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**AFI AND THE CULTURAL COUNSELORS OF EUROPEAN UNION
MEMBER STATES PRESENT WASHINGTON, DC'S
17TH ANNUAL EU SHOWCASE FILM FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 29 – NOVEMBER 7**

**2004 EU SHOWCASE Presents New, In-Vogue Films from
Europe: International Award Winners, Festival & Box-Office Hits**

**The Netherlands to Host Washington's Premiere European Film Showcase;
Offering Dutch Soccer Hit & Offbeat *Hansel and Gretel* Update**

Silver Spring, Maryland, October 20, 2004—**EU SHOWCASE 2004**, presented by the **American Film Institute (AFI)** in collaboration with the **Cultural Counselors of European Union Member States**, brings one of the most internationally acclaimed selections of new European films in the Festival's 17-year history to Washington, DC, audiences. From **October 29 through November 7**, the Festival will present a diverse selection of international festival headliners, box office hits and European Oscar-equivalent winners—17 films from 15 countries in the European Union—at both the AFI National Film Theater at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and the AFI Silver Theatre in Silver Spring, Maryland.

As holder of the EU Presidency, the Netherlands will host this year's EU SHOWCASE. "The EU's film community is a vibrant contributor to the motion picture industry. More European films are enjoying wide release in the United States and the Netherlands is pleased to partner with the American Film Institute to bring the finest in European movies to the nation's capital," said Boudewijn J. van Eenennaam, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United States. "Movies remind us that while we speak many languages, and hail from different cultures, we all understand the language of film."

European countries represented in the 2004 Showcase include Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

Fresh from the spotlight of the 2004 Toronto International Film Festival, this year's EU SHOWCASE offers such noteworthy titles as **Hungary's KONTROLL** (the October 17 winner of the Chicago Film Festival's Golden Hugo award); **Belgium's THE ALZHEIMER CASE** (winner of Belgium's 2004 Joseph Plateau awards for best film, director, actor and script); and **Poland's SYMMETRY** (critics award, Polish Film

Festival). Dazzling selections from the 2004 Berlin International Film Festival include **Germany's** Golden Bear award winner, **HEAD-ON**, and from **France**, **Eric Rohmer's TRIPLE AGENT** (making its way to Washington via a recent appearance at the New York Film Festival). From Toronto 2003: Spain's **SOUTH FROM GRANADA** (nominated for five Goya awards) and the Netherlands' **GRIMM** (Dutch critics award nominee, 2004). From **Italy**: 2004's **Ermanno Olmi's** David di Donatello award-winner, **SINGING BEHIND THE SCREEN** (best visual effects, production and costume design); and from **Finland**, **UPSWING**, the film that swept the Jussi Awards with seven nominations, earning awards for Best Film, Music and Script.

Selections with major nods from both box office and critics include the **Netherlands' IN ORANGE** (a 2004 Netherlands Golden Film award winner and smash hit already spawning remakes); **Belgium's THE ALZHEIMER CASE** and **Hungary's KONTROLL** (recipient of the Award of Youth, Cannes). Two box office wunderkinds: **Sweden's SLIM SUSIE**, with long box-office legs that extend far beyond their native Scandinavia; and **Slovenia's CHEESE AND HAM**, topped domestically by only two films—**TITANIC** and **JURASSIC PARK**.

The 2004 EU SHOWCASE:

- **From Austria: MOVE!**
A lively documentary about rap and hip-hop musicians tackling the international road—from New York to Vienna. Rap and hip-hop span the world, sporting different skin colors and languages, but all speaking the universal, energized rhythm of words-to-music. Featuring documentary footage of rappers coping with daily life, performing and dealing with the business of music. Directed, produced and co-written by Niki List. 2003, 90 min. In German, French and English with English subtitles.
- **From BELGIUM: THE ALZHEIMER CASE [De Zaak Alzheimer]**
When an aging hit man feels the onset of Alzheimer's—a disease that already destroyed his brother—he realizes his shadowy employers have set him up. Multiple chases and twists ensue as the cops—aided by tips from the hit man himself—follow the trail of bodies marking his revenge, even as his employers hire killers of their own. Featuring legendary Flemish star Jan Decleir in his 75th film. Directed and co-written by Erik Van Looy. 2003, 120 min. In Flemish with English subtitles.
- **From the CZECH REPUBLIC: FAITHLESS GAMES [Neverné hry]**

- A gently humorous psychological study seen entirely through the eyes of 12-year-old neighbor Kristina Swarinska. In a village on the Slovak/Hungarian border, Slovak composer Peter Bebjak feels fulfilled in his work, while his wife, Czech pianist Zuzana Stivínová, feels abandoned. Even a dalliance with cellist Vladimír Hajdu does little to break the monotony. Directed by Michael Pavlátová. 2003, 93 min. In Czech with English subtitles.
- **From FINLAND: UPSWING [Nousukausi]**
A couple of travel agents create the ultimate exotic survival vacation for bored yuppies Petteri Summanen and Tiina Lymi. If they'll just store their credit cards, passports and keys at the travel agency, the agency will set them up as an unemployed couple in a rundown house in a tough Helsinki slum, with only a weekly cash allowance to survive on for a month. But when no allowance arrives the second week, what happened to that travel agency?! Directed by Johanna Vuoksenmaa. 2003, color, 98 min. In Finnish with English subtitles.
 - **From France: TRIPLE AGENT**
A thriller from auteur Eric Rohmer based on a true story and interspersed with newsreel footage. In 1936 Paris, former Czarist general Serge Renko fights Commie infiltration into White Russian refugees. At least that's what he tells his wife, Greek artist Katerina Didaskalu. But when he's spotted in Berlin when he should be in Brussels, is he working for the Soviets or the Nazis? Does *he* know? Directed and written by Eric Rohmer. 2004, 115 min. In French, German and Greek with English subtitles.
 - **From GERMANY: HEAD-ON [Gegen die Wand]**
German-Turk Biro Unel is living a life of self-destruction when an instantaneous proposal from effervescent fellow hospital inmate Sibel Kekilli sets the stage for a new outlook. But is their open marriage ultimately just a marriage of convenience—or does love come from the strangest places? Directed and written by Fatih Akin. 2004, 121 min. In German, Turkish and English with English subtitles.
 - **From HUNGARY: KONTROLL**
Subway ticket inspectors get no respect in this dazzling box office smash shot completely within the Budapest subway. Sándor Csányi and his crew of goofballs must contend with snotty passengers, a veteran scofflaw and a rival team boss—between meetings with a lovely bear-suited Eszter Balla. Add to the mix: a serial killer. Directed and co-written by Nimród Antal. 2003, 105 min. In Hungarian with English subtitles.

- **From ITALY: CHRISTMAS REMATCH [La Rivincita di Natale]**
The latest work by EU SHOWCASE favorite Pupi Avati rematches the five actors from Avati's original poker epic, CHRISTMAS PRESENT. Seventeen years after the disastrous Christmas Eve five-handed poker game that drove cinema owner Diego Abatantuono to the brink, he's now the biggest theater owner in Milan. But then, by chance, he finds out the whole game was a set up—two of his friends hustled him. It's time for a rematch. Directed and written by Pupi Avati. 2004, 99 min. In Italian with English subtitles.
- **From Italy: SINGING BEHIND THE SCREEN [Cantando dietro i paraventi]**
A sweeping widescreen spectacle from neo-realist master Ermanno Olmi. On a giant stage lurking within an Oriental pleasure house, stylized figures act out an epic set in spectacular locations. A bearded sea captain narrates, as he becomes a participant: circa 1800, the widow of a betrayed Chinese pirate admiral takes over his fleet and goes toe-to-toe with the Emperor. But the Emperor employs a secret weapon—*paper kites*. Directed and written by Ermanno Olmi. 2003, 100 min. In Italian with English subtitles.
- **From LUXEMBOURG STEP BY STEP [Un honnête commerçant]**
After four corpses point to a crooked deal gone bad, cops Yolande Moreau and Frédéric Bodson haul in Benoît Verhaert, seemingly an "honest dealer," but to them the big fish they can never catch. In a cavernous interrogation room, the duel of wits begins, with the ever-calm, ever-plausible Verhaert's only ally the great Philippe Noiret's M. Cavalier. Directed and written by Philippe Blasband. 2003, 86 min. In French with English subtitles.
- **From the NETHERLANDS: GRIMM**
In this blackly humorous cross between *Hansel and Gretel* and Spaghetti Western, Halina Reijn and Jacob Derwig are abandoned by their father in a forest in a cold, drizzly Holland. But Derwig finds a note in his pocket directing them to an uncle in Spain. There they end up at the isolated mansion of surgeon Carmelo Gómez, complete with ailing sister, mysterious butler and a sinister locked room. Directed/written by Alex van Warmerdam. 2003, 110 min. In Dutch and Spanish with English subtitles.
- **From the Netherlands: IN ORANGE [In Oranje]**
Talented 12-year-old soccer fanatic Yannick van de Velde has just one dream: to play for the Dutch national team. But there's a bigger soccer nut in the family,

- dad Thomas Acda, whose know-it-all coaching leads to intra-family trouble, patched up by mom Wendy van Dijk. But when dad dies, Yannick tries everything—including Winti-Surinamian voodoo—to keep his game. Well-staged soccer action enlivens this funny and touching box-office smash. Directed by Joram Lúrsen. 2004, 90 min. In Dutch with English subtitles.
- **From POLAND: SYMMETRY [Symetria]**
One minute, unassuming Arkadiusz Detmer is leaving a movie on a rainy night; the next he's facing time in the slammer when a woman who's been assaulted picks him out of a lineup. Keyed by a vibrant musical score, Detmer's nervous rookie prison inmate decides to join the hardened "regulars," leading to a powerful, seemingly inevitable conclusion. Directed and written by Konrad Niewolski. 2004, 99 min. In Polish with English subtitles.
 - **From PORTUGAL: PORTUGAL AND CO. [Portugal S. A.]**
As friends celebrate the wedding of up-and-coming financial whiz-kid Diogo Infante to coke-sniffing Ana Bustorff, everybody's wondering whether his boss, Henrique Viana, is going to pull a fast one with his latest big deal. Then Infante's old flame Cristina Câmara returns—from Harvard—to complicate things romantically *and* financially. Directed by Ruy Guerra. 2004, 95 min. In Portuguese with English subtitles.
 - **From SLOVENIA: CHEESE AND JAM [Kajmak in Marmelade]**
After shiftless Bosnian Branko Djuric gets dumped by hard-working Slovenian girlfriend Tanja Ribic, he decides to straighten out. But wheeler-dealer pal Dragan Bjelogrić can only find him two jobs: dressing up as Mickey Mouse or smuggling illegal immigrants into Italy. Directed/written by Branko Djuric. 2003, 91 min. In Slovenian and Serbo-Croatian with English subtitles.
 - **From SPAIN: SOUTH FROM GRANADA [Al sur de Granada]**
Matthew Goode's Gerald Brenan (real-life British author of *The Spanish Labyrinth*) flees 1920s England for inspiration in a remote Spanish village—bringing along 2000 books and hilariously hosting real-life chums Dora Carrington and Lytton Strachey. But an unexpected passion looms with an unlettered, dirt-poor village girl, Verónica Sánchez.
Directed and co-written by Fernando Colomo. 2003, 111 min. In Spanish and English with English subtitles.
 - **From SWEDEN: SLIM SUSIE [Smala Sussie]**

Back from Stockholm to look for missing sweet-little-sister Susie in his one-horse hometown, Jonas Rimeika finds things have changed. His old buddy is now a drug addict who shoots porn in his living room, cop Kjell Bergqvist advises him to leave town—and Tuva Novotny’s Susie is apparently no angel herself. Directed and co-written by Ulf Malmros. 2003, 97 min. In Swedish with English subtitles.

Screening dates and times are accessible online at AFI.com/Silver.

Tickets are \$8.50 for general audiences; \$7.50 for seniors, students and AFI members.

Tickets for AFI Silver Theatre screenings will be available online at www.AFI.com/Silver or at the AFI Silver Box Office starting at noon on weekends; 4:30 p.m. weekdays. For programming information, call 301.495.6700.

Tickets for AFI National Film Theater at the Kennedy Center screenings will be available at the AFI Kennedy Center box office in the Kennedy Center’s Hall of States, open one-half hour before screenings. The box office is not open on days when no screening is scheduled. For program information, call 202.785.4600.

The AFI Silver is located in downtown Silver Spring, Maryland, at 8633 Colesville Road (between Georgia Avenue and Fenton Street). Conveniently located, the AFI Silver is two blocks from the Silver Spring Metro stop and easily accessible from the Capital Beltway (I-495), less than two miles from either the Georgia Avenue or Colesville Road exit. Phone: 301.495.6720. Web: <http://AFI.com/Silver>.

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