**The National Film Centre of Latvia presents**

**The Autumn Marathon of Latvian films**

**2022**

**SEPTEMBER**

**9/8 – SAMUEL’S TRAVELS** (an absurd fairy tale, director **Aiks Karapetjans**, *Mistrus Media*)

While searching for his biological father Sam ends up in an absurd world – he is held captive by a farmer’s family, and only one little piglet can save him...

Starring Kevin Janssens (Belgium), Laura Siliņa, Aigars Vilims, Normunds Griestiņš a. o.

**9/14 – O2** (a historic thriller, director **Margus Paju**, Latvia-Estonia, *Film Angels Productions*)

It is August 1939; the Second World War will start in a week. An Estonian intelligence officer, the head of anti-Soviet espionage department. is killed, and the hunt for the double agent begins.

Starring Kaspars Znotiņš, Agnese Budovska, [Priit Võigemast](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1273350/?ref_=tt_cl_t_1), [Elmo Nüganen](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0639297/?ref_=tt_cl_t_4) a. o.

**9/21 – LOVABLE** (a relationship drama, director **Staņislavs Tokalovs**, *Tasse Film*)

When Matīss’ girlfriend dies, the young and ambitious insolvency administrator must suddenly assume responsibility for her expensive property and ten-year-old daughter Paula. Authors of the film believe that a whole generation of "lovables" has grown up during the era of "ruthless capitalism" in Latvia.

Starring Kārlis Arnolds Avots, Paula Lābane, Kristīne Krūze a. o.

**9/29 – KEEP SMILING, MOM!** (a black comedy, director **Elza Gauja**, *Riverbed*)

Three quite different sisters are suddenly faced with the same problem – their mother has died in a European country, and the daughters want to bury her in Latvia, but there is no money for the official formalities... so they start the journey across Europe with their dead mother on top of their van.

Starring Anta Aizupe, Baiba Broka, Daiga Kažociņa, Jānis Skutelis, Matīss Budovskis a. o.

**OCTOBER**

**10/3 – UPURGA** (a mythological thriller in wilderness, director **Uģis Olte**, *VFS Films*)

Rafting instructor Andrejs loses his sister and her co-workers – a commercial film crew – in a wild river valley. What they don't know is that a natural phenomenon of insane power blooms in this valley in autumn.

Starring Igors Šelegovskis, Inga Tropa, Elvita Ragovska, Reinis Boters, Morten Traavik, Uģis Prauliņša. o.

**10/4 – THE LAND** (an observation in Latvia, director **Ivars Seleckis**, *Mistrus Media*)

The classic of documentary cinema, Ivars Seleckis, who will turn 88 in September, has been shooting a full-length documentary about the countryside of Latvia every 10-15 years since his film *Corn-bins/Apcirkņi* (1973), following with interest how the country and its people are changing.

**10/13 – MY LOVE AFFAIR WITH MARRIAGE** (an animated musical, director **Signe Baumane**, *Lokomotīve*)

Young Zelma searches for love with the help of the mythic Sirens that tell her to strive for an ideal marriage. However, the whole concept is inevitably shattered when the woman's Biology with its hormones and neuron signals influences her behaviour and emotions.

Voices: Laura Čaupale, Guna Zariņa, Edgars Samītis, Dainis Grūbe, *Trio Limonāde*, Linda Leen a. o.

**10/14 – NEON SPRING** (a youth drama, director **Matīss Kaža**, *Trickster Pictures*)

Laine’s parents are divorcing, and she must take care of her younger brother, but the girl gets introduced to Riga’s underground raves where she falls in love with raver Gunda and indulges in sleepless nights and wild parties, gradually losing connection with reality.

Starring Marija Luīze Meļķe, Grēta Trušiņa, Gerds Lapoška, Jānis Skutelis a. o.

**10/21 – SISTERS** (a teen adoption story, director **Linda Olte**, *Trickster Pictures*)

Sisters Diāna and Anastasija could leave the orphanage because an American family wants to adopt them, also the girls’ long-lost mother appears, but the sisters each have their own, completely different plans.

Starring Emma Skirmante, Gerda Aljēna, Iveta Pole a. o.

In the Riga IFF also – **SONGS FOR A FOX** (a mythological love story, director **Kristijonas Vildžiūnas**,Latvia-Lithuania, *Lokomotīve*)

After his girlfriend’s death, Dainius, a young rock singer, locks himself away in a secluded country house and longs to meet his lost love, but it is possible only in dreamland. The film draws parallels with the myth about Orpheus and Eurydice.

Starring Saulius Bareikis, Agnese Budovska, Lukas Malinauskas a. o.

In the Riga IFF also – **THE SLEEPING BEAST** (a teen drama, director **Jaak Kilmi**,Latvia-Estonia, *Lokomotīve*)

Kristjan and his friends always play in the ruins of an abandoned factory, caretaker Elmar always chases them away. When an accident happens, the kids could help Elmar, but then his buddies would take Kristjan for a rat…

Starring Nils Jaagup England, Laura Vahtre, Rebeka Kask, Una Marta Soms, Kimi Reiko Pilipenko a. o.

**NOVEMBER**

**11/2 – SOVIET MILK** (a generation drama, director **Ināra Kolmane**, *Deviņi*)

Screen adaption of the popular novel by Nora Ikstena about mother and daughter’s struggle with life under the weight of the Soviet totalitarian regime.

Starring Maija Doveika, Rūta Kronberga, Elīna Vaska, Indra Briķe, Zane Bierande a. o.

**11/4 – GIRLS BORN IN 1960** (classmates then and now, director **Una Celma**, *Fenixfilm*)

Girls from teacher Lapaine’s class meet each year in March. They did in 1995 when the director filmed her classmates for the first time, and they do now when they are turning sixty…

**11/8 – ON-AIR PERSONALITY. GUNĀRS JĀKOBSONS** (a portrait, director **Ināra Kolmane**, *Deviņi*)

Gunārs Jākobsons’ first report went on air on the Latvian Radio in 1954. Since then, his voice has become a legend. A news anchor, sports commentator, author and host of the audience vote for the most popular song – he is a professional with a career of almost 70 years, and he is still on air…

**11/10 – JANUARY** (a young man at the turn of history, director **Viestur Kairish**, *Mistrus Media*)

A personal film about the month of the 1991 barricades, when the fate of the independence of the Baltic countries was decided and Jazis picked up a film camera, liberating his freedom from the cage where it had been trapped far too long.

Starring Kārlis Arnolds Avots, Alise Danovska, Baiba Broka, Juhan Ulfsak a. o.

**11/16 – ACCIDENTAL SANTA** (a family comedy, director **Aigars Grauba**, *Platforma*)

A row is brewing in a policeman's family before the holiday, but Santa Claus suddenly appears in the farm house, and the children involve him in the plan to save the family. But no one knows that he is an escaped prisoner…

Starring Kaspars Kārkliņš, Inga Tropa-Fišere, Jānis Vimba a. o.

**Around 11/7 – RETURN OF VESMANIS** (history of politics, director **Raitis Ābele**, *Centrums*)

On the centenary of the first assembly of the Parliament of Latvia - Saeima – a documentary about the father of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia and the first President of the Saeima, Fridrihs Vesmanis (1875–1941).

Also in November - **GUNĀRS ASTRA. AGAINST THE CURRENT** (a historic tale about a hero, director **Liene Laviņa-Kalnaelle**, *Skuba Films*)

A biographical story about a unique personality with an unbreakable spirit and a strong backbone - Gunārs Astra (1931–1988) who bravely acted according to his heart, being sure that Latvia will be free one day.

Also in November - **PODNIEKS ON PODNIEKS** (a legendary personality, director **Anna Viduleja**, *Juris Podnieks Studio*)

Juris Podnieks (1950–1992) is one of the best-known Latvian documentary filmmakers in the world. What was his phenomenon? In the archive materials, Juris himself tells the story.

**DECEMBER**

**12/1 – CHRISTMAS IN THE JUNGLE** (exotic adventures, director **Jaak Kilmi**, *Lokomotīve*)

A family film shot in Indonesia. Two sisters, Paula and Elizabete, move to an exotic place with their family and with the help of their new friend Akhim set out on dangerous and exciting adventures to find Santa Claus in the jungle.

Starring Rebeka Šuksta, Bryden Pablo Escobar, Elizabete Liepa, Inga Alsiņa-Lasmane, Māris Olte a. o.