



**European Union Film Festival rings in 25<sup>th</sup> year, the Silver Jubilee edition, digitally; unveils a line-up of over 40 award-winning movies from 26 European countries**

*~ This year as EUFF goes virtual for the first time; viewers have the opportunity to explore the best of European cinema from the comfort of their homes ~*

*~ 41 films, 6 genres, 37 languages, 50+ awards & selections; 15 remarkable female directors will feature in the Festival line-up, offering trailblazing and evocative perspectives ~*

*~ Curated by Veronica Flora, the festival will also host a series of workshops, masterclasses, artist talks, panel discussions, and Q&A sessions with the most prominent contemporary film directors, actors, and cinematographers ~*

*~ The festival begins from 5 November 2020! Audiences can register through the Delegation's website and social media channels ~*

**New Delhi, XX October 2020:** Instilling a renewed sense of togetherness, the pandemic of 2020 saw all of us stand united by being apart. It has made us realize our similarities through our shared hopes, aspirations, fears and failings. Today, more than ever, the importance of cinema for our societies is evident, helping us to make sense of this pandemic. This year, defying the pandemic, the much-awaited **European Union Film Festival** announces its **first-ever virtual edition** – featuring outstanding, award-winning European cinema that bring forth inspiring stories, all from the comfort and safety of our homes. Marking its 25th year – the **Silver Jubilee edition** in India - the festival celebrates EU-India cultural ties, by bringing the best of European cinema and classics to Indian audiences. Curated by Veronica Flora, with Valerio Caruso, Director of Cineuropa, the Festival will host 41 critically acclaimed films that explore unique stories, experiences, and histories with artistic storytelling from across 26 Member States and Partner Countries, celebrating the most recent cinematic triumphs at Cannes, Locarno, Venice, Berlin and San Sebastian, amongst others. The virtual Festival will be available to stream on Festival Scope from 5 November 2020 onwards!

Bringing a slice of Europe to India, the Festival will showcase movies from **26 European countries, including 25 Member States**, comprising, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. Switzerland will be also represented at the Festival. Bifurcated in 4 sections comprising contemporary European cinema,

European masterpieces, shorts on climate change, and a tribute to Indian cinema, each will carry a selection of award-winning films and critically acclaimed performances for every type of cinephile to enjoy. Furthermore, highlighting the cultural diversity of Europe and triggering conversations, it will also host a series of workshops, masterclasses, artist talks, panel discussions, and Q&A sessions with prominent film directors, actors, and cinematographers of the European film fraternity.

The Festival is a joint event hosted by the **Delegation of the European Union to India**, its Member States and Partner Countries. It celebrates and bolsters the EU-India cultural partnership.

Commenting on the 25<sup>th</sup> edition, **H.E. Ugo Astuto, Ambassador of the European Union to India**, said *"I am delighted to announce the launch of the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Union Film Festival in India, in collaboration with our Member States. It will take viewers through a journey across Europe as retold by our storytellers. This landmark anniversary is also a testament to our long-standing cultural ties with India. Highlighting individual stories yet reflecting universal experiences, this year's special anniversary edition will offer a window into the heart of Europe and the power of cinema to negotiate both everyday and extraordinary circumstances."*

Adding to the above, **Veronica Flora, the Festival curator**, said, *"Thanks to the popular nature of cinema, which is one of the most immediate and democratic art forms we can enjoy, the European Union Film Festival in India aims to be a magic mirror we can use to jointly get through the current challenging times we are witnessing. This year the virtual European Union Film Festival in India will be showcasing the variety and the complexity of the European Union's culture through innovative film programming, opening paths for further people-to-people and cultural relationships with India and the extraordinary wealth of its millennial culture. We hope this virtual Festival will contribute to make the film sector a key driver for dialogue, especially in the current situation where culture and creativity have become more important than ever."*

### **Beyond Contemporary European Cinema:**

Recognizing that excellence in European cinema has been forged by legends across the continent, the Festival also presents a distinctive look at Europe's rich and enviable cinematic history through its **section on European Masterpieces**. From Agnès Varda's seminal *Cléo From 5 to 7* and Kieslowski's *Three Colours: Blue*, to Bergman's *Persona*, and Bunuel's surrealist masterpiece *The Exterminating Angel*, from Antonio Pietrangeli's iconic *I Knew Her Well* to the classic of the Czech New Wave, Milos Forman's *Loves of a Blonde*, up to the dramatically current *Ali: Fear Eats the Soul* by Rainer Werner Fassbinder, the Festival will take viewers through an unparalleled journey across Europe as retold by its most inventive and ground-breaking storytellers.

As a **tribute** to the rich and indelible imprint of **Indian cinema**, the Festival will offer viewers a look into the classic and the contemporary, through the section *Poetry on Screen: Satyajit Ray and Chaitanya Tamhane*, featuring the iconic *Aparajito* and the award-winning *Court*. Viewers will get an exclusive insight into the artistic underpinnings of director and screenwriter Chaitanya Tamhane, who will also feature in a special Festival side-event with a European counterpart.

Given the urgency around **Climate Change**, six outstanding short movies from across the world, including India, are part of this year’s Festival. They will provide a means to assess how climate change is being felt in different parts of the world. Nila Madhab Panda’s *Megha’s Divorce* is a particular highlight, among an anthology of six that form part of the film *Interdependence*.

### Access to the Film Festival

Tickets for viewing and access for the Film Festival and the activities will be free for audiences. Audiences can register through the Delegation’s website and social media channels. The Film Festival will run till 30<sup>th</sup> November. Once registered, viewers can log in at their convenience and watch the movies at their own pace.

To know more, visit [euffindia.com](http://euffindia.com)

The festival line-up:

### EURORAMA: EUROPEAN CINEMA TODAY

Genre	Movies	Directors	Country
Drama	The Ground Beneath My Feet	Marie Kreutzer	Austria
Drama	Alone at My Wedding	Marta Bergman	Belgium
Drama	Rounds	Stephan Komandarev	Bulgaria
Drama	Mare	Andrea Staka	Croatia
Comedy	Smuggling Hendrix	Marios Piperides	Cyprus
Documentary	Forman vs. Forman	Jakub Hejna, Helena Trestikova	Czechia
Documentary	Cold Case Hammarskjöld	Mads Brügger	Denmark
Drama	The Little Comrade	Moonika Siimets	Estonia
Comedy	Aurora	Miia Tervo	Finland

Comedy	Arab Blues	Manele Labidi	France
Drama	Exile	Visar Morina	Germany
Drama	Pari	Siamak Etemadi	Greece
Drama	Genesis	Árpád Bogdán	Hungary
Comedy	Extra Ordinary	Mike Ahern, Enda Loughman	Ireland
Drama	Martin Eden	Pietro Marcello	Italy
Drama	Mellow Mud	Renārs Vimba	Latvia
Drama	Invisible	Ignas Jonys	Lithuania
Comedy	Tel Aviv On Fire	Sameh Zoabi	Luxembourg
Drama	Instinct	Halina Reijn	Netherlands
Drama	Listen	Ana Rocha de Sousa	Portugal
Drama	One Step Behind the Seraphim	Daniel Sandu	Romania
Comedy	Summer Rebels	Martina Saková	Slovakia
Drama	Don't Forget to Breathe	Martin Turk	Slovenia
Animation	Buñuel in the Labyrinth of the Turtles	Salvador Simó	Spain
Drama	And Then We Danced	Levan Atkin	Sweden
Drama	Beyond the Horizon	Delphine Leherice	Switzerland

<b>MASTERPIECES OF EUROPEAN CINEMA (7 films)</b>			
Drama	Persona	Ingmar Bergman	Sweden
Drama	Ali: Fear Eats the Soul	Rainer Werner Fassbinder	West Germany
Drama	Cléo From 5 to 7	Agnès Varda	France
Drama	I Knew Her Well	Antonio Pietrangeli	Italy
Drama	The Exterminating Angel	Luis Buñuel	Mexico
Drama	Three Colours: Blue	Krzysztof Kieślowski	France
Drama	Loves of a Blonde	Milos Forman	Czechoslovakia
<b>POETRY ON SCREEN: SATYAJIT RAY &amp; CHAITANYA TAMHANE (2 films)</b>			
Drama	Court	Chaitanya Tamhane	India
Drama	Aparajito	Satyajit Ray	India
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE: 6 SHORTS</b>			
Short film Fiction	Megha's Divorce	Nila Madhab Panda	India
Short film Documentary	Qurut	Shahrbanoo Sadat	Afghanistan
Short film Documentary	Tuã Ingugu	Daniela Thomas	Brazil
Short film Fiction	Olmo	Silvio Soldini	Italy
Short film Documentary	Hungry Seagull	Leon Wang	China

Short film Fiction	A Sunny Day	FAOUZI BENSÄIDI	Morocco
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**About the EU and EU-India Ties**

The EU, which consists of 27 countries, has the world's second largest economy and its third largest population, after China and India. Though richly diverse, the countries that make up the EU (its 'Member States') are all committed to the same basic values: peace, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. By creating a frontier-free single market and a single currency (the euro) which has been adopted by 19 Member States, the EU has given a significant boost to trade and employment.

EU-India relations: For over 55 years, the EU and India have worked together to reduce poverty, prevent disasters, expand trade, secure global public goods, enhance security around the world and promote joint research in energy, health, agriculture and many other fields of mutual interest. More information at: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india>