

Documentaries added to the 2016 European Film Festival offering

The Oscar-winning documentary *Amy*, an intimate portrait of the late British singer-songwriter Amy Winehouse, is among the gems on offer at the European Film Festival, which heads to Cinema Nouveau screens in four cities from 6 to 15 May, 2016.

Ster-Kinekor will be screening 11 feature-length films from across the continent at Cinema Nouveau theatres in Joburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, and Durban during the festival. These multi-awarded films, which have been the toast of the international film festival circuit, have never been screened before in South Africa.

This, the third local edition of the European Film Festival, will feature the introduction of documentary films, with three non-fiction offerings on the programme.



The ongoing story of Europe

The festival director, Katarina Hedrén, said: “We wish to contribute to the ongoing story of Europe. This story is one of a diverse continent in an interconnected world, which seems to be spinning faster and not always in the right direction.”

Topping the list of films at the 2016 European Film Festival is *Amy* (UK), directed by Asif Kapadia, which won the 2016 Academy Award and BAFTA for Best Documentary Feature. The documentary tracks the life of the gifted but self-destructive jazz-soul singer until her tragic death from alcohol poisoning in 2011, aged just 27.

Other decorated offerings on the European Film Festival menu are the dramas Macondo (Austria), Body (Poland), Montanha (Portugal), Flowers (Spain), Something Must Break (Sweden), and Labyrinth of Lies (Germany). Also gracing the silver screen during the festival are the musical comedy Belgian Rhapsody (Belgium), biopic Chocolat (France), and documentaries Fire at Sea (Italy) and A Family Affair (The Netherlands).

The European Film Festival is coordinated by the Goethe-Institut South Africa, hosted by Ster-Kinekor Cinema Nouveau, and organised in partnership with the European Union and 11 other European cultural agencies or embassies in South Africa: The General Representation of the Government of Flanders, the French Institute, the Italian Cultural Institute, the Camões Institute, the British Council, and the Embassies of Austria, Belgium, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, and Sweden.

Unconventional, surprising and moving

Norbert Spitz, director of the Goethe-Institut, on behalf of the European partners, said: “Katarina Hedrén has put together a selection of feature films and documentaries that allows us to discover unconventional, surprising and moving portraits of life in the multifaceted place that Europe is.”

Lola Gallant, brand manager of Cinema Nouveau, added: “As the festival exhibitor, we are delighted to be partnering the Goethe-Institut and its partners to host the third annual European Film Festival. As Cinema Nouveau, we pride ourselves on providing a platform to screen a wide variety of foreign-language films. We believe the 11 films lined up for this year’s festival, which would otherwise not be accessible to local cinema audiences, are must-see content for any film lover.”

The European Film Festival screenings will take place at Cinema Nouveau Rosebank, Brooklyn, Gateway, and V&A Waterfront. Bookings open on 15 April 2016, with tickets priced at R55. Secure your seat by going to www.cinemanouveau.co.za or www.sterkinekor.mobi or call 0861 668 437. Join the conversation on Twitter and Facebook: #EuroFilmFestSA.

www.eurofilmfest.co.za

Normal benefits and ticket discounts apply to members of SK Club, Discovery Vitality and Edgars Club.