional African music, Arabic poetry and reggae.

On Wednesday the 10th of October, the vernissage of the Almost Cinema exhibition trail will take place. The artists presenting their work on the exhibition trail will be shedding new light on the familiar elements of cinema. Gebhard Sengmüller (AT) for example, will cut up a b gangster movie and then stick it back together, making a new, primitive movie. The other works will also give surprising insights into cinema or will simply refer to it. The brand new work by Els Van Riel (BE), 5 screens, brings 16mm projectors to life. Peter William Holden will be making computer controlled umbrellas move to the tune of Singin' in the Rain. In the Vooruit corridors, Julia Willms (AT) will conjure up a trompe l'oeuil, playing with the real and imagined space as if Magritte himself is involved. The Italian collective ZimmerFrei will lead the visitor into a camera obscura, taking him on a fascinating trip to a number of the world's largest cities. Finally, Semiconductor (UK) will be screening their fictional documentary about seismographic disturbances, All the Time in the World.

For more press information, images and press tickets please contact Caroline Van Peteghem, Vooruit, caroline@vooruit.be (call 09 267 28 88 or mobile 0497 52 88 20) or Thomas Dierkens, International Film Festival Ghent, press@filmfestival.be.

There's an Almost Cinema press kit available on www.filmfestival.be/press

MUSIC AT THE GHENT FILM FESTIVAL

34th Flanders International Film Festival Ghent

This year, the Ghent Film Festival is more than ever taking the lead on film music. On the programme are four music concerts, a new series of music documentaries, the release of the cd *For the Record: Craig Armstrong* and the second European film music concert in Berlin.

The 34th Ghent Film Festival is being held from 9 to 20 October this year, and its focus on film music will be even greater than ever. This year's programme includes a concert with Alberto Iglesias, who has been composing music for films by Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar for many years; the seventh World Soundtrack Awards; and a concert with Argentinean composer Gustavo Santaolalla, the multiple Oscar winner, and his Bajofondo Tango Club. Santaolalla will help sharpen the festival's focus on contemporary Argentinean cinema in terms of music.

The link between film and music gives the Ghent Film Festival a unique place among international festivals. For more than two decades, this competitive festival has been geared towards the 'impact of music on film'. Every year, the festival organises the World Soundtrack Awards, and world-renowned composers such as Ennio Morricone, Maurice Jarre, Gabriel Yared, Hans Zimmer, Zbigniew Preisner and Craig Armstrong have already taken to the stage here, performing music live with a symphonic orchestra.

Film music is still the key element in the extensive programme of the 34th Ghent Film Festival. For the first time, all film music initiatives are to be bundled into a three-day event at the end of the festival. On 18 October, Argentinean composer and **double Oscar winner Gustavo Santaolalla** (*Babel*, *Brokeback Mountain*, *Motorcycle Diaries*, *21 Grams*) will hold an Argentinean fiesta together with his Bajofondo Tango Club, a fiery mix of tango and dance. Santaolalla will also play excerpts from his award-winning film scores. **Spanish composer Alberto Iglesias**, known from his many years of collaboration with Pedro Almodóvar (*Volver*, *Hable Con Ella*, *La Mala Educación*, *Todo Sobre Mi Madre*), will give a special concert of a selection of his works with the Flemish Radio Orchestra on 19 October. The three-day film music event will conclude with the 7th edition of the World Soundtrack Awards, which are now the most prestigious soundtrack awards in the world. In short, Ghent will be a meeting point for established and up-and-coming musical talent in October.

As the pre-eminent event for film music lovers, **the 7th edition of the World Soundtrack Awards** is not to be missed. Not only will the international top of film music composers be present at the ceremony, the Flemish Radio Orchestra will perform the hottest film music of the moment. Special guests are Mychael Danna (*Little Miss Sunshine*, *Fracture*, *Capote*, *Shattered Glass*), World Soundtrack Discovery of the Year 2006 Evanthia Rebutouka (*My Father & My Son*), Harry Gregson-Williams (*Man of Fire*, *Shrek*, *Chronicles of Narnia*) and of Belgian jazz musician Jef Neve (*Dagen Zonder Lief*). The Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award at the distribution of the World Soundtrack Awards on 20 October. Theodorakis has written the music for *Zorba The Greek*, *Z* and *Serpico*. The Flemish Radio Orchestra conducted by Dirk Brossé will play music from *Zorba The Greek*. In accordance with tradition, a Belgian is always on stage during the presentation of the World Soundtrack Awards. This year, jazz musician Jef Neve, who caused a stir with his first film score for Felix van Groeningen's *Dagen zonder lief*, will bear the honour. There will also be a forum for new Belgian music talent with the annual composition competition for young composers, where candidates were asked to compose music for a montage from the film *Belgium, The Movie* by Wim Robberechts. The Flemish Radio Orchestra will perform the winning score live to an international audience.

But it doesn't end there: together with the première of their documentary *Heima*, **the Icelandic band Sigur Rós** is to give an acoustic set at Vooruit on 17 October. The concert was sold out in no time, which proves that the festival keeps itself posted on recent musical trends.

For the Record: Craig Armstrong is the Ghent Film Festival's first album in a new series of film music CDs. The CD compiles the Scottish composer's best film music with recordings by the Flemish Radio Orchestra and Choir. The aim is to launch one album each year for a composer connected to

the Ghent Film Festival. The recordings are based on the highly acclaimed film music concert given by Craig Armstrong last year during the 33rd edition of the Ghent Film Festival. Public demand for a recording of this concert was very high, which is why the festival commissioned the Flemish Radio Orchestra and Choir to record the set from the concert this spring at Flagey Studio. The orchestra was conducted by Dirk Brossé. The recordings include music from *Romeo + Juliet*, *Moulin Rouge*, *Plunkett & MacLeane*, *The Quiet American*, *Best Laid Plans*, *The Bone Collector*, *The Clearing*, *Ray*, *Love Actually*, *WTC* and *Orphans* – thereby offering a complete overview of Craig Armstrong's oeuvre.

After the great success of the 2005 film music concert, the European Film Academy and the Flanders International Film Festival-Ghent again present a special concert by the Flemish Radio Orchestra under Dirk Brossé. As one of the highlights of the festivities for the 20th European Film Awards, **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, EUROPEAN FILM ACADEMY! - EUROPEAN FILM COMPOSERS IN CONCERT** will take place on Friday, November 30, at Berlin's historical theatre Admiralspalast.

CONCERTS

3 4 t h F l a n d e r s I n t e r n a t i o n a l F i l m F e s t i v a l G h e n t

Heima - Sigur Rós

17/10/2007

"Heima" (Icelandic for at home or homeland), truly, shows Sigur Rós as never before. Whereas seeing the group live is normally a large-scale and sometimes overwhelming experience, making full use of lights and mesmeric visuals, "Heima" was always intended to reveal more of what was actually going on on stage. It does this via long-held close-ups and a rare intimate proximity, without ever once breaking the spell. Loosely based on a documentary format - and including personal reflections from the band - "Heima" also serves as an alternative primer for Iceland, a desolate, magical country where human beings have little right to trespass. "Heima" features performances of songs from all four Sigur Rós albums, many radically reworked, as well as two exclusive new songs in 'Guitardjamm', which was filmed inside an abandoned herring oil tank in the far West of the country, and the traditional 'A Ferd Til Breidarfjardar 1922', performed with poet Steindor Andersen.

After an extensive world tour, Sigur Rós returned to Iceland and played a series of free, unannounced concerts around their homeland. The entire tour was filmed and the result is "Heima", a cinematic and musical feast. Sigur Rós' big, beautiful sound resonates against Iceland's majestic landscapes. This, along with intimate interviews with the band, offers a captivating insight into their music, their inspirations and their sense of home.

Heima, Wednesday 17 October, 8 pm @ Theaterzaal Vooruit, followed by a concert from Sigur Rós. This concert is sold out. Press screening: 15th October, 11.55 am at Kinopolis 2.

Gustavo Santaolalla & Bajofondo Tango Club

18/10/2007

Since Gustavo Santaolalla was honoured as Discovery of the Year at the World Soundtrack Awards in 2004 his career has really taken off. His magnificent soundtracks for *Brokeback Mountain* and *Babel* have both won an Oscar and many more projects are on the way. In Ghent Gustavo and his Bajofondo Tango Club bring an intoxicating mix of tango and electronic music. And naturally Santaolalla will take his guitar on stage to play some of his wonderful film music.

Bajofondo Tango Club, Thursday 18 October, 9 pm at Concertzaal Vooruit. Tickets: €19/€15 at www.teleticketsservice.be - 070 345 345 and at www.vooruit.be - 09 267 28 28

Alberto Iglesias in Concert

19/10/2007

Spain's most acclaimed composer, Alberto Iglesias, has solid classical training that includes piano, guitar, composition and counterpoint, as well as electronic music studies. His considerable experience in film composition began in 1980.

He has composed scores for such avant-garde Spanish directors as Pedro Almodóvar (The Flower of My Secret," "Live Flesh," "All About my Mother," "Talk to Her," "Bad Education" and "Volver"), Julio Médem ("Vacas", "La ardilla roja", "Tierra", "Los amantes del Círculo Polar", "Sex and Lucia"), Iciar Bollain ("Take my eyes"), Bigas Luna ("La camarera del Titanic") and Carlos Saura ("Dispara").

Mr. Iglesias also composed scores for the films "Comandante" (Oliver Stone), "The Dancer Upstairs" (John Malkovich) and "The Constant Gardener" (Fernando Meirelles).

He recently won the World Soundtrack Award for Soundtrack Composer of the Year and Best Original Soundtrack of the Year (Flanders International Film Festival, Ghent) as well as earlier nominations for both an Academy Award and BAFTA for "The Constant Gardener," the only Spanish composer to achieve that status. He has also been awarded seven Goyas (last one for "Volver") and numerous European accolades.

His last work has been the composition of the original film score for Marc Foster's "THE KITE RUNNER" based on the best seller by Khaled Hosseini that will be released on November 2.007.

As composer for the concert hall (orchestra, ensemble and string quartet), Alberto Iglesias' work in ballet also includes original scores for dancer/choreographer Nacho Duato and his National Dance Company. He wrote and produced "Cautiva," (1992), "Tabulae" (1994), "Cero Sobre Cero" (1995) and "Self" (1997), all of which were performed worldwide.

The Ghent International Film Festival is proud to announce a film music concert with Spanish composer Alberto Iglesias, long-time collaborator of director Pedro Almodóvar (Hable Con Ella, Todo Sobre Mi Madre, La Mala Educación, Volver). At the last edition of the World Soundtrack Awards Iglesias was acclaimed as Composer of the Year and he won the award for Best Original Soundtrack of the Year with the music he wrote for The Constant Gardener. In Ghent the concert with the Flemish Radio Orchestra will focus on his collaboration with Almodóvar.

Alberto Iglesias in Concert, 19 October 2007 at Music Centre De Bijloke Ghent
Tickets: € 42 (1^{ste} cat.), €32 (2de cat) + € 2 fee/ticket. Via TeleTicketService
(www.teleticket-service.be - 070 345 345)

WORLD SOUNDTRACK AWARDS

34th Flanders International Film Festival Ghent

The 7th edition of the World Soundtrack Awards on 20th October 2007 promises once again to be an event for lovers of film music. World-class film music composers will come to Ghent for the presentation of the World Soundtrack Awards and concert, with music from Mychael Danna, Harry Gregson-Williams and Jef Neve being the highlight.

Since the World Soundtrack Awards and Academy were established at the Ghent Film Festival 2001, the event has become an annual celebration for lovers of film music. From this year on, the ceremony and accompanying concert will officially close the 34th edition of the Ghent Film Festival. The final phase of the festival is a three-day film music event, beginning on 18th October with a concert from double Oscar winner Gustavo Santaolalla and his Bajofondo Tango Club, followed by a film-music concert by Spanish composer Alberto Iglesias on 19th October.

During the 7th edition of the World Soundtrack Awards, the Flemish Radio Orchestra will give a live performance of music by Mychael Danna (*Little Miss Sunshine*, *Capote*, *Exotica*, *Monsoon Wedding*), Harry Gregson-Williams (*Antz*, *Shrek*, *Chicken Run*, *Veronica Guerin*) and the Greek composer Evanthis Reboutsika (*My Father & My Son*), who won the WSA Discovery of the Year award last year. The orchestra will be conducted by Dirk Brossé. All composers will, of course, be present in Ghent.

In accordance with tradition, a Belgian is always on stage during the presentation of the World Soundtrack Awards. This year, jazz musician Jef Neve, who caused a stir with his first film score for Felix van Groeningen's *Dagen zonder lief*, will bear the honour. There will also be a forum for new Belgian music talent with the annual composition competition for young composers, where candidates were asked to compose music for a montage from the film *Belgium, The Movie* by Wim Robberechts. The Flemish Radio Orchestra will perform the winning score live to an international audience.

Mychael Danna

Born in Canada in 1958, Mychael Danna is not among those film composers who confine themselves to a supporting role for the stars or plot of a film. His work is strongly linked to the oeuvre of Atom Egoyan, for whom he has composed the music for nine films, and he will stop at nothing to obtain the results he wants.

Danna travelled halfway round the world for "Exotica", to source not only the perfect sounds for the film but also the best interpreters for his themes. For "Ararat", Egoyan's film about the Armenian holocaust, he travelled to Armenia with the director to search for ethnic instruments and other authentic sounds. In common with many other top film composers he combines these into a mix with more western music.

A typical example of Danna's unconventional methods is the score for Oscar-nominated "Little Miss Sunshine", for which he used the songs of rock band DeVotchKa.

His starting point is always the question: "What can the music contribute to the film?" Film makers like Scott Hicks, Mira Nair, Billy Ray and Joel Schumacher already know the answer. So satisfied was Ang Lee with Danna's score for "The Ice Storm" that he wanted him again for "Ride With The Devil". Danna's work is always a source of wonder; and that makes him endlessly fascinating.

Harry Gregson-Williams

Born in England to a musical family, Gregson-Williams earned a coveted spot at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. He started his film career as an orchestrator and arranger for composer Stanley Myers, and went on to compose his first scores for the veteran English director, Nicolas Roeg. Gregson-Williams' initiation in to Hollywood film scoring was then facilitated by his

collaboration and friendship with Oscar-winning composer Hans Zimmer. This resulted in Gregson-Williams providing music for such films as "The Rock", "Armageddon", "As Good as it Gets" and "The Prince of Egypt". Most recently, Gregson-Williams conducted acclaimed concerts of his music from "The Chronicles of Narnia" in Madrid in 2006 and in Denver in 2007.

Harry Gregson-Williams is one of Hollywood's most sought after composers, working on a variety of high-profile projects, both animated and live-action. Over the last few years, Harry has scored some of the industries biggest blockbusters including "Shrek the Third," "Antz", "Veronica Guerin", "Kingdom of Heaven" and "Chicken Run".

Jef Neve

Jef Neve is mostly known for his part in the jazz ensemble the Jef Neve Trio. The Trio, with bassplayer Piet Verbist and drummer Teun Verbruggen, has been together since five years. The outstanding musicianship combined with fine-tuned interactivity and visible joy while playing is very communicative and makes an event of each concert.

'*Blue Saga*', the first album of the Jef Neve Trio, was immediately a bestseller. His second album '*It's Gone*' received the prestigious Radio Klara prize for 'Best International Jazz Album 2005' and unanimously acclaimed in the international press. The third album, '*Nobody is Illegal*' was released in November 2006. It is best selling jazz album in Belgium and reviews are superlative. The CD will be released in more than 18 countries. Recently, Jef Neve has written the sound track for the movie 'With Friends Like These' by Belgian film director Felix Van Groeningen which came out in the cinemas in march 2007 and has a huge success. All the critics mention the sound track as being the strong point of the movie.

Mikis Theodorakis

Mikis Theodorakis was born on the Greek island Chios on 29 July 1925. Still being a child he became acquainted with Greek folk music and after hearing Ludwig von Beethoven's Ninth Symphony he decided to become a composer himself. He received a musical formation both in his own country and at the Conservatory in Paris, where he studied under Olivier Messiaen. His gift for music was immediately recognised and he was commissioned with film scores and ballet music. In 1959 his ballet Antigone was performed at Covent Garden in London. The death of a young striker and the poems about the incident he set to music, urged him to return to his homeland. Political incidents have never let him indifferent.

The German occupation of Greece, the Greek civil wars and the never-ending tensions between Turkey and Greece in the Cyprus dispute have marked Mikis Theodorakis deeply. He has always tried to reconcile, but has also taken stands as a result of which he ended in prison more than once and was even tortured. When the Colonels took power in 1967, he was first interned in his homeland and in 1970, under the pressure of an international solidarity movement, released and sent to exile in Paris.

He reached fame with his scores for Michael Cacoyannis' *Zorba the Greek* (1964) and Costa-Gavras' *Z* (1969). He also wrote the music for *The Trojan Women*, *The Day the Fish Came Out* and *Iphigenia in Aulis*, three films made by Cacoyannis. Also with Costa-Gavras he hit it off immediately, and the score for *Z* was followed by music for *Etat de Siège*. Among his sixty music scores should not be forgotten that for Sidney Lumet's *Serpico*.

In the sixties and in the eighties Mikis Theodorakis was a Member of Parliament and a minister. He was even solicited to become Greek president, but he declined that offer because of his age. Although some of his political statements were controversial, he has got several peace prizes.

Evanthia Reboutsika

Greek composer Evanthia Reboutsika was hailed as “Discovery of the Year” at last year’s World Soundtrack Awards thanks to the music she composed for the film “My Father & My Son”. Her perfect mix consists of the combination of western musical styles with eastern elements. Since working on this award winning film she has also composed the music for the Turkish “Ulak”, but Evanthia Reboutsika still sees herself primarily as a violin soloist. Born in the Peloponese, she studied music in Patra, Paris and Athens and her ambition was to become a soloist like her sister. She began composing while at home caring for her new baby, taking the opportunity to work when her daughter slept. Alongside her husband, she is now regarded as one of the foremost composers of the Greek “New Wave”. She has also collaborated with Mikis Theodorakis, but sometimes feels undervalued by the older generation.

Maybe that is due to the simplicity of her compositions and the fact that, because they are easy on the ear they are often also commercially successful. She has already appeared in Belgium as a guest at the Sfinks Festival in Boechout, and we are happy to welcome her here as a composer of merit.

WSA Nominations

Soundtrack Composer of the Year:

- MYCHAEL DANNA (Little Miss Sunshine, Breach, The Nativity Story, Fracture)
- ALEXANDRE DESPLAT (The Queen, The Painted Veil)
- PHILIP GLASS (Notes on a Scandal)
- HARRY GREGSON WILLIAMS (Déjà Vu, Shrek the Third, The Number 23, Flushed Away)
- JOHN POWELL (Happy Feet)

Best Original Score of the Year:

- THE FOUNTAIN by Clint Mansell
- LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE by Mychael Danna featuring DeVotchKa
- NOTES ON A SCANDAL by Philip Glass
- SHREK THE THIRD by Harry Gregson Williams
- ZODIAC by David Shire

Best Original Song Written for a Film:

- "LE FESTIN" from Ratatouille (Music and lyrics by Michael Giacchino and Performed by Camille)
- "FALLING SLOWLY" from Once (Written and Performed by Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova)
- "I NEED TO WAKE UP" from An Inconvenient Truth (Written and Performed by Melissa Etheridge)
- "WHEN YOU TAUGHT ME HOW TO DANCE" from Miss Potter (Written by Mike Batt, Nigel Westlake, and Richard Maltby, Jr. - Performed by Katie Melua)

- "YOU KNOW MY NAME" from Casino Royal (Written by Chris Cornell and David Arnold
Performed by Chris Cornell)

Discovery of the Year 2007

- JEAN MICHEL BERNARD for Science of the Sleep
- RAMIN DJAWADI for Mr Brooks
- NICHOLAS HOOPER for Harry Potter and the order of the Phoenix
- JEROME LEMONNIER for The Page Turner aka La Tourneuse de Pages
- DANIEL TARRAB and ANDRES GOLDSTEIN for XXY and Inheritance

More details on WSA rules, members and activities can be found on www.worldsoundtrackawards.com

! On 20 October the festival organises a press conference on the WSA, in the presence of the different composers. They will explain the program of the 7th edition. If you would like to be there, please send an e-mail to confirm to press@filmfestival.be with indication of your medium. Location: Sofitel Ghent at 10.30 am.

UNICEF ambassador Danny Glover

34th Flanders International Film Festival Ghent

Actor Danny Glover (*Lethal Weapon*, *Beloved*, *Manderlay*) will attend the upcoming Film Festival Ghent (9-20 October) as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. The Film Festival Ghent is one of the 'Events for UNICEF', which support the children's fund structurally. Glover, who is going to introduce the film *Bamako*, will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award for his entire career.

This year, actor Danny Glover will come down to Ghent to draw the attention on UNICEF's new campaign and to join the film festival in its fundraising. Glover will be our guest for the second time. In 1994, he was here to present *The Saint of Fort Washington*. At the benefit evening on Monday 15 October he will personally introduce the film *Bamako* and talk about his engagement for UNICEF. Glover will be presented a Lifetime Achievement Award for his entire career by Bert Anciaux, Flemish Minister of Culture, Sports, Brussels and Youth.

'A good start in life' is the central theme of the campaign. With its own motto 'Saving together 4 million babies', UNICEF Belgium hopes to collect at least 300,000 euros to support UNICEF projects in Sierra Leone. With the money collected in Belgium, UNICEF hopes to give 42,000 children until the age of 5 and 13,000 pregnant women in the Pujehun district in Sierra Leone access to a basic pack of cares for safe motherhood, maternity care and well-adopted cares for new born babies.

The 'Events for UNICEF' comprise an exclusive group of Belgian prominent events for a wide audience, which support UNICEF Belgium structurally. The Memorial Van Damme, the Dictée du Bafroid and the Film Festival Ghent take the lead in it. UNICEF Belgium has been closely cooperating with the Film Festival Ghent for a few years, both in the field of fundraising as in that of promotion. In the past, various UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors have been a guest to the film festival, among them Sir Peter Ustinov, Roger Moore, Vanessa Redgrave and Lord Richard Attenborough.

UNICEF Benefit Evening in Kinopolis Ghent on Monday 15 October at 8 p.m. The proceeds of the screening will go entirely to UNICEF
More information on www.filmfestival.be/unicef

Note for the press:
Danny Glover is available for interviews; please turn to press officer Thomas Dierckens for more details.

LECTURE MOGENS RUKOV

34th Flanders International Film Festival Ghent

It has gradually become a tradition: during the film festival, the Screenwriters Guild invites an international big name for a screenwriting master class. Mogens Rukov has been chosen this year. Rukov enjoyed great fame mainly as the co-writer of the unrivalled *Festen* and he subsequently continued his successful collaboration with director Thomas Vinterberg for films such as *It's all about Love* and *En Mand kommer hjem*, which will be released soon. But Rukov's career behind the scene might still be more impressive. Being a screenwriting professor at the distinguished Danish Film School in Copenhagen he has formed generations of Scandinavian film makers. He played a prominent role in the Dogme-movement and was script consultant for countless films. In Ghent, Rukov will be talking about his own work, but also about the foundations of screenwriting and the development of interesting stories and characters. Don't miss this unique opportunity to see one of Europe's leading screenwriters at work!

An initiative of the Flemish Audiovisual Fund and the Screenwriters Guild, in collaboration with Cinema OFFoff and the Film Festival Ghent

Press & Industry Office

3 4 t h F l a n d e r s I n t e r n a t i o n a l F i l m F e s t i v a l G h e n t

During the Festival, the Press & Industry Office @ Zebrastraat 32 will again be the place to be for film professionals and journalists. It offers them a platform where they can meet, exchange ideas and watch films.

Press accreditations can be collected at the press department as from Monday 8 October.

Press accreditation applications must be submitted not later than 1 October, 2007 and forms must be completed fully and legibly. Accreditation applications submitted after 1 October will be subject to an administration fee of 25 euros payable upon collection of the press card. Please read the rules on the back of the application form. Accreditation forms can also be downloaded (PDF file) from the Festival website. If applications are late, incomplete or illegible, we cannot guarantee that press cards will be ready on the day the press department opens.

In return for press accreditation, the Festival expects all journalists and members of the press to submit a complete overview of their published and broadcast items that are in any way related to the Festival. This should be done in the form of author's copies, web pages or VHS video tapes. This obligation has been imposed by the FIAPF, the international federation of film producers associations, which regulates international film festivals and which carries out frequent checks. The Festival is obliged to submit a list of accredited members of the press and proof to the FIAPF. In addition, a growing number of film producers and sales agents ask us to provide them with press cuttings and visual material.

Photographs of a large number of films, as well as press folders, logos and copies of, for example, the Festival poster, can be downloaded from the **Press desk of the Festival website** (www.filmfestival.be). During the Festival, photographs of guests will be added to the website every day. This material will be of a high resolution so that it can be used in the media.

There are **separate press releases** about numerous Festival components. These can also be found on our website www.filmfestival.be.

Attached you will find a provisional **guest list** as well as an **interview request form**. The press office will pass on requests for interviews about film distribution to the distributors concerned. However, we recommend that you also submit your request directly to them. Requests for interviews about films with a Belgian distributor will be processed by the distributor in question. Journalists will be notified and received by the press officer of the distributor.

Interview requests: interview@filmfestival.be

Press & Industry Office, from 8 to 20 October, open every day from 9 am to 8 pm. Location: Zebrastraat 32.

PRESS AGENDA

34th Flanders International Film Festival Ghent

4 October:

- 8 pm: **Official Opening Karl Meersman Exhibition** (Caermersklooster)

8 October:

- 2 pm: greeting **Lord Richard Attenborough** by mayor Daniël Termont and alderman Lieven Decaluwe @ City Hall
- 4 pm: **Introduction of the book** : 'Perspectives on European Film and History' & 'Filmsporen. Opstellen over film, verleden en geheugen' (Zebrastraat)
- **Opening Industry Office & Business Lounge** @ Zebrastraat (open daily from 9 am tot 8 pm)
- **Start press screenings**

9 October:

- 6 pm: **DVD introduction De Oesterprinses** (Zebrastraat)
- 8 pm: **Official opening Filmfestival Ghent** (Kinopolis, on invitation only)
- 8.30 pm: **Official opening 'Almost Cinema' - Sand and Sorrow + concert** (Vooruit)

10 October:

- 11am: **Press conference Belgian Anti Piracy Federation** (Zebrastraat)
- 8 pm: **Official opening Installation parcours Almost Cinema** (Vooruit)

11 October:

- 2 pm: **Masterclass script writing by Mogens Rukov** (Zebrastraat)

12 October:

- 7.30 pm: **Tribute Walter Hill** (Kinopolis) - presentation Joseph Plateau Lifetime Achievement Award (by Kathleen Turner) + première Broken Trail

13 October:

- 8 pm: **Presentation Award Flemish & Belgian short competitions** (Theaterzaal Vooruit)

15 October:

- 8 pm: **Danny Glover Tribute** - première 'Bamako' + presentation Lifetime Achievement Award

16 October:

- 3 pm: **Screening for blind and partially sighted people** - De Hel van Tanger, Frank Van Mechelen (Kinopolis)

17 October:

- 12 am: **Award ceremony Competition 'Impact of music on film'** and **Award ceremony 'Prix UIP Ghent'** (Stadhuis Ghent)

18 October:

- 8 pm: XploreZone closing film + **XploreZone Award ceremony** (Kinapolis)
- 9 pm: **Concert Gustavo Santaolalla/Bajofondo Tango Club** (Concertzaal Vooruit)

19 October:

- 8 pm: **Concert Alberto Iglesias** (Music Centre de Bijloke Ghent)
- 8.30 pm: **Closing film 'It's a Free World...'** (Kinapolis Ghent)

20 October:

- 10.30 am: **Press conference WSA @ Sofitel**
- **Closing ceremony: WSA Film Music Concert + World Soundtrack Award Ceremony** (Music Centre de Bijloke Ghent)

The Festival thanks

De Overheden

Vlaamse Gemeenschap

Vlaams ministerie van Cultuur, Jeugd, Sport en Media
Agentschap Kunsten en Erfgoed
Afdeling Kunsten

Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen

Dienst Kunst en Cultuur

Stad Gent

Departementen Cultuur, Toerisme, Feestelijkheden, Voorlichting, Welzijnszorg en Personeelsbeheer
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Vercruyse Office Center - Vlaamse Vereniging voor Geestelijke Gezondheid - Zone Magazines

De officiële festivalrestaurants

Auberge du Pêcheur - Belga Queen - Brasserie Pakhuis - Chess Café - Coeur d'Artichaut - De Blauwe
Zalm - De Bonte Koe - Epsilon - Georges Seafood - Sestig Hotel - Sofitel Hotel Gent Belfort - Vintage
Winebar - Festivalrestaurant in de Zebrastraat, uitgebaat door het Pakhuis

Catering: Events Coeur d'Artichaut

Catering personeel: Vive la Nourriture

Member of the Federation of Music Festivals in Flanders
Member of the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (IFFPA)

De filmverdelers

20th Century Fox
A-Film
ABC Distribution
BrunBro
Cinéart
Coopérative Nouveau Cinéma
Imagine Film Distribution
Jekino
Kinopolis Film Distribution
Lumière Distributie / BFD
Paradiso Filmed Entertainment
United International Pictures
Victory Productions
Warner Bros.

Speciale dank

Communauté Française de Belgique
European Film Academy
FACTS
Flanders Image
Funco
IAK
Karl Meersman
Koninklijk Belgisch Filmarchief
Les Amis des Aveugles, Patricia Seghers-Vanderbercq
Lies Vanborm
Luk Monsaert Fotografie
Media Desk
MMG
Royal Belgian Film Archive (Photo service) - Jean-Paul Dorchain
Studio L'Equipe
Swiss Film
Unicef
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Vlaams Audiovisueel Fonds
Vlaamse Dienst voor Filmcultuur
Vlaamse Scenaristengilde
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Wallonie Bruxelles Images

Kinopolis Gent
Studio Skoop
Sphinx
Vooruit
Film-Plateau Universiteit Gent
Artcinema Off Off
Muziekcentrum De Bijloke Gent
Provinciaal Centrum voor Kunst en Cultuur - Caermersklooster
SMAK
Zebrastraat

De filmscholen KASK, NARAFI, RITS, St. Lukas en KHLIM
De Hogeschool Gent - Departement Vertaalkunde

Martine Huvenne

Kaat Tilley (kledij Fien Sabbe)

Scritto + Little Grayhound

Ons Ontwerp

Kurt Vandemaele

Raf Butstraen

Bart Buckinx

Wendy Vercauteren

Walter Vander Cruysse

Nathalie Broods

Chris Craps

Nicolas Crousse

Pierre Drouot

Geoffrey Enthoven

Chantal Krakowski

Ludo Luykx

Philippe Reynaert

Stefan Rycken

Raoul Servais

Jan Temmerman

Steven Tuffin

Miel Van Hoogenbemt

Presentatoren

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De internationale agenten

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