

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PANORAMA EUROPE FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR ITS NINTH YEAR WITH A SELECTION OF SEVENTEEN ACCLAIMED NEW FEATURES

Festival to run from Friday, May 5, to Sunday, May 21, 2017 at Museum of the Moving Image and Bohemian National Hall

Friday, May 5 opening night presentation is *King of the Belgians*, with co-director Jessica Woodworth in person, followed by Q&A with audience and reception

Sunday, May 21 closing night presentation is the candid documentary *The European* with European Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmermans and director Dirk Jan Roeleven in person, followed by Q&A with audience and reception

New York, NY, April 7, 2017—**Panorama Europe 2017**, the ninth edition of the essential festival of new and vital European cinema, co-presented by Museum of the Moving Image and the members of EUNIC (European Union National Institutes for Culture), returns to the Museum and the Bohemian National Hall from **May 5 through May 21** with a slate of seventeen exceptional new feature films. With a mix of fiction and documentary works, the films largely present a portrait of contemporary Europe during a period of tremendous flux.

This year, Europeans celebrate an important milestone—the 60th Anniversary of the Treaties of Rome —signed on March 25, 1957, in order to establish a common market allowing people, goods, services, and capital to move freely. From the ravages of WWII, these treaties brought peace, prosperity, and security to millions of people in Europe. Panorama Europe Film Festival is part of this important celebration, **the EU60 campaign, in New York City.**

The **Opening Night Film**, on Friday, May 5, is *King of the Belgians* (Flanders, Belgium, 2016), a delightful faux-documentary, in which the King of Belgium finds himself on a wayward comic road trip through the Balkans. Followed by a discussion with co-director Jessica Woodworth in person and a reception.

The **Closing Night Film**, on Sunday, May 21, is *The European* (Netherlands, 2016), a candid documentary that takes us behind the scenes of government during the period of the refugee crisis and until the Brexit vote. The film's main subject, Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission, will be present for the screening, along with director Dirk Jan Roeleven. The screening will be followed by a discussion and a reception.

Between these two events, the festival films hail from countries as diverse as Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, and Spain. Among the highlights of this year's festival are: ***Safari***, a riveting new documentary about European hunters in Africa by the Austrian director Ulrich Seidl; ***Swagger***, a vibrant new French documentary exploring the rich inner lives of eleven teenagers growing up in one of France's most diverse neighborhoods; ***The Erlprince***, a mind-bending Polish science-fiction fairytale about a teenage physics genius and his overbearing mother; and ***1945***, by director Ferenc Török, a powerful and beautifully made film from Hungary about the arrival of two Orthodox Jews in a remote village just after the end of the war.

Programmed by David Schwartz, the Museum's Chief Curator, and Eric Hynes, Associate Curator of Film, in collaboration with partner institutions, the festival offers New York audiences what may be their only chance to see these acclaimed films on the big screen.

"The films this year feel edgier and more vibrant than previous editions, perhaps reflecting the anxieties and rapidly changing realities in present-day Europe. While most European countries are steeped in history and tradition, the feeling one gets from the films featured here is that national and personal identity are up for grabs," said Chief Curator David Schwartz. "The Museum is very pleased to present this showcase, which is filled with New York premieres of films by major emerging directors."

Panorama Europe is coordinated by Gaele Duchemin, European Union Delegation to the United Nations and in partnership with the Czech Center New York/Bohemian National Hall. The 2017 Panorama Europe Film Festival presenting partners are the Arts Council Malta in New York, the Austrian Cultural Forum New York, the Balassi Institute - Hungarian Cultural Center New York, the Consulate General of the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Audiovisual Centre, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia, the Consulate General of Portugal, the Consulate General of Slovakia, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, the Czech Center New York, the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Dutch Culture USA program by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York, the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania, the General Representation of the Government of Flanders to the U.S.A., the Goethe-Institut New York, Instituto Cervantes, the Italian Cultural Institute, the Consulate General of Greece in New York and the Onassis Foundation USA, and the Polish Cultural Institute New York.

FULL LINEUP AND SCHEDULE FOR PANORAMA EUROPE, MAY 5–21, 2017

OPENING NIGHT

King of the Belgians

With co-director Jessica Woodworth in person, followed by Q&A and opening reception

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 7:00 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 7:00 P.M. at Bohemian National Hall

2016 Venice Film Festival

Belgium/Netherlands/Bulgaria. Dirs. Peter Brosens, Jessica Woodworth. 2016, 94 mins. With Peter van der Begin, Bruno Georis, Lucie Debay. In English, Flemish, French, Bulgarian with English subtitles. This “enormously appealing” (*Variety*) faux-documentary is a delightfully loopy comic road trip through Eastern Europe. While visiting Istanbul, the (somewhat awkward) King of Belgium receives word that Wallonia has seceded from his country, a national crisis that necessitates his immediate return. But when a sudden electrical storm makes flying impossible, he finds himself forced to make the journey by car. Joining a bus full of female folk singers, the king embarks on a wayward odyssey through the Balkans that will take him from a Bulgarian yogurt festival to a drunken night in Serbia, all captured on camera by a wry British documentarian along for the ride. Played to the deadpan hilt, this irresistibly goofball geopolitical satire touches delicately on the state of Europe today.

Far from Home (En otra casa)

With *Notes sur l'émigration. Espagne 1960*

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1:30 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image / **U.S. premiere**

Spain. Dir. Vanessa Rousselot, 2015, 54 mins. In Spanish with English subtitles. They come from Latin America to Spain in search of employment to support their families back home. Taking jobs as caregivers, nannies, and housekeepers, they become part of someone else's household, thousands of miles—and worlds removed—from their own. Who are these women? What drove them to leave everything behind to start a new life overseas? With her eternally patient camera, documentarian Vanessa Rousselot shines a compassionate spotlight on a group of women living on the fringes of Spanish society. Preceded by ***Notes sur l'émigration. Espagne 1960***. Spain. Dirs. Jacinto Esteva, Paolo Brunatto, 1960. 19 mins. In French with English subtitles. This short documentary examines the motives of Spanish workers who migrated to Switzerland in the late 1950s, turning into a caustic yet sometimes melancholic reflection on the land they left behind.

Swagger

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 4:00 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image / **New York premiere**

Nominated for 2017 César and Lumière Awards for Best Documentary

France. Dir. Olivier Babinet, 2016, 84 mins. In French with English subtitles. The banlieue housing projects outside Paris have been the setting for many a gritty saga of desperation and despair. *Swagger* is not one of those movies. Instead, this joyously innovative documentary immerses viewers in the hopes, dreams, and rich inner lives of eleven teenagers growing up in one of France's most diverse neighborhoods. With thrilling flights of fantasy—including musical numbers and an imaginative science-fiction sequence—*Swagger* offers a refreshing, much-needed counter-perspective on the minority experience in France.

Letters from War

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2:15 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image

2016 Berlin Film Festival

Portugal. Dir. Ivo Ferreira, 2016, 105 mins. With Miguel Nunes, Margarida Vila-Nova, Ricardo Pereira. In Portuguese with English subtitles. The letters of renowned Portuguese novelist António Lobo Antunes to his wife form the basis of this gorgeous, sublimely stirring saga of love and war. Written in the 1970s while the author was stationed in Angola during the Portuguese Colonial War,

the letters recount his experiences working in a military hospital, his growing disillusionment with the conflict, and, above all, his yearning for his wife and child. The combination of Lobo Antunes' rapturously beautiful prose and the luscious black and white cinematography yields an exquisite aesthetic experience.

I, Olga Hepnarova (Já, Olga Hepnarová)

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 4:30 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 7:00 P.M. at Bohemian National Hall

Czech Republic/Poland/Slovakia/France. Dir. Petr Kazda & Tomáš Weinreb. 2016, 105 mins. With Michalina Olszanska, Martin Pechlát, Klára Melíšková. In Czech with English subtitles. Based on an infamous true crime that shocked Czechoslovakia in the 1970s, *I, Olga Hepnarova* is the riveting account of a woman driven to do the unthinkable. Michalina Olszanska delivers a performance of mesmerizing intensity in the title role, a young lesbian who is abused at home and bullied at school. Disillusioned with society, she plots her revenge upon the world—a horrifying act of violence that is unleashed on a fateful summer day in 1973. Strikingly shot in gritty black and white, this spare, unsettling character study immerses viewers in the damaged psyche of a woman on the edge.

Safari

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 7:00 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image

Austria/Denmark/Germany. Dir. Ulrich Seidl. 2016, 90 mins. In German, English, Afrikaans with English subtitles. Austria's master of unsettling provocation, whose films include *Import, Export*, *Dog Days*, and *The Paradise Trilogy*, returns with one of his most incendiary statements yet.

Training his characteristically impassive camera on a group of European hunters on holiday in Namibia, Seidl records, with disquieting detachment, as they stalk and kill zebras, giraffes, and other big game for sport. By turns, disturbing and mesmerizing, this impossible-to-shake (and not-for-the-squeamish) documentary raises serious questions about colonialism's legacy, the ethics of killing for recreation, and the nature of humans.

Europe, She Loves

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 7:30 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image / **U.S. premiere**

2016 Berlin Film Festival/Panorama

Switzerland/Germany. Dir. Jan Gassmann, 2016, 110 mins. In English, Spanish, Estonian, Greek with English subtitles. Amidst the fractious political climate of modern-day Europe, four couples in four cities—Seville, Dublin, Tallinn, and Thessaloniki—go about their everyday lives, their private fears and struggles laid bare with extraordinary intimacy. Contending with everything from unemployment to heroin addiction, they surf uncertainty with often nothing more than their love for one another to see them through. Jan Gassmann's up-close-and-personal documentary examines the political via the personal—and, in the case of the film's unabashedly raw sex scenes, the *very* personal. Far from gratuitous, they're at the heart of the director's plea for tenderness in a world consumed by chaos.

Mariupolis

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1:30 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image / **U.S. premiere**

2016 Berlin Film Festival/Panorama

Lithuania/Germany/France/Ukraine. Dir. Mantas Kvedaravicius, 2016, 82 mins. In Russian and

Ukrainian with English subtitles. In the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, life unfolds with almost surreal normalcy while just miles away violence encroaches. Despite the ongoing Russian invasion, residents go about their daily routines: an ensemble rehearses for a dance performance; a cobbler repairs shoes and discusses religion; a man is brought into court for fishing illegally. In a place where daily bomb threats are the norm, these seemingly mundane acts take on an eerie resonance. With spare, lyrical images, director Mantas Kvedaravicius' trenchant documentary captures the tragicomic strangeness of life in a war zone.

The Erlprince

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 4:00 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image

Poland. Dir. Kuba Czekaj, 2016, 101 mins. With Staszek Cywka, Agnieszka Podsiadlik, Sebastian Lach. In Polish with English subtitles. A dark, science-fiction fairy tale plays out in a rush of moody, mind-scrambling images in this dizzyingly ambitious coming-of-age psychodrama. It charts the complex bond between a misfit teenage physics genius and his overbearing mother, a codependent, practically incestuous relationship that's disrupted by the reappearance of the boy's father. Parallel universes, apocalyptic warnings, and mythic wolves: *The Erlprince* takes viewers down a surreal rabbit hole to evoke the turbulent psyche of a troubled young man reckoning with adulthood.

Sick

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 1:00 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image

Best Documentary Feature Film Award, Toronto Arthouse Film Festival

Croatia. Dir. Hrvoje Mabić. 2015, 95 mins. In Croatian with English subtitles. This heart-wrenching documentary chronicles a year in the life of Ana Dragicevic, a young Croatian lesbian dealing with the psychological fallout of the years of gay conversion therapy she was forced to undergo as a teenager. As Ana sets out to build a future with her girlfriend, she struggles to move on from her past, tormented by PTSD and consumed with anger at her parents. Director Hrvoje Mabić relates his subject's story with evocative, mood-drenched imagery and a surplus of empathy. The result is a powerful portrait of a woman in the process of reconstructing her life.

Do Re Mi Fa

With director Chris Zarb and actor Sean O'Neil in person, followed by Q&A

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 3:00 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image / **U.S. premiere**

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 7:00 P.M. at Bohemian National Hall

Malta. Dir. Chris Zarb, 2016, 143 mins. With Paul Flanagan, Irene Christ, Sean O'Neil, Marc Cabourdin. In English and Maltese with English subtitles. Four people, four explosive tales of life in contemporary Malta: a birthday party clown struggles to keep his pedophilic urges in check; a depressed actress contemplates an act of unthinkable violence; an American radio DJ finds himself at the center of a firestorm when he speaks out for immigrant rights; and a husband and father buckles under the weight of stress at home and work. As their lives cross paths, each hurtles towards a moment of reckoning. This all-too-rare example of Maltese cinema tackles a host of hot-button issues—from the refugee crisis to mental illness—with a mix of dark surrealism and unflinching candor.

Amerika Square

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 6:30 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image / **New York premiere**

FIPRESCI Award, 2016 Thessaloniki Film Festival

Greece/UK/Germany. Dir. Yannis Sakaridis, 2016, 86 mins. With Yannis Stankoglou, Makis Papadimitriou, Vassilis Kukulani. In Greek with English subtitles. Hailed as “one of the best European films to date on the subject of immigration” (*The Hollywood Reporter*), this riveting Greek drama tackles the hot-button issue with a clear-eyed urgency. It charts the intersecting fates of three people living in an Athens housing complex: a local, aging hipster bar owner who falls in love with an African singer; a Syrian refugee who turns to a human trafficker in order to emigrate to Germany; and an unstable, xenophobic nationalist who takes matters into his own hands to stop the influx of migrants. What plays out between them is a bracing, morally complex look at the human side of the immigration debate.

Stanko

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2:00 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image / **U.S. premiere**

Slovakia. Dir. Rastó Boroš. 2015, 79 mins. With Peter Kočan, Ivana Kanalošová, Marcel Bobák. In Slovak, Italian, French, English with English subtitles. This tragicomic road movie handles a sensational subject—human trafficking—with refreshing naturalism. *Stanko* is a down-and-out deadbeat living on a farm in Italy. In desperate need of money, he accepts the job of smuggling a young woman from Slovakia to Italy, where, unbeknownst to her, she will be forced to work in a brothel. Over the course of the journey, these two outsiders strike up a friendship, leaving *Stanko* with a stark moral choice: carry out his assignment, or rescue the girl from a life of prostitution. Driven by the surprising rapport between its two non-actor leads, *Stanko* is an engaging, human portrait of life on Europe's margins.

The Days that Confused

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 4:00 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image

Estonia. Dir. Triin Ruumet. 2016, 105 mins. With Hendrik Toompere Jr, Juhan Ulfsak, Jaanika Arum. In Estonian with English subtitles. The raw, risk-taking feature debut from Triin Ruumet captures the feeling of being young, adrift, and drunk on the possibilities of life. It's set during one summer in 1990s Estonia, where 27-year-old Allar wastes away his days drinking, partying, and cruising in his car. But after a near-death accident leaves him contemplating his life's direction, Allar finds himself torn between the call of adult responsibility and the allure of reckless abandonment. Bursting with bold stylistic flourishes and spot-on period detail (particularly the propulsive pop soundtrack), *The Days That Confused* is a heady time capsule of Eastern Europe's post-Soviet wilderness years.

The Stuff of Dreams

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 6:30 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image

Italy. Dir. Gianfranco Cabiddu. 2016, 103 mins. With Sergio Rubini, Ennio Fantastichini, Renato Carpentieri. In Italian with English subtitles. Art and life mingle amidst sun-kissed Mediterranean locales in this play-within-a-play Italian charmer. When boats carrying a theatrical troupe and a band of mobster convicts are shipwrecked on Asinara, a prison island near Sardinia, it sets into motion a comedy of errors as both actors and criminals alike are commissioned by the island's warden to stage a production of *The Tempest*. Mixing Shakespeare's text with the *L'arte della commedia* by Neapolitan playwright Eduardo De Filippo, *The Stuff of Dreams* is an irresistible, Pirandellian play on illusion and reality.

1945

With director Ferenc Török in person, followed by Q&A

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 4:00 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image / **New York premiere**

2016 Berlin Film Festival / Panorama

Hungary. Dir. Ferenc Török. 2017, 91 mins. With Péter Rudolf, Bence Tasnádi, Tamás Szabó Kimmel. In Hungarian and Russian with English subtitles. Based on the acclaimed short story "Homecoming" by Gábor T. Szántó. Hungary, 1945: in the aftermath of World War II, residents of a remote village struggle to return to normalcy. One summer day, their uneasy peace is shattered by the arrival of two Orthodox Jews, whose presence sets the townspeople on edge. Who are they? And what do they want? As rumors spread that they may be relatives of former residents deported by the Nazis, members of the community—many of whom have benefitted materially from the disappearance of the Jews—are forced to reckon with their own complicity in the atrocities. Shot in evocative black-and-white and set to a haunting score, this riveting exploration of collective guilt fearlessly confronts a traumatic chapter in Europe's history.

CLOSING NIGHT

The European

With First Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans and director Dirk Jan Roeleven in person and followed by Q&A and reception

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 6:30 P.M. at Museum of the Moving Image

Netherlands. Dir. Dirk Jan Roeleven. 2016, 90 mins. In Dutch with English subtitles. This all-access documentary charts two years in the life of Dutch diplomat Frans Timmermans who, as First Vice-President of the European Commission, is one of the foremost leaders of the increasingly fragile European Union. From 2014 to 2016, director Jan Roeleven follows the perpetually-on-the-go Timmermans as he crisscrosses the continent, dealing with everything from the migrant crisis to Brexit. The result is both a candid portrait of a major European power player and a rare, insider's glimpse into the state of the European Union today.

ABOUT THE PRESENTING ORGANIZATIONS:

European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC)

EUNIC is part of a global coalition of national cultural institutes and cultural diplomatic services from the European Union that works in more than 80 cities on all continents. EUNIC New York was founded in 2007 and has 14 full members and 32 associate members and observers. The mission of the EUNIC New York is to promote and present the best of European creative and intellectual achievements to New York and U.S. audiences. EUNIC works to create artistic and educational opportunities, strengthen cultural relations, and create effective collaboration between members and cultural institutions. EUNIC partners with eminent American and European organizations to provide programs in the fields of art and culture, language and education, society and academia. EUNIC main objectives are to provide a forum for discussion on issues of common interest, including EU cultural policies and strategies, facilitate sharing of best practices and expertise among its members, act as interlocutor for the local public and private institutions on European cultural issues of common interest, to be an active partner to EU Representation / EU Delegation in the host country and act as facilitators to bid for EU funded projects. More information at <http://new-york.eunic-online.eu>

Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI)

The Museum of the Moving Image advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facilities—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts. More information at www.movingimage.us

Czech Center New York at The Bohemian National Hall (BNH)

The Bohemian National Hall, a recently redesigned, award-winning landmark building on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, is a center for Czech culture in New York City. Since it was established in 1896, it has served as a focal point for its community as well as a place for exchange and dialogue with the American audience. More information at www.czechcenter.com

In the midst of *Panorama Europe*, on May 11, at 7:00 p.m., BNH will also present **Animated Spirits - New Animation from Europe - Short Film Festival** which returns for its third year with the most exciting, recent animations from the Old Continent.

VENUES AND TICKETS

Museum of the Moving Image

36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street), Astoria, NY 11106. Subway: M, R to Steinway Street or N, W to 36 Avenue. Telephone: 718 777 6888 (recorded information).

Unless otherwise noted, tickets are \$15 (\$11 seniors and students / free or discounted for Museum members). Advance tickets are available online at movingimage.us.

Bohemian National Hall

321 East 73rd Street (between 1st and 2nd Ave), New York, NY 10021. Subway: Q to 72nd Street, 6 to 68 Street Hunter College or 77 Street. Visit www.czechcenter.com for more information.

Tickets for *Panorama Europe* at the Bohemian National Hall are free with RSVP on www.eventbrite.com

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The full program can be viewed at: movingimage.us/PanoramaEurope

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Museum of the Moving Image (movingimage.us) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its

stunning facilities—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

Hours: Wednesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$15 adults (18+); \$11 senior citizens (65+) and students (18+) with ID; \$7 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, ticket are \$15 adults / \$11 seniors and students / \$7 youth 3–17 / Free for members at the Film Lover and Kids Premium levels and above. Advance purchase is available online. Ticket purchase may be applied toward same-day admission to the Museum’s galleries.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. W (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: movingimage.us/support/membership or 718 777 6877

Museum of the Moving Image is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and has received significant support from the following public agencies: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York City Economic Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for the Humanities; National Endowment for the Arts; and Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation). For more information, please visit movingimage.us.