

# European Film Festival in Riyadh

All films will be screened in the original language  
with English subtitles

The European Film Festival in Riyadh is organized by:

- The Embassy of Czech Republic
- The Embassy of Belgium
- The Embassy of Spain
- The Embassy of France
- The Embassy of Germany
- The Embassy of Poland
- The Embassy of United Kingdom
- The Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands
- The Embassy of Italy
- The Embassy of Ireland
- The Embassy of Turkey

With the support of the European Commission  
in Saudi Arabia



# European Film Festival in Riyadh

26th April - 18th of May 2009



With the Support of :

The European Commission in Saudi Arabia



Sunday 26th of April  
9.00 pm  
Embassy of Germany



**"EMPTIES" (VRATNE LAHVE)**

Directed by Jan Sverak  
2007, 100 minutes

Josef is a high-school literature professor who, realizing one day that he no longer understands his pupils, promptly quits teaching. This comes as a shock to Eliška, his wife of thirty years, who now has her cranky and peevish mate underfoot all day. But Josef decides he still has a lot to contribute to society and should find another job. None of his attempted occupations work out – least of all his turn as Prague's only sixty eight year old bike courier – until he takes a part-time position at the bottle-return counter of the local supermarket.

Booking/Information: Ms. Sahar  
Tel. 450 36 17  
Email : riyadh@embassy.mzv.cz



Tuesday 28th of April  
7.30 pm  
Embassy of Belgium



**ANY WAY THE WIND BLOWS**

Directed by Tom Barman  
2003, 127 minutes

Antwerp, at the beginning of June. On a sunny Friday, eight people dream of having a different life. There's wind and music, police and paranoia, gossip and fighting. There's an old virus, an astrayed frisbee, a dead horse, and a mysterious person called Windman walking through the city. Windman feels the pain of those he meets but is unable to help himself. In the evening there's a party ...

Booking/Information: Marlene Abi Aad  
Tel. 4882888 ext 220  
email: marlene.abiaad@diplobel.fed.be



Wednesday 29th of April  
8.00 pm  
Embassy of Turkey



**BOATS OUT OF WATERMELON RINDS**

(Karpuz Kabuğundan Gemiler Yapmak)  
Written and directed by Ahmet Ulucay  
2004, 101 minutes

In this autobiographical debut feature, Ahmet Ulucay captures the infinite joys of childhood and the magical hold of cinema on two young boys living in Tepecik, a small Anatolian village, where Ulucay still lives. Working with a watermelon vendor and a barber by day, and trying to build a film projector by night, Recep and Mehmet dream of changing their lives by becoming famous film directors. The village idiot, Deli Omer, is the sole witness to their exuberant nocturnal labors and simple longings. But things begin to change when Recep falls for Nihal.....

Booking/Information: Ms. Sevil Fikri  
Tel : 01 482 01 01  
E-Mail : sevil.fikri@mfa.gov.tr



Saturday 2nd of May  
7.30 pm  
Embassy of France

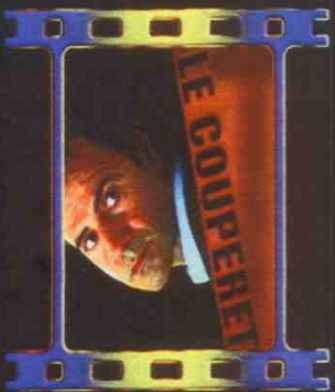


**VOLVER**

Directed by Pedro Almodovar  
2006, 122 minutes

Raimunda (Penélope Cruz) and Sole (Lola Dueñas) return to their home village in La Mancha, a region in south-central Spain, for the funeral of their elderly Aunt Paula. Aunt Paula's neighbour, Agustina (Blanca Portillo), declares to Sole having heard Aunt Paula talking to the ghost of Sole's mother, Irene (Carmen Maura). Sole encounters the ghost herself, and when she returns to Madrid, she discovers the ghost hiding in the trunk of her car, along with some luggage. The ghost declares her intention to stay with Sole so as to accomplish a mission she left undone prior to her death in a tragic fire three years before: get reconciled with Raimunda.

Booking/Information: Ximo González  
Tel. 488 06 06  
email: joaquin.gonzalez@maec.es



Monday 4th of May  
8.00 pm  
Embassy of France



**LE COUPERET (The ax)**  
Directed by Costa-Gavras  
2005, 122 minutes

A business executive, who was fired by his company after it underwent restructuring, is ready to do anything to get his job back-even if it means killing his rivals.

Booking/information: Amelie Mammier  
Tel. 488.12.55 ext 2020  
email: amelie.mammier@gmail.com



Wednesday 6th of May  
8.00 pm  
Embassy of Germany



**GOOD BYE LENIN !**  
Directed by Wolfgang Becker  
2003, 120 minutes

Berlin (East) in autumn 1989: Alex Kerner's mother is in a coma after a heart attack and misses the fall of the Berlin Wall. She awakes in summer 1990. Her doctor declares that excitement of any kind could be fatal. Alex must conceal the fall of the SED regime from her. He and his friends pretend to the sick woman that the GDR still exists; the illusion remains perfect until one day the truth can no longer be concealed. The clever comedy was the most successful film of the year in 2003.

Booking/information: Ms. Salama  
Tel. 488 0700 # 222 Fax 488 0660  
email: ku-s.@riiad.diplo.de



Sunday 10th of May  
8.30 pm  
Embassy of Canada



**LONELINESS ON THE NET**  
Directed by Witold Adamek  
2006, 124 minutes

A look at romance in these modern times: love is fulfilled with the aid of computers, laptops and palmtops. Virtual love found on the Internet turns into a real feeling.

Based on the bestseller by Janusz Leon Wisniewski.

Booking/information: Mohammed Nazim Reza,  
tel. 4549274 ext. 107  
Email: rijadamb@shabakah.net.sa



Tuesday 12th of May  
9.00 PM  
Embassy of  
United Kingdom



**HAPPY-GO-LUCKY**  
Directed by Mike Leigh  
2008, 118 minutes

Set in contemporary London, the film focuses on the character of Pauline Cross, who goes by the nickname, "Poppy". Poppy is an irrepressibly cheerful primary school teacher, thirty years old, single, and infinitely optimistic and accepting. She shares a flat with her best friend Zoe in Finsbury Park. The film presents various situations that test Poppy's inherent optimism.

Booking/information: Ms Sahar Al Kathani  
Tel.: 050 343 98 44/ 01,480,78,11 ext 129  
Email: Sahar.al-kathani@sabritishcouncil.org



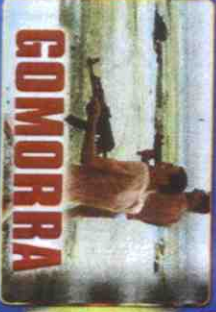
Wednesday 13th of May  
8.00 pm  
Embassy of the  
Kingdom of Netherlands



**ZWARTBOEK**  
Directed by Paul Verhoeven  
2006, 139 minutes

September 1944 – Nazi Occupied Holland. When her temporary safe house is destroyed by a bomb, the beautiful young Jewish chanteuse Rachel Stein joins fellow refugees in an attempt to reach safe Allied territory by boat. Tragedy strikes when a Nazi patrol intercepts their escape, ruthlessly killing everybody onboard including Rachel's family; only Rachel escapes the massacre. Embittered and desperate for revenge, she joins the Resistance where, assigned a new identity as the blond Ellis de Vries, she is charged with infiltrating the German Security Service by seducing senior officer Muntze. Without warning she becomes entangled in a deadly web of double-dealing and betrayal.

Booking/Information: Vinciane Lefebvre  
Tel. 4880011 ext.222  
Email: Rly-ee@mnhbuza.nl



Saturday 16th of May  
9.00 PM  
Italian Ambassador's  
Residence



**GOMORRA**  
Directed by Matteo Garrone  
2008, 135 minutes

Power, money and blood: these are the "values" that the residents of the province of Naples and Caserta confront every day. They have practically no choice, and are forced to obey the rules of the "System", the Camorra. Only a lucky few can even think of leading a "normal" life.  
Five stories are woven together in this violent scenario, set in a cruel and ostensibly invented world, but one that is deeply rooted in reality

Booking/Information: Mr Palmisano  
Tel. 488 12 12 ext 145  
Email: tirocinio.rivad@esteri.it



Monday 18th of May  
6:00-7:30 pm  
Embassy of Canada



**THE UGLY DUCKLING AND ME**  
Directed by Michael Hegner and Karsten Kiliereich  
2006, 84 minutes

It's true that Hans Christian Andersen didn't have a 'Me' in his unforgettable fairytale Ugly Duckling, but this is more than just the story of the Ugly Duckling. This is the story of the Ugly Duckling and his mother, Ratsso. Actually, that's just what the Ugly Duckling calls him - he's really his father. Then again, to be completely honest, Ratsso's not really his father either. Confused? Well, so was Ratsso!

Booking/Information: Ms Amani Al-Borno  
tel. : 488 23 00 ext 269  
Email: amani.borno@dfa.ie



Monday 18th of May  
8:00-9:30 PM  
Embassy of Canada



**STUDS**  
Directed by Paul Mercier  
2006, 90 minutes

Studs charts the fortunes of Emmet Rovers FC, a team in trouble. Every Sunday morning it's the same old story: they tog out, chase a football around a pitch and get beaten. Sometimes they get thrashed. For this ragtag side of amateurs, losing has become a habit. Now they are facing the final whistle with no manager, no ambition and pretty soon - if the developers have their way - no ground. But with all hope about to be abandoned, something happens. Out of the urban wasteland of vandalized cars, muddy dreams and sliding tackles comes Rovers' would-be savior, Walter Keegan (Brendan Gleeson). Keegan is a man with a vague past but a resolute future: someone who is determined to help Rovers win the Cup by whatever means possible.

Booking/Information: Ms Amani Al-Borno  
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