February 20, 2019
London

Irina Khakamada

MASTER CLASS
- Why your intuition is so important
- What opportunities it gives
- How to develop & strengthen your intuition

Unleash your hidden abilities!

synergylondon.com
london@synergy.ru
We are proud to be back for the third year with an extensive programme of Russian films, masterclasses, exhibitions and parties. This year has been particularly challenging given the difficult political environment surrounding Russia and the UK, but we have worked harder and more determinedly to make this year an even greater success. We believe that culture exists in a different dimension to politics. A dimension that transcends time and political trends, that rests solely on human creative ambition and collaboration. We firmly believe that such cross-cultural events, as the Russian Film Week, are vital for building bridges between people and nations.

Russian Film Week is an extravaganza of Russian contemporary film from all genres, suitable for blockbuster lovers, arthouse fans and documentary buffs alike. It forms a panorama of the greatest achievements of Russian filmmakers every year. We are delighted to be able to present these to the British public.

The first two years of Russian Film Week welcomed more than 14,000 participants; more than 100 filmmakers have visited us from Russia and we have formed great partnerships with some of the greatest film institutions on the planet. Russian Film Week has become the most prominent Russian film and culture event in the English speaking world. We anticipate that in 2018, we will be able to go even further.

I would like to express my gratitude to all our sponsors, partners, friends, families, volunteers and attendees!

Filip Perkon
Founder and General Producer
Russian Film Week and
The Golden Unicorn Awards

Vadim Lobov
Co-producer of Russian Film Week
Executive Director of Synergy University

For three years, Synergy University has been the general partner and co-organiser of the Russian Film Week in London.

Our festival has become the largest cross-cultural event in Europe, attracting the attention of the whole world to Russian cinema and culture.

We see our mission in supporting young filmmakers, because their work helps to tell true stories about Russia, build bridges between countries and overcome social barriers and prejudices. We implement this mission not only at the festival, but also in our daily activities. In 2018, the Faculty of Theatre, Film and Television, which produces qualified actors, sound producers and cameramen was opened under the auspices of Synergy University. I am sure that our students and graduates will soon make their debut in the International Film Arena.

Russian Film Week 2018 will be more ambitious and more interesting for audiences and film industry professionals. We are waiting for workshops by renowned young cinematographers, a retrospective of films about Russia, exhibitions, masterclasses and many other events.

I am sure this event will become a real celebration of Russian culture and that it will have a significant impact on the development of Russian-British relations in the field of Art.

See you at the Festival.
**PATRONS**

**Alexey Uchitel**
Award winning Russian film director, producer and screenwriter. He is the founder of film studio “Rock”. Winner of Nika, Russian Film Academy Award for best feature film in 2000.

**Ralph Fiennes**
Ralph Fiennes is an English actor, producer (co-produced Onegin) and film director (Coriolanus). A noted Shakespeare interpreter, he first achieved success at the Royal National Theatre. Made his film debut in 1992 as Heathcliff in Emily Bronte’s Wuthering Heights. Nominated for the Academy and Golden Globe Awards for Schindler’s List and for The English Patient. Known for his roles in major film franchises such as the Harry Potter and James Bond. Studied Russian to perform in the Russian-British-French co-production Two Women. He is a UNICEF UK ambassador.

**Elliot Grove**
Elliot Grove is a Canadian-born film producer who founded both the Raindance Film Festival in 1993 and the British Independent Film Awards in 1998. Elliot has produced over 150 short films and 5 feature films. He has written eight scripts. In 2006 he produced the multiple-award winning The Living and the Dead. He teaches writers and producers in the UK, Europe, Japan and America.

**Brian Cox**
Brian Cox, CBE, is a Scottish actor best known for appearing in The Bourne Identity, The Bourne Supremacy, Braveheart, Rise of the Planet of the Apes, Troy, Doctor Who. He is an accomplished Shakespearean actor, spending seasons with the RSC and the National Theatre; taught Shakespeare in Russia for the Moscow Art Theatre actors. Nominated for Scottish BAFTA 2016 for Best Actor and for Golden Globe for Best Actor – Miniseries or Television Film; winner of Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor – Miniseries or a Movie.

**Valeriy Todorovskiy**
Film Director, screenwriter. Made his name with ‘Country of the Deaf’, ‘Hipsters’ and the gangster TV series ‘Brigada’ which achieved cult status. Nominated for and received awards at a number of prestigious film festivals, such as Cannes, Geneva, Chicago. Winner of Russian awards: Kinotavr, TEFI, Golden Eagle, Nika.

**Eduard Pichugin**
General Director of Lenfilm Studios. Board member of the Union of Cinematographers in Russia; President of “Kinoalliance”, the National Association of the Cinema Professional Organizations. Engaged in promoting movie presentations and building cinema theaters since 1999.

**Iliya Lagutenko**
Iliya is the founder and lead singer of MTV Award-winning band Mumiy Troll and film actor and producer. He has written music for more than 15 films and starred in 6 feature films.
# Screening Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday 25th Nov</th>
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<th>Tuesday 27th Nov</th>
<th>Wednesday 28th Nov</th>
<th>Thursday 29th Nov</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Story of an Appointment (Opening) / CINEWORLD IMAX Leicester Square</td>
<td>SHORTS N1 + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 17.30</td>
<td>Rezo (doc) + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 18.30</td>
<td>VMayakovskiy + Q&amp;A / EBRD 18.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victim Status (doc) + I killed Alex + discussion / Pushkin House 19.00</td>
<td>Peter’s Odysseus + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 18.30</td>
<td>Hoffmaniade + Q&amp;A / Russian Culture House 19.30</td>
<td>Temporary Difficulties + Q&amp;A / BFI Southbank 18.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elephants Can Play Football + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 20.30</td>
<td>Uncle Sasha (doc) / Pushkin House 19.00</td>
<td>Witnesses + Q&amp;A / Bulgari Hotel Cinema 19.30</td>
<td>Sobibor + Q&amp;A / Curzon Mayfair 18.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oscar (doc) + Q&amp;A / Bulgari Hotel Cinema 19.30</td>
<td>Anna’s War + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 20.30</td>
<td>How I Came To Be... + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 18.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coupled + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 20.30</td>
<td>Summer + Q&amp;A / BFI Southbank 20.30</td>
<td>INTO_nation of the Great Odessa (doc) + Q&amp;A / Pushkin House 19.00</td>
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<td>Jumpman + Q&amp;A / BFI Southbank 20.30</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday 30th Nov</th>
<th>Saturday 1st Dec</th>
<th>Sunday 2nd Dec</th>
<th>Monday 3rd Dec</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hostages: It Was Important to Understand... (doc) + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 15.00</td>
<td>Genesis 2.0 (doc) / BFI Southbank 13.00</td>
<td>Kids Fest + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 11.30</td>
<td>Vasiliev’s talk / Pushkin House 19.00</td>
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<td>I Am Losing Weight + Q&amp;A / Curzon Mayfair 18.20</td>
<td>SHORTS N2 + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 15.00</td>
<td>The Last Warrior + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 13.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deep Rivers + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 18.30</td>
<td>Oscar (doc) + Q&amp;A / Pushkin House 15.00</td>
<td>Mashkov’s Master-class / Theatre Royal Haymarket 14.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>In the Hood + Q&amp;A / Bulgari Hotel Cinema 19.00</td>
<td>SHORTS N°3 / Pushkin House 17.00</td>
<td>Asino (doc) + Q&amp;A / BFI Southbank 14.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer + Q&amp;A / BFI Southbank 20.20</td>
<td>Core of the World + Q&amp;A / Curzon Mayfair 18.00</td>
<td>The Book of the Sea (doc) / Regent Street Cinema 17.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suleiman Mountain + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 20.30</td>
<td>The Forest + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 18.00</td>
<td>Jeweller’s Jubilee + Q&amp;A / BFI Southbank 18.00</td>
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<td>Piter by Kasta + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 20.00</td>
<td>Bottomless bag + Q&amp;A / Regent Street Cinema 20.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ice + Q&amp;A / BFI Southbank 20.10</td>
<td>The Coach (closing) + Q&amp;A / BFI Southbank 20.30</td>
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Russian Film Week 2018

**FEATURE FILMS**

**Anna’s War / Война Анны**

*Wednesday, 28 November 2018 / 20.30*

Regent Street Cinema, 307 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW

Q&A with director Aleksey Fedorchenko and actress Marta Kozlova

12+

**Year:** 2018  
**Country:** Russia  
**Running time:** 2h 14 min  
**Screenplay:** Aleksey Fedorchenko, Natalia Meshchaninova  
**Director:** Aleksey Fedorchenko  
**Producers:** Andrey Saveliev, Artem Vasiliev, Maxim Lojevsky  
**Cast:** Marta Kozlova  
**Genre:** Drama  
**In Russian with English subtitles**

Having miraculously survived in a mass execution of the Jews in her village Anna, a 6-year-old, hides for months in a disused chimney in a Nazi Commandant’s office. From her shelter she watches life passing by; left with only memories from the life swept away by the war and an unlikely friend to save her from loneliness.

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**Core of the World / Сердце мира**

*Saturday, 1 December 2018 / 18.00*

Curzon Mayfair, 38 Curzon St, Mayfair, London W1J 7TY

Q&A with director Natalya Meshchaninova and actor Stepan Devonin

15+

**Year:** 2018  
**Country:** Russia, Lithuania  
**Running time:** 2h 04 min  
**Screenplay:** Natalya Meshchaninova, Boris Khlebnikov, Stepan Devonin  
**Director:** Natalya Meshchaninova  
**Producers:** Andrey Saveliev, Artem Vasiliev, Maxim Lojevsky  
**Cast:** Marta Kozlova  
**Genre:** Drama  
**In Russian with English subtitles**

Egor is a vet at a training facility for hunting dogs in a remote part of Russia. He treats the dogs, cleans their kennels, oversees the workers, meets with clients and their dogs. But it’s easier for him to get along with the dogs than with people. Egor is willing to take on any job to get closer to the facility master’s family. He wants the impossible — to become a member of the family.

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**Coupled / Двое**

*Tuesday, 27 November 2018 / 20.30*

Regent Street Cinema, 307 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW Tuesday, 27/11

Q&A with director Timofey Zhalnin, producer Alexander Kotelevsky and actress Tatyana Polosina

16+

**Year:** 2018  
**Country:** Russia  
**Running time:** 1h 34 min  
**Director, screenplay:** Timofey Zhalnin  
**Producers:** Alexander Kotelevsky, Andrey Novikov  
**Cast:** Anton Momot, Tatyana Polosina, Alexandra Mareyeva, Andrey Shchepochkin  
**Genre:** Drama  
**In Russian with English subtitles**

A young couple, Andrey and Nadya, are lost in the remote Siberian taiga. It seems that the only way left for them to stay together as a couple is to put themselves in the way of peril. From this very moment begins their difficult path in the fight against personal fears and mistakes of the past...

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**Deep Rivers / Глубокие реки**

*Friday, 30 November 2018 / 18.30*

Regent Street Cinema, 307 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW

Q&A with director Vladimir Bitokov

15+

**Year:** 2017  
**Country:** Russia  
**Running time:** 1h 15 min  
**Director, screenplay:** Vladimir Bitokov  
**Producers:** Nicholas Yankin  
**Cast:** Oleg Guseinov, Rustam Muratov, Mukhamed Sabiev, Takhir Tepleev  
**Genre:** Drama  
**In Russian and Kabardian with English subtitles**

An Old Man, his two sons, Bes and Mukha, and Bes’s wife, Zaira live on the bank of a mountain river. The men earn their living by felling trees. One day the Old Man becomes incapacitated in an accident. The family asks the youngest brother, who lives in the city, to come and help. But it is not easy for the family to overcome old feuds and reconcile their differences.
Elephants Can Play / Слоны могут играть в футбол
Monday, 26 November 2018 / 20.30
Regent Street Cinema, 307 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW
ALSO: Tuesday, 27 November / 18.00
Oxford Curzon Westgate Shopping Centre, Oxford OX1 1NZ
ALSO: Wednesday, 28 November / 18.00
Arts Picture House Cambridge, 38-39 St Andrew’s St, Cambridge CB2 3AR
Q&A with actor Vladimir Mishukov and producer Alexander Kotelevsky

Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 1h 45 min
Director, screenplay: Mikhail Segal
Producers: Andrey Novikov, Alexander Kotelevsky, Sergey Chliyants, Igor Esin, Ruslan Tatarintsev
Cast: Vladimir Mishukov, Sofia Gershevich, Varvara Pakhomova, Alexandra Bystrzhitskaya
Genre: Drama
In Russian with English subtitles

How I Came To Be... / Как я стал...
Thursday, 29 November 2018 / 18.30
Regent Street Cinema, 307 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW
Q&A with director Pavel Mirzoyev

Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 1h 40min
Screenplay: Yaroslava Pulinovich
Director: Pavel Mirzoyev
Producers: Yuriy Obukhov
Cast: Pavel Tabakov, Olga Lerman, Rosa Khairullina, Sergey Puspekalis
Genre: Drama
In Russian with English subtitles

I Am Losing Weight / Я худею
Friday, 30 November 2018 / 18.20
Curzon Mayfair, 38 Curzon St, Mayfair, London W1J 7TY
Q&A with director Alexey Nuzhnyy and actress Irina Gorbacheva

Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 1h 52 min
Screenplay: Nikolay Kulikov, Alexey Nuzhnyy, Konstantin Mayer
Director: Aleksey Nuzhnyy
Producers: Sergey Kornyhin, Nikolay Kulikov, Alexey Nuzhnyy, Alena Kramer, Ekaterina Kononenko, Illya Naishuller
Cast: Aleksandra Bortich, Irina Gorbacheva, Sergey Shnurov, Yevgeniy Kulik
Genre: Comedy
In Russian with English subtitles

Young Sasha has it all thanks to his father — money, cars, the best college education. But Sasha wants to live his life differently, although he doesn’t know how exactly... He dreams of becoming a rock star or a great artist. One day Sasha meets Masha, an extraordinary and complex woman. Her mother, an ageing actress and an alcoholic, is trying to take her own life. Sasha decides to help the girl.

Soyuzmultfilm Animation Studio is proud to present a unique puppet-animation film from director Stanislav Sokolov, with characters created from original drawings by the artist Mikhail Chemyakin. This romantic fantasy, based on the diaries and fiction of the German writer and composer Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann, has been realised with striking artistry and traditional stop motion animation. The screenplay incorporates elements of Hoffmann’s tales *The Golden Pot*, *The Sandman*, and *Little Zaches, Great Cinnabar*.
In the Hood / На районе

Friday, 30 November 2018 / 20.00
Bulgari Hotel Cinema, 171 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1DW
Q&A with director Olga Zuyeva, producer Ruben Dizhdishan and actor Danila Kozlovsky

15+
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 1h 43 min
Director, screenplay: Olga Zuyeva
Producers: Ruben Dizhdishan, Danila Kozlovsky, Sergey Bobza
Cast: Danila Kozlovsky, Ilya Malanin, Angelina Strechina, Elena Obolenskaya, Olga Zueva
Genre: Biography, Drama, Thriller
In Russian with English subtitles

Vova and his best friend Kisa make ends meet by working for the local thug in Vladivostock, Russia until one assignment forces them to question their own morality and puts their friendship to the ultimate test.

Ice / Лёд

Saturday, 1 December 2018 / 20.10
BFI Southbank, NFT1, Belvedere Rd, Lambeth, London SE1 8XT
Q&A with director Oleg Trofim and actress Aglaya Tarasova

12+
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 1h 53 min
Screenplay: Andrey Zolotarev, Oleg Malovichko
Director: Oleg Trofim
Producers: Fedor Bondarchuk, Dmitriy Rudovskiy, Mikhail Vrubel, Anton Zlatopolskiy, Aleksander Andryushchenko
Cast: Aglaya Tarasova, Kseniya Rappoport, Alexander Petrov, Milos Bikovic
Genre: Crime, Drama
In Russian with English subtitles

A musical romantic drama. Nadya gives up her dream of becoming a champion figure skater when she is hospitalised with an injury. But then she meets Sasha, a hockey player, who decides to teach her to believe in herself and her dream again.

Jumpman / Подбросы

Tuesday, 27 November 2018 / 20.30
BFI Southbank, NFT1, Belvedere Rd, Lambeth, London SE1 8XT
Q&A with producer Natalia Mokritskaya and actress Anna Slyu

15+
Year: 2018
Country: Russia, Lithuania, Ireland, France
Running time: 1h 30min
Director, screenplay: Ivan I. Tverdovskiy
Producers: Natalia Mokritskaya
Cast: Denis Vlasenko, Vilma Kutaviciute, Anna Slyu, Daniil Steklov
Genre: Crime, Drama
In Russian with English subtitles

Denis grew up in an orphanage where his mother left him soon after his birth. He has a rare illness: he is immune to pain. Sixteen years later his mother appears out of the blue and takes him away to Moscow. She makes him part of a gang. Denis becomes a ‘jumpman’ – someone who jumps in front of cars to blackmail drivers. Denis enjoys his new life until one day he starts feeling pain again...

Leto, aka Summer / Лето

Wednesday, 28 November / 20.20
BFI Southbank, NFT1, Belvedere Rd, Lambeth, London SE1 8XT
Q&A with actress Irina Starshenbaum and producer Ilya Stewart

15+
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 2h 06 min
Screenplay: Mikhail Idov, Lili Idova, Kirill Serebrennikov, Ivan Kapitonov
Director: Kirill Serebrennikov
Producers: Ilya Stewart, Murad Osmann, Pavel Buria, Mikhail Finogenov
Cast: Teo Yoo, Roma Zver, Irina Starshenbaum, Aleksandr Gorchilin, Nikita Yefremov
Genre: Biography, Music, Romance
In Russian with English subtitles

A love triangle emerges involving a rock musician, his protégé, and his wife in the 1980s Russia. Kirill Serebrennikov, an outspoken critic of the regime, had to finish the film whilst placed under house arrest. He pays an elegiac tribute to the Leningrad underground music scene of his youth just before the dawn of perestroika, casting real musicians as the leads.
Clay Pit / Не чужие
Thursday, 29 November 2018 / 20.30
Regent Street Cinema, 307 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW
Ralph Fiennes presenting Vera Glagoleva’s last film. Q&A with producer Natalia Ivanova, actors Sanzhar Madi, Krivochurov Dmitrii, DOP Alexander Nosovsky.

15+
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 1h 18 min
Screenplay: Olga Pogodina-Kuzmina
Director: Vera Glagoleva (1956–2017)
Producers: Nataliya Ivanova, Maria Ksinopulo, Vera Glagoleva
Cast: Tatyana Vladimirova, Sanjar Madi, Anna Kapaleva, Lilia Volkova
Genre: Drama
In Russian with English subtitles

In the Russian back country life seems to have frozen in the 90s. After an unsuccessful attempt to “conquer Moscow” Mila returns to her mother’s house to heal her wounded pride. Her sister Galya is married to Rustam, a handsome young man from Central Asia. He becomes the cause of serious tensions between the sisters. Then a terrible revelation shatters all their lives…

Peter’s Odyssey / Одиссея Петра
Tuesday, 27 November 2018 / 18.30
Regent Street Cinema, 307 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW
Q&A with director Anna Kolchina and Alexey Kuzmin-Tarasov

12+
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 1h 15 min
Director, screenplay: Anna Kolchina, Alexey Kuzmin-Tarasov
Producers: Konstantin Lusiniyan
Cast: Dmitry Gabrielyan, Svetlana Nemolyaeva
Genre: Drama
In Russian with English subtitles

Peter is a 12-year-old boy, whose blissful summer of 1996 comes to an abrupt end when his parents decide to emigrate to Germany. Unwilling to adapt to the new reality Peter embarks on a fantasy journey back home. Based on a true story.

Salyut-7 / Салют-7
Tuesday, 27 November 2018 / 18.15
Curzon Mayfair, 38 Curzon St, Mayfair, London W1J 7TY
ALSO: Monday, 26 November / 18.00
Arts Picture House Cambridge, 38-39 St Andrew’s St, Cambridge CB2 3AR
Q&A with director Klim Shipenko

15+
Year: 2017
Country: Russia
Running time: 1h 51 min
Screenplay: Aleksey Samoletov, Klim Shipenko, Aleksey Chupov, Natasha Merkulova, Bakur Bakuradze
Director: Klim Shipenko
Producers: Anton Zlatopolskiy, Sergey Selyanov, Bakur Bakuradze
Cast: Vladimir Vdovichenkov, Pavel Derevyanko, Aleksandr Samoylenko, Olga Fandera
Genre: Action, Drama, History
In Russian with English subtitles

USSR, June 1985. After contact with the Salyut-7 space station is lost, it is decided to send a rescue mission into orbit. The space crew must locate the “dead” station and for the first time in history dock with a 20-ton block of out of control metal to bring it back to life. Based on actual events and the story of two Soviet cosmonauts Vladimir Dzhanibekov and Viktor Savinykh.
RUSSIAN FILM WEEK 2018
FEATURE FILMS

**Sobibor / Собибор**

**Thursday, 29 November 2018 / 18.20**
Curzon Mayfair, 38 Curzon St, Mayfair, London W1J 7TY
Q&A with director/actor Konstantin Khabenskiy and actress Mariya Kozhevnikova

**Also:**

**Friday, 30 November / 19.00**
Arts Picture House Cambridge, 38-39 St Andrew’s St, Cambridge CB2 3AR
15+

**Year:** 2018
**Country:** Russia
**Running time:** 1h 26 min
**Screenplay:** Konstantin Khabenskiy, Aleksandr Adabashiyan, Anna Chernakova, Ilya Vasiliev, Andrey Nazarov
**Director:** Konstantin Khabenskiy
**Producers:** Elmira Aynulova, Gleb Fetisov, Maria Zhumakova
**Cast:** Konstantin Khabenskiy, Christopher Lambert, Mariya Kozhevnikova, Michalina Olszanska
**Genre:** Drama, History, War
**In Russian with English subtitles**

The film is based on the history of the Sobibór extermination camp uprising during WWII led by the Soviet officer Alexander Pechersky. As a POW in Sobibor, he managed to do the impossible — to organise a mass escape of the prisoners. Some of the escapees were later caught and executed — the rest led by Pechersky managed to join the partisans. This is the story of the power of the human spirit resisting the soulless destruction machine.

**Suleiman Mountain / Сулейман Гора**

**Friday, 30 November 2018 / 20.30**
Regent Street Cinema, 307 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW
Q&A with producer Elena Yatsura

12+
**Year:** 2017
**Country:** Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Poland
**Running time:** 1h 41 min
**Screenplay:** Alisa Khmelnitskaya
**Director:** Elizaveta Stishova
**Producers:** Elena Yatsura, Viktor Kuzmin, Andrey Devyatkin
**Cast:** Daniel Dairbekov, Turgunai Erkinbekova, Perisat Erbanbaeva
**Genre:** Drama
**In Russian with English subtitles**

A story of a man, torn between two women. Shot on location in and around the mystic World Heritage Site of the Suleiman Mountain in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, the film tells the coming of age story of a grown man who must first lose love in order to find it.

**Temporary Difficulties / Временные трудности**

**Thursday, 29 November 2018 / 18.10**
BFI Southbank, NFT1, Belvedere Rd, Lambeth, London SE1 8XT
Q&A with actor Ivan Okhlobystin and producer Georgiy Malkov

15+
**Year:** 2018
**Country:** Russia
**Running time:** 1h 26 min
**Screenplay:** Nikolay Kovbas, Ivan Kapitonov, Georgiy Malkov, Mikhail Raskhodnikov
**Director:** Mikhail Raskhodnikov
**Producers:** Georgiy Malkov, Vladimir Polyakov, Mikhail Kuchment
**Cast:** Rinal Mukhametov, Ivan Okhlobystin, Ilya Ryazanov, Irina Pegova
**Genre:** Drama
**In Russian with English subtitles**

Sasha Kovalev is suffering from cerebral palsy. It takes hours to cope with simple household tasks. But the boy’s father chooses to treat him as a healthy person: “You have temporary difficulties.” The boy manages to cope, but he hates his father forever. Sasha becomes a successful businessman and one day he gets an unexpected opportunity to get even with his father.

**The Bottomless Bag / Мешок без дна**

**Sunday, 2 December 2018 / 20.00**
Regent Street Cinema, 307 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW
Q&A with director Rustam Khamdamov and producer Tikhon Pendyurin

15+
**Year:** 2017
**Country:** Russia
**Running time:** 1h 44 min
**Screenplay:** Rustam Khamdamov
**Director:** Rustam Khamdamov
**Producers:** Rustam Khamdamov, Lubov Obmynayaya, Tikhon Pendyurin
**Cast:** Svetlana Nemolyaeva, Anna Mikhalikova, Sergey Koltakov, Elena Morozova
**Genre:** Drama, History, Mystery
**In Russian with English subtitles**

A lady-in-waiting tells the Tsar Alexander II a metaphysical story about a 13th century prince who is killed in the woods under mysterious circumstances. The fairy tale characters who have witnessed the terrible death, all share their versions of the events, gradually shedding light on what had really happened. Based on Ryunosuke Akutagawa’s story In a Grove.
**The Coach / Тренер**

*Sunday, 2 December 2018 / 20.30*

BFI Southbank, NFT1, Belvedere Rd, Lambeth, London SE1 8XT

Q&A with director, actor Danila Kozlovsky, actresses Olga Zueva and Irina Gorbacheva

15+

**Year:** 2018  
**Country:** Russia  
**Running time:** 2h 18 min  
**Screenplay:** Sergey Chetverukhin, Danila Kozlovsky, Andrey Zolotarev  
**Director:** Danila Kozlovsky  
**Producers:** Petr Anurov, Danila Kozlovsky, Nikita Mikhalkov, Leonid Vereshchagin  
**Cast:** Danila Kozlovsky, Vladimir Ilyin, Olga Zueva, Irina Gorbacheva  
**Genre:** Drama, Sport  
**In Russian with English subtitles**

Contemporary Russia. After failing to score a penalty, a humiliated national football star quits the big game altogether. He flees to a small town, where he decides to coach a local team. But it is with this team that he will perform a miracle and find confidence in himself.

**The Forest / Лес**

*Saturday, 1 December 2018 / 18.00*

Regent Street Cinema, 307 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW

Q&A with director Roman Zhigalov and actress Natalya Rychkova

15+

**Year:** 2018  
**Country:** Russia  
**Running time:** 1h 37 min  
**Screenplay:** Roman Zhigalov  
**Director, screenplay:** Roman Zhigalov  
**Cast:** Oleg Shibayev, Natalia Rychkova, Oleg Feoktistov, Maria Avramkova  
**Genre:** Drama, Romance  
**In Russian with English subtitles**

Danila is sixteen. Katya is twice his age. He spends hours watching her clandestinely from an old shed. He does not even think about trying to be with her until his father shows up on Katya's doorstep... Father and Son are drawn into tumultuous events where the strong show more and more disregard and contempt towards the weak, pushing everyone's life to the brink of disaster.

**The Last Hero / Последний богатырь**

*Sunday, 2 December 2018 / 13.30*

Regent Street Cinema, 307 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW

Q&A with director Dmitriy Dyachenko and actor Viktor Khorinyak

15+

**Year:** 2017  
**Country:** Russia  
**Running time:** 1h 54 min  
**Screenplays:** Pavel Danilov, Vasiliy Kutsenko, Vitaliy Shlyappo, Igor Tuvdasev, Dmitry Yan  
**Director:** Dmitriy Dyachenko  
**Producers:** Eduard Iloyan, Marina Zhigalova-Ozkan  
**Cast:** Viktor Khorinyak, Ekaterina Vilkova, Mila Sivatskaya, Elena Yakovleva  
**Genre:** Action, Adventure, Comedy  
**In Russian with English subtitles**

Ivan is an ordinary guy, who by mere chance is transferred from modern Moscow to a fantasy land called Belogorie. This parallel world is inhabited by characters from Russian fairy-tales. Ivan turns up in the middle of a battle between the forces of light and darkness, although it’s unclear why he plays the leading role in these events.

**The Story of an Appointment / История одного назначения**

*Sunday, 25 November 2018 / 17.30*

Empire IMAX, 5-6, Leicester Square, London WC2H 7NA

Q&A with director Avdotya Smirnova and actor Alexey Smirnov

**ALSO:**  
*Thursday, 29 November 2018 / 18.00*  
Oxford Curzon Westgate Shopping Centre, Oxford OX1 1NZ

Q&A with actress Irina Gorbacheva

**ALSO:**  
*Friday, 30 November / 18.30*  
Screening Room, 50 George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9JU

12+

**Year:** 2017  
**Country:** Russia  
**Running time:** 1h 52 min  
**Screenplays:** Anna Parmas, Avdotya Smirnova  
**Director:** Avdotya Smirnova  
**Producers:** Sergey Selyanov, Nataliya Smirnova, Viktoria Shamilkashvili  
**Cast:** Irina Gorbacheva, Evgeniy Khartonov, Aleksey Smirnov, Filipp Gurevich, Anna Mikhalkova  
**Genre:** Drama  
**In Russian with English subtitles**

A poignant and tragic story about an event that involved the famous writer Count Leo Tolstoy. A soldier from an infantry regiment based not far away from Tolstoy’s family estate is accused of committing a crime and faces a military tribunal and execution. The officer in charge turns for help to Tolstoy, who decides to protect the innocent man.
Van Goghs / Ван Гоги
Thursday, 29 November 2018 / 19.30
VIP screening, Bulgari Hotel Cinema, 171 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1DW
Q&A with director Sergey Livnev and actor Aleksey Serebryakov
15+
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 1h 43 min
Director, screenplay: Sergey Livnev
Producers: Sergey Bobza, Sergey Livnev, Igor Pronin
Cast: Aleksey Serebryakov, Daniel Olbrychsky, Elena Koreneva, Polina Agureeva, Natalia Negoda, Svetlana Nemolyaeva
Genre: Drama
In Russian with English subtitles
The highs and lows of a love-hate relationship between an oppressive father and his miserable middle-aged son. More hate than love. Viktor calls his son by his childhood nickname Birdie, which infuriates the son. Mark calls his father Your Majesty, which infuriates the father. After the Viktor is diagnosed with a fatal illness, the father and son set off on a difficult journey that leads from hate to love.

Witnesses / Свидетели
Wednesday, 28 November / 19.30
VIP screening, Bulgari Hotel Cinema, 171 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1DW
Q&A with director Konstantin Fam, actress Oksana Fandera
12+
Year: 2018
Country: Russia, Belarus, Czech Republic, Poland, France, Israel
Running time: 1h 44 min
Director, screenplay: Konstantin Fam
Producers: Boris Mints, Egor Odintsov, Alexey Petrukhin, Oleg Stepchenko
Cast: Oksana Fandera, Filipp Yanovsky, Vladimir Koshevoy, Lenn Kudryavitsky
Genre: Drama
In Russian with English subtitles
The film tells about the history of the Holocaust through the stories of its unwitting witnesses. At the beginning of the 20th century a unique violin was created in a workshop, intended as a gift for a talented Jewish boy. The violin becomes the focal point of the tragic events, becoming one of these ‘unwitting witnesses’.

VMayakovsky / ВМаяковский
Thursday, 29 November 2018 / 18.00
EBRD, One Exchange Square, London EC2A 2JN
Q&A with director Aleksandr Sheyn
ALSO: Wednesday, 28 November / 18.30
Q&A with director Aleksandr Sheyn
15+
Year: 2017
Country: Russia
Running time: 2h 02 min
Screenplays: Arkadiy Vakcberb, Aleksandr Sheyn, Aleksandr Sheyn S, Vladimir Gromov, Denis Neimand, Irina Margolina
Director: Aleksandr Sheyn
Producers: Viktor Tankov, Gia Lordkipanidze
Cast: Chulpan Khamatova, Yuri Kolokolnikov, Liudmila Maksakova, Yevgeniy Mironov, Mikhail Yefremov, Nikita Yefremov
Genre: Biography, Drama
In Russian with English subtitles
The actors become the characters of the film before the very eyes of the viewers: the poet, Vladimir Mayakovsky; the women he loved and the ones who left him; the friends who admired him and those who betrayed him; the ruthless “Knights of the Revolution” who proclaimed him their hero — all this with the aim of making the audience relive Mayakovsky’s life and loves, his creativity and human drama as their own.
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*a Full-flat – fully reclining seats. ** Varies depending on configuration of aircraft type.

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DOCUMENTARY FILMS
**Asino / Осён**

**Sunday, 2 December 2018 / 14.00**

BFI Southbank, NFT2, Belvedere Rd, Lambeth, London SE1 8XT

Q&A with director Anatoly Vasilyev

12+

**Year: 2017**

**Country:** Switzerland, Russia

**Running time:** 2h 47 min

**Director, screenplay:** Anatoly Vasilyev

**Producers:** Yuriy Krestinskiy, Anatoly Vasilyev

**Cast:** donkey Apollo, donkey Ares, donkey Fina, donkey Pirandello, donkey Zeus et al

**Genre:** Documentary, Mystery

**In Russian with English subtitles**

The celebrated Russian theatre director Anatoly Vasilyev’s Asino (Italian for donkey) is an epic ode to this beast of burden. The donkey has a long cultural history dating back to Greek mythology and the Bible. Asino consists of eight novellas, approximately 20 minutes long. Shot in Italy, the film teeters between reality and allegory, asking the viewers to reflect on what they see.

**Genesis 2.0**

**Saturday, 1 December 2018 / 13.00**

BFI Southbank, NFT3, Belvedere Rd, Lambeth, London SE1 8XT

12+

**Year: 2018**

**Country:** Switzerland, China, Russia, South Korea, USA

**Running time:** 1h 52 min

**Director, screenplay:** Christian Frei

**Producers:** Christian Frei, Maxim Arbugaev — 2017 Russian Film Week participant and The Golden Unicorn Award winner

**Cast:** Rezo Gigineishvili, Lasha Bugadze, Tinatin Dalakishvili, Irakli Kvirikadze, Nadezhda Mikhalkova, Mariya Shalayeva and the real participants of the events in 1983

**Genre:** Documentary, History

**In Russian with English subtitles**

A documentary about the shooting of the film Hostages (participant of RFW-2017) and the tragedy in Georgia in November 1983, when a group of youngsters from elite Georgian families tried to hijack an aircraft in order to escape from the USSR. The documentary features surviving witnesses to and participants in those events, together with the creators of the film, who are trying to comprehend and come to terms with the national tragedy 35 years after the event.

**Hostages: It Was Important to Understand... / Заложники: было важно понять...**

**Friday, 30 November 2018 / 15.00**

Regent Street Cinema, 307 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW

Q&A with director Elena Slatina

12+

**Year: 2018**

**Country:** Russia

**Running time:** 1h 33min

**Director, screenplay:** Elena Slatina

**Producers:** Tamuna Shengelia

**Cast:** Rezo Gigineishvili, Lasha Bugadze, Tinatin Dalakishvili, Irakli Kvirikadze, Nadezhda Mikhalkova, Mariya Shalayeva and the real participants of the events in 1983

**Genre:** Documentary, History

**In Russian with English subtitles**

**INTO_nation of the Great Odessa / Инто_национальность Большой Одессы**

**Thursday, 29 November 2018 / 19.00**

Pushkin House, 5A Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2TA

Q&A with producer Susanna Alperina and actress Oxana Fandera

12+

**Year: 2018**

**Country:** Russia, Ukraine

**Running time:** 1h 44 min

**Screenplay:** Aleksandr Brunkovsky, Susanna Alperina

**Director:** Aleksandr Brunkovsky

**Producers:** Susanna Alperina

**Cast:** Alexandr Zhvanetskiy, Roman Kartsev, Leonid Barats, Rostislav Khait, Viktor Loshak, Oksana Fandera

**Genre:** Documentary

**In Russian with English subtitles**

All the characters in this film are in some sense orphans because they’ve lost their homeland — their city in which they were born. They have travelled all over the world and speak in different languages with their children. And not all of their children understand the specific language and humour that our heroes took with them. Why do these people remember their city? Would they like to go back there and why? For what?
Alexander Smoljansky, Director:

“We dedicate this film to the memory of Oscar Rabin, who died on November 7, 2018. Why do so many tragedies fall on this particular day? Is it a coincidence that Oscar passed away not in his Paris apartment, opposite the Museum of Modern Art, which, paradoxically enough, he tried to avoid by all costs, but in Florence, next to the artists he loved so much? He died in a hospital, surrounded by his drawings made there. He died doing his job, just like Moliere died on stage. His exhibition opened in Florence the following day.

Ars longa.

A beautiful death. But his life was even more beautiful. Few have managed to go through life with such dignity, with the head held high, with a wise, mischievous smile. He never resorted to lies, cozied up to someone or made a fuss about selling his works. He never trusted the authorities, never feared them nor asked for anything — following the Gulag’s unwritten code. He showed us all — without any pathos or heroics — how to stay free in a country not intended for freedom. He never compromised with his perpetrators, never betrayed his ideals.

Only now I come to understand how wonderful the past eight years have been, whilst we were working together on our film. And how fortunate I am to have hundreds of photographs, dozens of hours of recorded conversations and even more conversations left only in memory. Now only in mine, alas.

A whole era has passed away with Oscar, and a new one is yet to come. As the artist Oleg Tselkov said in our previous film In Search of a Lost Paradise: the true place of an artist becomes clear only after his death. As always, Oscar was an exception of an artist. As always, he always will.”

Oscar / Оскар
Tuesday, 27 November 2018 / 19.30
VIP screening, Bulgari Hotel Cinema, 171 Knightsbridge, London SW1 1DW

ALSO:

Friday, 30 November 2018 / 18.00
Oxford Curzon Westgate Shopping Centre, Oxford OX1 1NZ

ALSO:

Saturday, 1 December 2018 / 15:00
Pushkin House, 5A Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2TA

Q&A with director with directors Alexander Smoljanski, Yevgeny Tsymbal

12+
Year: 2018
Country: Russia, Germany, France, USA

Running time: 90 min / 52min

Screenplay:
Director: Alexander Smoljanski, Yevgeny Tsymbal
Producer: Alexander Smoljanski
Cast: Oskar Rabin, Boris Akunin, Liudmila Ullitskaya, Evgeny Kissin, Oleg Tselkov, Maya Turovskaya — as themselves

Genre: Documentary, Biography, History

In Russian with English subtitles

The story of the famous artist Oscar Rabin set against the background of three decades of the Soviet history and his successful attempt to confront the regime with paints and brushes. This is a story about non-violent resistance to the forces of evil, about the borders of compromise, about people who tried to preserve internal freedom in a country that wasn’t free.

The Book of the Sea / Книга моря
Sunday, 2 December 2018 / 17.00
Regent Street Cinema, 307 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW

Q&A with director Leo Gabriadze

Year: 2017
Country: Russia
Running time: 1h 02 min

Screenplay: Revaz Gabriadze
Director: Levan Gabriadze
Producer: Timur Bekmambetov, Timur Asadov, Veronika Belenikina

Genre: Documentary, Animation, Biography

In Russian with English subtitles

In the frigid waters off of Russia’s Bering Strait, Inuit and Chukchi hunters still seek out the giant sea mammals that sustained their people since time immemorial. Life meets myth as a new generation of hunters sets out to sea to hunt the whales, walruses, and seals that have tied them to these remote shores since the beginning of time. The contemporary story of elders Alexander and Alexei blends seamlessly with that of “the woman who gave birth to a whale” and other ancient myths, told here in vivid animation, in this ongoing struggle for survival and preservation of a traditional lifestyle in one of the most remote places on earth. A spectacular and visually impressive cinematic story about the vitality of the ancient Arctic culture.
Uncle Sasha, or one flew over Russia / Дядя Саша или полёт над Россией

Thursday, 27 November 2018 / 19.00
Pushkin House, 5A Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2TA
12+
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 58min
Director, screenplay: Tatyana Soboleva
Producer: Sergey Zernov
Genre: Documentary

In Russian with English subtitles

Uncle Sasha is a dreamer who lives on an island in a remote, dead village surrounded by water. He dreams of the restoration of the monarchy and the revival of the wise Russian way of life. He has decided to implement his utopia in one particular place. Every spring he builds a bridge which is thereupon broken by the ice in winter. Now Uncle Sasha has started his thirtieth bridge.

Victim Status / Статус жертвы

Monday, 26 November 2018 / 19.00
Pushkin House, 5A Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2TA
18+
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 33 min
Director, screenplay: Yulia Bobkova
Cast: Kseniya Samoilova, Aleksandr Pronkin, Victoria Dobrolubova, Eleksey Ivanov, Sofia and Artem Kluchnikov, Tatiana Zhukas, Lidia Kopina, Alexey Zverev
Genre: Documentary

In Russian with English subtitles

Through their stories of physical and psychological trauma seven domestic violence victims and the film director talk about common behavioural stereotypes in modern society. Every one of us could find themselves, sooner or later, in this triangle: victim-aggressor-saviour. The film suggests that no matter how terrible the situation is, one must take responsibility for one’s life and feel free to begin living and loving again.
RUSSIAN FILM WEEK 2018

SHORT FILMS

RFW Short Films Programme

A selection of films competing for the best short Golden Unicorn Award and participating in the RFW program — mostly young filmmakers, winners and participants of international film festivals.

Selection #1

Monday, 26 November 2018 / 18.30
Regent Street Cinema, 307 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW

Q&As with the short films directors and producers followed by a short discussion: feature works in short form
All films are in Russian with English subtitles

Anna vice Versa / Аня наоборот

Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 20 min
Director and scriptwriter: Yana Gladkikh, Nastya Kuznetsova
Producer: Anna Kuznetsova
Cast: Polina Agureeva, Pavel Chinaryov, Evgeniy Sytyy
Genre: Drama/Comedy

One day Anna gets an anonymous bouquet which turns her life around. But instead of love, she finds herself on a railway track.

The Truth / Правда

Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 4:19 min
Director and scriptwriter: Tatyana Polosina, Mickail Segal
Producer: Pavel Lilenfeld
Cast: Maxim Gromov, Nadezhda Gorelova
Genre: Comedy

Horror about — conjugal duty.

The Sign / Знак

Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 25 min
Director and scriptwriter: Svetlana Samoshina, Anna Arushanyan
Producer: Max Volovik
Cast: Alexey Rozin, Nadezhda Lumpova, Alexandra Rebenok, Anna Kotova, Darya Savelieva, Evgeniy Sytyy, Anna Galinova
Genre: Comedy

An ordinary couple in a longstanding relationship struggle to find the path to happiness.

Russian death / Русская смерть

Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 29:59
Director and scriptwriter: Vladimir Mirzoev, Irina Vaskovskaya
Producer: Evgeniya Solianikh, Anna Ivannikova
Cast: Evgeniya Solianikh, Nadezhda Igoshina, Evgeniy Tsypanov
Genre: Drama

Valya had always been dreaming about living in Venice so she sold her Moscow flat and left. The younger sister, Nadezhd, remained alone in the country house. After a few years Valya became disenchanted with Venice and returned. Now, “in a Chekhovian way”, both sisters live in a house with a mezzanine; this is what you call loneliness together. They became stuck between past and present. Behind the gates you find the frightening and incomprehensible everyday life, into which you “enter each time like into an Odyssey”. One day Alexey appears, a mature man with an intelligent face. Nadia snaps him up but Valya also likes him. A classic love triangle? No, our sisters have very different plans for Alexey...
Farewell, my love! / Прощай, любимый!
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 08:40
Director and scriptwriter: Alexander Tsypkin, Ksenia Rappoport, Pavel Kapinos
Producer: Elena Yanbukhtina
Cast: Ksenia Rappoport, Alexander Tsypkin
Genre: Drama/Comedy

Farewell, my love! A monologue with an unforeseen finale. Perhaps the most honest account of what women whose husbands leave them for a younger mistress experience.

MUTE
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 9.18 min
Director and scriptwriter: Nikita Vlasov, Philip Frolov
Producer: LLC “Sergey Bondarchuk Russian Film School”
Cast: Alexander Ilyin, John Staroverov, Sasha Topuria
Genre: Drama

Following his mother’s sudden death little Sasha is left to live with his deaf father, who is now faced with a challenge: to make his son feel heard.

The Shimmering / Мерцание
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 29 mins 46 seconds
Director and scriptwriter: Ksenia Zueva
Producer: Victor Stroilov, Darina Griboedova
Cast: Anastasia Bakova, Nikolay Kislichenko, Boris Fomenko
Genre: Erotic Thriller

Two complete strangers meet each other at the dramatic and sad funeral of a very young man. They are affected by the strong feelings and emotions caused by death and they find themselves in the same bed, experiencing an inexplicably strong attraction to each other. They will spend several passionate days and nights together in one apartment, in a strange erotic adventure, isolated from the world and reality, during which they will have a complete rethink of life, each in their own way. Until, finally, one of them realises that the obsession has led them too far, and the adventure takes a dangerous turn. Perhaps one of them is not who they seem and poses a threat.

The Tree / Дерево
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 21:42 min
Director and scriptwriter: Hava Mukhiyeva
Producer: Hava Mukhiyeva
Cast: Salihat Mukhiyeva, Said-Ahmed Mukhiyev, Mila Fakhurdinova, Mukhazhir Dolakov, Iman Esimbaeva, Adam Israpilov, Leila Sultygova, Ami Amer
Genre: Drama

Hava and Adam live next door and like their parents are friends. The children pass letters to each other, hiding them in a tree hollow. They love the tree and confide their secrets to it. They are dreamers living in their fantasy world. Asian, Adam’s father, runs a business in town and comes back to the village one day. Sultan, Hava’s father, like many other of their neighbours, is happy for his success and celebrates his coming home. Unfortunately not all of the villagers share these feelings...

It / Оно
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 10:56 min
Director and scriptwriter: Ilya Sherstobitov, Lyudmila Maksimova
Producer: Ilya Sherstobitov, Daniil Atunlese
Cast: Evgenia Kazakova, Seva Galkin
Genre: Drama

City, Crimea, present day. Seva and transsexual Jenya are lovers who have been secretly seeing each other for a long time. Seva is really serious and wants to get to know Dima — Jenya’s teenage son. Dima goes in for boxing, actively participating in fights with his friends. He persecutes those who are different. After spending the night with Jenya, Seva goes outside to start the car when he meets Dima with his bullies. Suspecting Seva of being a homosexual they beat him violently stopping only when they hear Jenya screaming.

The Tree / Дерево
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 21:42 min
Director and scriptwriter: Hava Mukhiyeva
Producer: Hava Mukhiyeva
Cast: Salihat Mukhiyeva, Said-Ahmed Mukhiyev, Mila Fakhurdinova, Mukhazhir Dolakov, Iman Esimbaeva, Adam Israpilov, Leila Sultygova, Ami Amer
Genre: Drama

Hava and Adam live next door and like their parents are friends. The children pass letters to each other, hiding them in a tree hollow. They love the tree and confide their secrets to it. They are dreamers living in their fantasy world. Asian, Adam’s father, runs a business in town and comes back to the village one day. Sultan, Hava’s father, like many other of their neighbours, is happy for his success and celebrates his coming home. Unfortunately not all of the villagers share these feelings...

Wings / Крылья
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 14.10 min
Director and scriptwriter: Zurab Dzhidzhilava
Producer: Zurab Dzhidzhilava
Cast: Tatiana Timakova, Alexey Rogozhin
Genre: Drama

The collapse of the USSR did not pass without bloodshed. In some republics, including Lithuania, there were clashes between the local civilians and the Soviet military. The drama takes place on a Soviet airliner where the stewardess is trying to save those on board from a terrorist and also at the same time to save her relationship with her husband.
RUSSIAN FILM WEEK 2018

Selection #3
Saturday, 1 December 2018 / 17:00
Pushkin House, 5A Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2TA
Q&As with the short films directors and producers followed by a short discussion: feature works in short form
All films are in Russian with English subtitles

God does exist/ Бог есть
(God does exist, or Where Do Babies Come From)
Year: 2017
Country: Russia
Running time: 10 min
Director and scriptwriter: Guzel Sultanova, Olesya Eliseyeva
Producer: Guzel Sultanova
Cast: Yuliya Sules, Xenia Petrukhina, Yana Gornaya
Genre: Tragicomedy, drama
USSR, early 1990s. Two elementary school girls are about to be accepted into Soviet Pioneers Organization. At this time they discovered the Kama-Sutra and realised that grown-ups had lied to them about where babies come from. But Pioneers Rules read that the Soviet Pioneer is honest and trustworthy comrade, who must always stand up for the Truth! The girls decide to act. However, their attempt to tell the Truth to everyone fails, and girls await a terrible punishment. To find a way out, they begin to pray, as the Grandma of one of them taught. And what do you think?! Exactly at this point an event occurs which changes their lives... and the life of the entire country. And now only the future will show whether God (or someone else?) heard their prayers.

Confession of a Misanthrope / Исповедь мизантропа
Year: 2017
Country: Russia
Running time: 25.28 min
Director and scriptwriter: Tatiana Zholkova, Ekaterina Artemova
Producer: Tatiana Zholkova
Cast: Andrey Iliin, Ivan Semenov
Genre: Drama
A humble college teacher wants to perform a real deed for once in his life. He spirits away a street hooligan and enchains him. However, the teacher’s purpose is not a violation, but an education. He will turn scum into a human.

Update/delete
Year: 2017
Country: Russia
Running time: 10 min
Director and scriptwriter: Grigory Kalinin, Alexey Ilyin
Producer: Ilya Skvororodina, Grigory Kalinin
Cast: Ilya Ilyin, Artur Muhamedyarov, Egor Rybakov, Valentina Panina, Rodion Galuchenko
Genre: experimental
Do you know what goes on in the head of a person you pass in the street?

God does exist/ Бог есть
(God does exist, or Where Do Babies Come From)
Year: 2017
Country: Russia
Running time: 10 min
Director and scriptwriter: Denis Simachev
Producer: Iris Ivanova, Maxim Lebedev
Cast: Alexey Vertkov, Sofya Tsyganova, Svetlana Bondarchuk, Pavel Derevyanko, Sergey Bondarchuk, Alexey Karnaukhov, Andrey Tayson, Alexander Borodulin
Genre: Drama
Sergey lives the ordinary life of family man and small businessman, but by misfortune, he becomes the victim of murderers. Sergey’s last words turn out to be unexpected after which he is even prepared to fire the fatal shot himself. It turns out that we all have many confessions to make before we die, and it’s sometimes more difficult to live with them rather than to die.

The Attraction / Влечение
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 15 min
Director and scriptwriter: Dmitry Tarkhov
Producer: Kira Ulanova
Cast: Anna Melnikova, Kirill Kovbas, Nikita Sanaev, Nikolay Kovbas
Genre: Comedy
The inability to hear each other, even if people have a common goal, often leads to serious problems, and in this story — to tragedy.

The Bribe / Взятка
Year: 2018
Country: Russia
Running time: 12.17 min
Director and scriptwriter: Alexey Kharitonov
Producer: Kirill Alekhin, Dmitry Sharov, Pavel Roytberg
Cast: Mikhail Trukhin, Sergey Burunov, Nikolay Kovbas, Sergey Aninets, Alexander Revenko
Genre: Comedy
A man offers a bribe to an investigator in order to induce him to close a case concerning a bribe, but it goes wrong.
A special screening in Pushkin House

**Monday, 26 November 2018 / 20.30**

**I killed Alex / Я убила Лёшу**

*Year:* 2018  
*Country:* Russia  
*Running time:* 19 min  
*Director and scriptwriter:* Galiya Fatkhutdinova  
*Producers:* Kira Ulanova  
*Cast:* Dariya Gomez, Olga Lebedeva, Pavel Goncharov, Nikita Ovchinnikov  
*Genre:* Drama

Young girl finds herself locked in empty apartment without food, water and any ways to contact the world outside. After useless attempts to get away she realises the one and only answer to her sufferings: long time ago in this very apartment the other person used to suffer as well. Because of her.

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Short Films Selection screened in Cambridge

**Anna vice Versa / Wings / 628 / The Sign / Farewell, my love!**

*Saturday, 1 December 2018 / 17.00*

*Venue:* Arts Picture House Cambridge, 38-39 St Andrew's St, Cambridge CB2 3A

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**Best Short Golden Unicorn Award Nominated Films**

(see pages 52-53)
EVENTS

Samoel Katsev. True Lenfilm
26 November – 2 December 2018
Opening: 27 November 2018

Rarely did photographers working at the Soviet film studios become famous: the profession was considered merely practical, and they would never receive any credit for the ‘film stills’ published for promotion. Samoel ‘Elik’ Katsev, artist and photographer, a brilliant master and a legend of the Lenfilm, is virtually unknown outside the studio. The exhibition aims to fill this gap by offering the viewer to get acquainted with Katsev through his works and discover the world of film production in the 1970s and 1980s Leningrad.

Samoel Katsev’s archive, including his hand-crafted prints, negatives, and slides, was donated to ROSPHOTO by his wife, Tamara Seferyan. Unfortunately, many works were lost for good a long time ago, during Katsev’s own lifetime. We now face a great challenge of identifying the photographs, editing a catalog, and introducing the work by Katsev into broader cultural context.

Esquire Russia Presents Talent
Thursday, 29 November 2018 / 15.00

There aren’t any boundaries anymore, except those built by politicians. Especially, if we talk about motion pictures. A public talk hosted by Esquire Russia magazine about contemporary Russian and British cinematographers: who are they, what are their thoughts, how they see things, what they have in common? You will have a chance to see new talents and get acquainted with our upcoming stars and ask them your questions, in this unique interactive discussion.

Jeweller’s Jubilee: Represent Vladimir Mashkov, Marina Zudina and Pavel Tabakov
Sunday, 2 December 2018 / 18.00

Recorded during live performance at the Chekhov Moscow Art Theatre. Presented by special arrangement with Kultura State Broadcasting Company. The play “Jeweler’s Jubilee” was chosen by Oleg Tabakov for his 80th anniversary and was offered for Konstantin Bogomolov for staging. This is the story of an old man, who is reaching his limits, but very calmly and with dignity looks ahead.

Oleg Tabakov: Shaping the Face
1-6 December 2018

Oleg Tabakov, Russia’s most loved, respected and celebrated actor, passed away earlier this year in Moscow. He was the Producing Artistic Director of the Chekhov Moscow Art Theatre, Founding Artistic Director of the Tabakov Theatre, Head of Acting and the former Dean of the Moscow Art Theatre School, and Founding Director of the Tabakov State College of Acting.

On Friday 30 November at the Pushkin House we will gather to open his photo exhibition, to celebrate his life and to remember his inspiring artistic pursuit. Actor by the grace of God, he will by remembered not only as a creator of stage and screen masterpieces, but as an outstanding theatre producer. Tribute to him are several generations of great Russian actors, best stage directors who got airborne under his guidance, and more importantly — thousands of younger theatregoers who learned to love and appreciate performing arts thanks to his tireless and inspiring work. Entrance to the Opening by invitation only.

Pushkin House, 5A Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2TA
**Industry Forum**

**Wednesday, 28 November, 2018 / 11.00 – 19.00**  
**Friday, 30 November, 2018 / 11.00 – 19.00**

This is a networking event for the film industry professionals. RFW brings over film directors, producers and actors to represent each of the 45 films screened during the festival. They arrive to meet with their counterparts in Britain, pitch their ideas or take part in casting sessions.

To facilitate this mutually beneficial cooperation RFW is inviting producers, distributors, casting agents, screenwriting experts, investors, lawyers and other professionals specializing in the filmmaking business from Britain and other countries of the world.

On the Forum we will be holding several sessions with the experts in each field listed below and you will also have an opportunity to meet your prospective partners, consultants, make personal contacts:

1. Filming opportunities in Russia and in the UK  
2. Independent films distribution  
3. Film financing (Private, Government, Tax Rebate)

There will be also separate sessions for Casting and Pitching.

Refreshments will be offered.

By accreditations only.

**BFI Southbank, Belvedere Rd, South Bank, London SE1 8XT**

**Masterclass with actor Vladimir Mashkov**

**Sunday, 2 December 2018 / 14.00**

Meet the award-winning Russian film and stage actor, renowned director and acting teacher, and newly appointed Artistic Director of the Oleg Tabakov Theatre, Vladimir Mashkov.

Vladimir will be discussing his career journey from Siberia to Hollywood via Moscow, and his lifelong commitment to the Stanislavsky method and its relevance today. Following this conversation, there will be a question and answer session, and some workshop exercises incorporating Stanislavsky’s method of physical action.

Introductory remarks and moderation will be by acclaimed British stage and film actor, director, producer, and Russian Film Week 2018 Jury Chair, Brian Cox.

As part of Masterclass’ charitable mandate, this masterclass is free for anyone aged 30 & under, if you are over 30 tickets may be purchased for £10. All proceeds go to supporting the work of both Masterclass and Russian Film Week.

The masterclass will be held in Russian and English, with translation by Alexander Popov (International Producer, Chekhov Moscow Theatre)

**Theatre Royal Haymarket, 18 Suffolk Street, London, SW1Y 4HT**

**Masterclass with director Anatoly Vasiliev**

**Monday, 3 December 2018 / 19:00**

An exclusive talk from leading Russian theatre director and experimentalist. After a lifetime of creating cutting-edge laboratory-based theatre, Vasiliev has left Russia and turned to film. His film «Asino», will be shown during Russian Film Week. During the evening’s discussion, Vasiliev will be in conversation with his long-term translator Natalia Isaeva, about his life in theatre, leaving Russia, and his new film, dedicated to the humble donkey.

Shot in Italy, Asino teeters between reality and allegory. The chapter titles (Bacchus, Medea, etc.) and quotes from Apuleius, Pirandello and Aeschylus provide context. One part of the film documents donkey worship in Alba, Italy, where donkey races are held during the Palio. In Asino, donkeys are shown as simultaneously domesticated animals, and divine, mythological creatures.

Vasiliev says of the film: ‘it is in praise of the donkey. The content is simple: it is a hymn to that humble and arrogant creature.’

Asino is a Swiss production (2017) made in Italy using documentary material. It was selected for the official program “Signatures” at the Rotterdam International Film Festival, 2018

**Pushkin House, 5A Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2TA**

**TV3 and Gazprom Media present: Gogol. A Terrible Vengeance**

**Saturday, 1 December 2018 / 13:00**

A special screening of “Gogol. A Terrible Vengeance” by TV3 and Gazprom Media at the luxurious Mayfair Hotel. This will be followed by a Q&A with the film cast and Gazprom Media management.

**Stratton St, Mayfair, London W1J 8LT**
TRIBUTES TO OLEG TABAKOV

“Whenever we met there was always a great deal of laughter and a great dealing of running about: running the school, running the studio theatre, running out of Moscow to small towns to raise money for the school productions, as well as mounting his own production of Biloxi Blues by Neil Simon. This formidable talent for keeping moving and keeping everyone else moving, is why I affectionately nicknamed him Bely Krolik, ‘The White Rabbit’ from Alice in Wonderland. You just need one man like this, one Tabakov, and a theatre can be sustained for 50 years... he is and will be greatly missed.”

Brian Cox  
Actor, director

“Традиции шекспировского театра были важны для Олега Павловича, он мечтал, чтобы артисты становились свободными. Наш первый въезд за рубеж был в конце восьмидесятых годов в Лондон, еще во время учёбы в Школе-студии МХАТ. И в этой поезде мы открыли мир. Первым приглашённым зарубежным режиссёром был Брайан Кокс — это первый опыт международного сотрудничества для нас, молодых артистов. Наш учитель соединил нас с лучшими представителями английской культуры».

Владимир Машков  
Художественный руководитель Театра Олега Табакова

“Среди наших студентов и преподавателей вряд ли найдётся такой человек, который не был бы знаком с творчеством Олега Табакова, и мы все скорбим о его утрате. Но такие люди как Олег Павлович не уходят бесследно — память о них будет жить вечно. Поэтому мы уверены, что наши соотечественники в Лондоне придут на мероприятия, которые мы организуем, чтобы почтить память великого артиста».

Вадим Лобов  
Сопродюсер фестиваля, исполнительный директор  
Университета «Синергия»
RUSSIAN FILM WEEK 2018

THE GOLDEN UNICORN AWARDS
**IN COMPETITION 2018**

**Best Film / Лучший фильм**
- Anna's War / Война Анны
- Core of the World / Сердце мира
- Elephants Can Play Football / Слоны тоже играют в футбол
- How Viktor “the Garlic” Took Alexey “the Stud” to the Nursing Home / Как Витька Чеснок вёз Лёху Штыря в дом инвалидов
- The Story of an Appointment / История одного назначения

**Best Documentary From Russia:**
- Asino / Осёл
- Hostages: It Was Important to Understand / Заложники: было важно понять.
- INTO_nation of the Great Odessa / ИНТО_нация Большой Одессы
- Oscar / Оскар
- REZO / Знаешь, мама, где я был?
- Uncle Sasha, or One Flew over Russia / Дядя Саша, или полёт над Россией
- Victim Status / Статус жертвы
- 87 Children
- Crystal Swan
- One Man Dies a Million Times
- Russian Bride Translator

**Best Actor:**
- Dmitry Podnozov (Core of the World) / Дмитрий Поднозов (Сердце мира)
- Evgeny Tkachuk (How Viktor “the Garlic” Took Alexey “the Stud” to the Nursing Home) / Евгений Ткачук (Как Витька Чеснок вёз Лёху Штыря в дом инвалидов)
- Pavel Tabakov (How I came To Be) / Павел Табаков ( Как я стал...)
- Stepan Devonin (Core of the World) / Степан Девонин (Сердце мира)
- Vladimir Mishukov (Elephants Can Play Football) / Владимир Мишуков (Слоны тоже играют в футбол)

**Best Actress:**
- Aglaya Tarasova (Ice) / Аглая Тарасова (Лёд)
- Alexandra Bortich (Loosing Weight) / Александра Бортич (Я худею)
- Anna Slyu (Jumpman) / Анна Слю (Подбросы)
- Irina Gorbacheva (The Story of an Appointment) / Ирина Горбачёва (История одного назначения)
- Irina Starshenbaum (Summer) / Ирина Старшенбаум (Лето)
- Marta Kozlova (Anna’s War) / Марта Козлова (Война Анны)
- Aglaya Tarasova (Ice) / Аглая Тарасова (Лёд)

**Best Screenplay / Лучший сценарий:**
- Anna’s War / Война Анны
- Core of the World / Сердце мира
- Elephants Can Play Football / Слоны тоже играют в футбол
- How Viktor “the Garlic” Took Alexey “the Stud” to the Nursing Home / Как Витька Чеснок вёз Лёху Штыря в дом инвалидов

**Best Emerging Talent:**
- Danila Kozlovsky, dir. debut (The Coach) / Данила Козловский (Тренер)
- Filipp Avdeev (Summer) / Филипп Авдеев (Лето)
- Marta Kozlova (Anna’s War) / Марта Козлова (Война Анны)
- Timofej Zhalnin (Coupled) / Тимофей Жалнин (Двое)

**Best Short:**
- 628
- It / Оно
- Mute
- The Shimmering / Мерцание
- The Sign / Знак
- The Tree / Дерево
- The Truth / Правда
- The Wings / Крылья
- Genesis 2.0
- Russian Five
- Sniper’s War
- Start Up a War
- The White Arrow
AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

You can help your favourite film win the grand prize when you vote for it after the screening!

SPECIAL PROJECT: RFW KIDS FEST
December 2, 2018 / 11.30-13.30

**Regent Street Cinema**

Screening of the films nominated for Russian Film Week Award in the category “Best Kids’ Film” followed by a Q&A session with a jury member cinematographer Maxim Trapo, representatives of Maksatics film camp and filmmakers.

For the first time ever the Russian Film Week and the Golden Unicorn Awards – which is part of the RFW – announce a special prize and a special screening for films made by children (8 to 17).

The competition was announced earlier in the year with several children’s film studios and children’s film camps in Russia and the UK taking part in it. A special jury consisting of filmmakers, working on children’s films, has chosen one winner and several runners up. The audience on the day will have an opportunity to choose their favourite film. The winners will be invited to the UK to the Kids Film Academy at Maksatics camp.

Participants are invited to stay for the screening of The Last Hero.

This is a double-bill event, with a discount to the regular ticket price.

**NOMINEES:**

A Wish / Желание – Film and TV Academy KiWi
Where the Wind is / Там, где ветер – KinoNiva camp
Monopolist / Монополист – Maksatics camp
Nechto (Something) / Чего – Anastasia Bulavkina, Varvara Kapustina
A Team / Команда – KinoNiva camp
A Sunlight Spot / Солнечный зайчик – Maksatics camp
I Believe in You / Я верю в тебя – KinoNiva camp
Among the Lone Prairies / Среди одиноких прерий – Ivan Ilyin, Matvey Ilyin
Grey Life and Very Strange Things / Серая жизнь и очень странные дела – Maksatics camp

On the eve of the Russian Film Week in the UK and our KidsFest on November 25, Maksatics film camp is holding an event involving talks and interviews with young filmmakers, as well as film industry professionals.

Member of the KidsFest jury cinematographer Maxim Trapo will give a master-class on how to approach a screenplay.

The event will take place at Rossotrudnichestvo on November 25 from 13.00 to 16.00.
THE GOLDEN UNICORN AWARDS CHARITY GALA

Saturday, 1 December 2018

The Golden Unicorn Awards ceremony will take place over an exquisite dinner, with an exclusive entertainment programme and a charity auction in aid of the Naked Heart Foundation.

18.00–19.00: Press photos and Black Caviar & Champagne reception
19.00–23.00: Dinner, Awards, Charity Auction, Entertainment
23.30: Carriages

The Golden Unicorn Awards recognise the talents and efforts of Russian and international filmmakers in motion picture productions during the past 18 months.

The presenter is Alexander Tsipkyn, writer, screenwriter, publicist, bestselling author (Women of adamant age and other unprincipled stories).

The programme of the evening includes a charity auction, the aim of which is to raise money for the “Naked Heart” Foundation.

Exclusive entertainment will be provided by British rock musician Ken Hensley, Soviet and Russian rock musician Evgeniy Margulis and band The Penelopes.

By invitation only
OPENING PREMIERE AND PARTY

**Sunday, 25 November 2018 / 17:30**

Red Carpet UK Premiere of *The Story of an Appointment* (12+) in Russian with English subtitles.

17.30–18.30 – Arrivals; Photos on the Red Carpet. Champagne reception

18.30–20.30 – Opening Ceremony and Film Screening

20.30–21.00 – Q&A with Cast

21.00–23.30 – Opening After Party at The Perception Bar, W Hotel Leicester Square – Separate Ticket Required

The Russian Film Week 2018 will open with the U.K. premiere of Avdotia Smirnova’s film *The Story of An Appointment*.

The Sunday evening opening ceremony will be held at the Cineworld Empire IMAX Cinema which boasts the widest screen in the UK. The event will start with a red carpet and drinks reception. The screening will be followed by a talk with the film’s creative team. The After Party will take place at the cool W Hotel Perception Bar, where food and drinks will be served into the night, whilst listening to the sounds of The Penelopes, the Cannes Film Festival band and DJ Duo.

A poignant and tragic story about an event that involved the famous writer Count Leo Tolstoy. A soldier from an infantry regiment based not far away from Tolstoy’s family estate is accused of committing a crime and faces a military tribunal and execution. The officer in charge turns for help to Tolstoy, who decides to protect the innocent man.

Empire IMAX, 5-6, Leicester Square, London WC2H 7NA

DRESS CODE: Red Carpet Glam

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CLOSING PARTY BY GAZPROM MT

**Sunday, 2 December 2018 / 21:30**

Closing Premiere After Party at BFI Southbank with Director/Actor Danila Kozlovsky and Actresses Irina Gorbacheva and Olga Zueva, our patrons and friends.

The Closing After Party, 9.30 pm until 12.00 pm, will include champagne, drinks and canapés (included in ticket price).

Entertainment provided by the DJ Alexey Talano from Moscow.

NOTE: this is not a screening, only the closing party.

You can buy a separate ticket to the screening on the RFW or BFI Websites.

BFI Southbank, Belvedere Rd, South Bank, London SE1 8XT

DRESS CODE: Red Carpet Glam
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Filip Perkon / General Producer
Vadim Lobov / Co-Producer

RFW and GUA Volunteers and Team with special thanks:
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