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# Film News from Latvia



*Theodore / Photo: Mairiņš Kleiņš*

Special Issue Latvian Documentaries 2006



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by Kristine Matīsa  
Journalist, daily *Neatkarīgā*

## Looking to the Future

Although a given country's strength in film is usually measured by the success of feature films, anyone who more or less knows the history of film knows that real cinema is documentary cinema, as that's how film was born – in France in 1895, with the Lumiere brothers, as well as in Latvia 15 years later, when cinematographer Aleksandrs Stanke captured the Russian Emperor Tsar Nicholas II's visit to Riga. Latvian Eduards Tise, who later became Riga-born Sergei Eisenstein's cinematographer, shot documentary footage of WWI, and documentary film-maker Jānis Doreds, who was arrested for illegally filming Lenin's funeral, later became a correspondent for Paramount News and filmed all over the world – from General Nobile's expedition to the North Pole, to Hitler, Mussolini, the occupation of Czechoslovakia and the capitulation of Paris.

- Documentary film developed at an intense rate in Latvia as well – by 1931, the most active film chronicler, Eduards Kraucs, had already shot 100 silent news reels, which were regularly shown in cinemas. With the help of the American film company, Fox Film Corporation, he began to add sound to the footage.

- Many Latvian cinematographers emigrated during the WWII German occupation, and so during the first post-war years, film people from all over the USSR came to Latvia, many with the experience of filming on the front lines. By the 1950's, however, the first educated Latvian film professionals appeared at the Riga Film Studio, and the new

age of Latvian film began with documentary film.

The first messenger, heralding the birth of a new film language, was *Baltie zvani* (White Bells, 1961) the pictorially emotional short film by director Ivars Kraulītis, writer Herz Frank and cinematographer Uldis Brauns, which received awards at the San Francisco and Oberhausen festivals, and which was included on the list of the "world's 100 best short films" by the film critics at the 1995 Clermont-Ferrand film festival. All three of the film's authors together with their peers became the creators of the legendary Riga School of Poetic Documentary – a

camera style and one-frame, unedited portrait of a child's soul in, *Par desmit minūtēm vecāks* (Ten Minutes Older, 1978). In 2002, the film inspired several world-famous directors to unite in a short film project in which Frank's idea was developed by Jim Jarmusch, Werner Herzog, Jean-Luc Godard, Bernardo Bertolucci, Wim Wenders, Aki Kaurismaki and others. Today Herz Frank is the Latvian documentary film-maker most in demand, as several international film festivals are showing his film retrospectives – in 2005, it was at the Procida festival, Il Vento del Cinema, in Italy. Frank also received a lifetime achievement award in documentary



school with amplitude impressive in scale – from Uldis Brauns' mega project, *235 000 000* (1967), for which several film groups worked in parallel in different parts of the Soviet Union, to Herz Frank's

film at the Tel Aviv Documentary Film Festival in 2003, and the Taiwan Documentary Film Festival in 2004. Furthermore, it's not only the documentary master's past that is worth noting, his latest films are also

getting awards – a cross-section of the life of a documentary film-maker in *Flashback* (2002), received the Russian Film Academy's Nika award, as the best film from the Baltics



Romeo and Juliet

and CIS countries, and in 2003, it was the Latvian documentary film most shown in international festivals: Frank's next films, *Dārgā Džuljeta* (Dear Juliet, 2004) and *Lielā Piektdiena* (Good Friday, 2005) are also following in the foot-steps of *Flashback*.

- During the 1980s, the fame of Latvian documentary cinema was re-established by Juris Podnieks, with his film, *Vai viegli būt jaunam?* (Is It Easy To Be Young?, 1986) dedicated to the problems of youth. The film had an explosion-like effect – it was

seen by 28 million viewers in a year, and broadcast rights were bought by 85 countries. Juris Podnieks was the first Latvian film director who was offered work by foreign companies – ITV and Channel 4 in the U.K., and through this co-operation he sought to fulfil his mission as a documentary film-maker – by immortalizing the fall of the Soviet Union on film.

- Another film marching triumphantly across world film screens was *Šķērsiela* (Crossroad Street, 1988) by Ivars Seleckis, which received the most prestigious



But the Hour Is Near

of documentary film awards – the Felix, the Joris Ivens prize and



Keep Smiling!

the Robert Flaherty prize. The film's continuation, *Jaunie laiki Šķērsielā* (New Times at Crossroad Street, 1999) also garnered world interest and awards in Munich, San Francisco, St. Petersburg and elsewhere.

- In the 1990s, Latvian documentary film made it to Cannes, with director Laila Pakalniņa's films, *Pasts* (The Mail) and *Prāmis* (The Ferry), winning the 1995 FIPRESCI award. In subsequent years, Pakalniņa has also gained recognition for features, which have been shown at Cannes, Venice and the Berlin festivals, but she hasn't lost her feel for documentaries – over the last years she's made several in the vein of a tactical and subtle observer.



Dream Land

Ten Minutes Older



*Leiputrija* (Dream Land, 2004) has had an especially successful run, receiving the Latvian national film award *Lielais Kristaps* for best documentary short, being nominated as the 2005 Best European documentary film, and being shown at 28 festivals receiving awards at several.



Crossroad Street

- Latvian documentary film of the 21st century cannot be trapped within the confines of some specific tendencies or characterizations – good films are good because they are different, not because they are classifiable. For example, the critics have yet to name a genre for one of the most interesting films of 2004, director Viesturs Kairišs' *Romeo and Juliet*, so delicately does the documentary process balance on the edge of staging in this film. The film was nominated for the Russian Film Academy's Nika award, and had intense festival interest. A year earlier, another film, also nominated for a Nika – Askolds Saulitis' *Keep Smiling!*, ponders life and death issues, lost soldiers and war, in a brusquely masculine, black and white, stylized manner. Director Askolds Saulitis has created his own Latvian documentary style with the motto, "no future without the past", revealed in his previous films, as well as in his current project, *Parāds Afganistānai* (Debt to Afghanistan).

His film, *Svētku anatomija* (The Anatomy of a National Holiday, 2005) – an unusual behind-the-scenes look at the National day festivities, is currently touring the festivals.

- Certain similarities, at the very least in terms of perfect professionalism, can be found among the most prolific Latvian documentary film associations. The films made by Vides Filmu Studija though, are not all "about birds" – alongside the projects about nature, ecological problems and exotic travel, the Vides Filmu Studija has also created a deep and shocking psychological study in the film, *Tārps* (The Worm, 2005) by director Andis Mizišs, an extreme close-up unveiling the tragic yet self-sufficient existence of two of life's rejects.



The Worm

- Juris Poškus, a film-maker who operates slightly outside of Latvian film tradition, studied film at the California Institute of the Arts. Perhaps that's why his films appear as unexpected flashes and garner the most contradictory reviews, from categorical denial to uninhibited

enthusiasm. Juris Poškus' latest documentary, *Bet Stunda Nāk* (But the Hour Is Near, 2003) was selected for competition at the Karlovy Vary festival, and his earlier film, *110/220* (1997) was shown at the MOMA gallery in New York at the beginning of 2006.

- Latvian documentary film-makers have achieved their genre's renaissance – serious attention is being paid to current films and not just those of the past, which means that there is hope for the future. The roads to the festivals have been paved, the awards are piling-up, and Latvian documentary film will soon be known to the cinephiles of the world.

## Alexander

Documentary, 40', DV, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2006

Director Jānis Vingris / Producer Jānis Vingris / Production Company Eho Filma / Sales Eho Filma / Contacts Eho Filma: Akas 5/7-8, Rīga LV-1011, Latvia, tel: +371 2 9244 842 eho@eho.lv www.eho.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia and the State Culture Capital Foundation

A portrait of Alexander – a man only 130cm tall, who surprises people around him with his great drive and achievements.

Released May 2006



## The Anatomy of a National Holiday

Documentary, 50', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2005

Director Askolds Saulītis / Producer Askolds Saulītis / Production Company Subjektīva Filma / Sales Subjektīva Filma / Contacts Subjektīva Filma: Stabu 17, Rīga LV-1011, Latvia, tel: +371 7295 640/ +371 2 9299 564, fax: +371 7358 877, subjektivfilma@inbox.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia and the State Culture Capital Foundation

Through expressive poetic cinematography this film offers a “poem” on the hundreds of worker-bees behind the annual celebrations of Latvian proclamation on November 18th in the year 2004.

Released June 2005



## Dina

Documentary, 50', Digital Betacam, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2005

Director Pēteris Krilovs / Producer Antra Cilinska / Production Company Juris Podnieks Studio / Sales Juris Podnieks Studio / Contacts Juris Podnieks Studio: Citadeles 2, Rīga LV-1010, Latvia, tel: +371 7216 967, fax: +371 7210 908, jps@jps.lv www.jps.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia and the State Culture Capital Foundation

Jānis was an actor, respected and in demand. Dina came to the Liepāja Theatre to become an actress. In the summer of 1992, Jānis fell off the roof of his house, broke his back and was partially paralysed. The doctors promised things would get better, but they didn't. They now live in a harsh reality, which seems unbearable.

Released May 2005



## Ex - Amen

Documentary, 26', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2005

Director Inese Kļava / Producer Ivars Zviedris / Production Company Ansis Epnars Studio AVE / Sales Ansis Epnars Studio AVE / Contacts Ansis Epnars Studio AVE: Miera 39-27, Rīga LV-1001, Latvia, tel./fax: +371 7370 087, ave@deponet.lv / Created with the support of the State Culture Capital Foundation

A struggling actress, a teacher, a former seaman, a policeman and a veterinarian all have a common line of work – conducting funerals. For one it's a passion, for one a duty, but for another it's a chance to earn a little extra...

Released October 2005



## Get Lost

Documentary, 50', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2005

Director Ivars Zviedris / Producer Ivars Zviedris / Production Company Ansis Epnars Studio AVE / Sales Ansis Epnars Studio AVE / Contacts Ansis Epnars Studio AVE: Miera 39-27, Rīga LV-1001, Latvia, tel./fax: +371 7370 087, ave@deponet.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia, the State Culture Capital Foundation of Latvia and MEDIA Development

In the godforsaken land on both sides of the Latvian-Estonian border, people are awaiting “the coming of Europe” in candlelight with no electricity. This film paints the difference between urban consciousness and crude rural values.



Released October 2005



## Ready and Done

Documentary, 26', DVCAM, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2006

Director Inese Kļava / Producer Uldis Cekulis / Production Companies Vides Filma Studija, AVE / Sales Vides Filma Studija / Contacts Vides Filma Studija: Kalnciema 28, Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia, tel: +371 7503 588, fax: +371 7503 589, vfs@vfs.lv, www.vfs.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia, the State Culture Capital Foundation and LTV

Sigurds works as a lift-man in a Riga hospital. He knows the old lift like the back of his hand, and it makes him feel needed. But a new, automatic lift is being installed in the adjacent shaft. “When it's ready, they'll pension me off”, Sigurds says with a smile. It seems clear though, that it's not so much the authorities keeping Sigurds at this job, but the customary clanking of the lift, the changing faces of the patients and the pretty nurses.

Released June 2006



## Riga My Riga

Documentary, 28', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2005

Director Sandris Jūra / Producers Vilnis Kalnaellis, Ilona Bičevska / Production Companies Rija Films, Avantis / Sales Rija Films: Mēness 4, Rīga LV-1013, Latvia, tel:+371 7362 656, fax: +371 7339 198, info@rijafilms.lv

Riga is big, imposing and in many places not quite right. At times it elicits curses, and at times one is simply happy to have met and become acquainted with this city. The film's characters - an experienced photographer, a young musician, a city planner and many others have very diverse feelings on Riga.

Released April 2006



## Stand Up, Teacher!

Documentary, 80', DV CAM, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2005

Directors Tāivaldis Margēvičs, Romualds Pipars / Producer Baiba Urbāne / Production Company European Documentary Film Symposiums / Sales European Documentary Film Symposiums / Contacts Film Studio Ģilde: Amatu 5, Rīga LV-1941, Latvia, tel./fax: +371 7210 022, pipars@mailbox.riga.lv / Created with the support of the State Culture Capital Foundation

The fates of the students involved in the Latvian educational system reforms and of their teacher – the screenwriter and film director, Tāivaldis Margēvičs, are unusually intertwined. This leads to thoughts on various, current popular integration problems and on universal human values.

Released July 2005



## A Streetcar Named Help

Documentary, 34', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2005

Director Gunārs Bandēns / Producer Liāna Langa / Production Company Idea Media / Sales Idea Media / Contacts Idea Media: Elizabetes 18-5, Rīga LV-1050, tel: +371 7224 113, liana@ideamedia.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia

From midnight until early morning one can travel to any suburb of Riga on a streetcar named Help, whose interior becomes a stage for life's dramas, human exhaustion and hope. The streetcar is a democratic place where anyone can spend some time.

Released March 2005



## Theodore

Documentary, 26', Betacam SX, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2006

Director Laila Pakalniņa / Producer Uldis Cekulis / Production Company Vides Filma Studija / Sales Vides Filma Studija / Contacts Vides Filma Studija: Kalnciema 28, Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia, tel: +371 7503 588, fax: +371 7503 589, vfs@vfs.lv, www.vfs.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia, the State Culture Capital Foundation, YLE Teema, Filnand and LTV, Latvia

Every day, come rain or shine, Theodore used to bike the seven kilometres from his house to the centre of the village to sit and drink beer at the bus stop. For him, no doubt, this place was the centre of the Universe. With his death, the centre has moved elsewhere, and the bus stop is just a bus stop again.

Released May 2006



## The Worm

Documentary, 71', DVCAM, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2005

Director Andis Mizišs / Producers Elvita Ruka, Uldis Cekulis / Production Company Vides Filma Studija / Sales DR TV International Sales / Contacts Vides Filma Studija: Kalnciema 28, Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia, tel: +371 7503 588, fax: +371 7503 589, vfs@vfs.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia, the State Culture Capital Foundation and ETV, Estonia

Karlis (62) and Inese (41) haven't been able to find their place in society after the collapse of socialism. They have no complaints, and no illusions. They expect nothing from life, but life is preparing a surprise for them...

Released September 2005



1 x 1

Directors Gints Grūbe, Daina Rašenbauma / Producer Kārlis Kalsbergs / Production Company Labvakar / Contacts Labvakar: Šmerļa 3, Rīga LV-1006, tel: + 371 7521 414, fax: + 371 7521 565, ingrida@e-labvakar.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia

In the 1940s, the generation that had been born and educated in the newly created Republic of Latvia emigrated to Europe and the U.S.A. A large number of the émigrés didn't really assimilate into their host countries' societies, maintaining that they would return to Latvia when the occupation ended. In 1991, when Latvia re-gained its independence, they returned. This film is about the first generation of exiles – those who came back, those who didn't, and how they get along with the new wave of economic immigrants from Latvia.

To be Released June 2007

## Beyond the Side Lines

Director Jānis Poņemeckis / Producer Askolds Saulītis / Production Company Subjektīva Filma / Contacts Subjektīva Filma: Stabu 17, Rīga LV-1011, Latvia, tel: + 371 7295 640, +371 2 9299 564, fax: + 371 7358 877, subjektivfilma@inbox.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia and LTV

A film about ex-Soviet basketball players, world and Olympic champions, former rivals who were once considered gods both inside and outside the sidelines, and who are now colleagues and living basketball legends. The events of the film take place over the last 20 years, a period of time when the former USSR states experienced transition from one type of economic and political situation to another. These stories reflect hopes and dreams, disappointments and doubts, patriotism and even betrayal. And these are human destinies – that can separate as well as unite in a miraculous way.

To be Released September 2006

## Child of the Big Bird

Director Andis Mizišs / Producer Uldis Cekulis / Production Company Vides Filmu Studija / Contacts Vides Filmu Studija: Kalnciema 28, Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia, tel: +371 7503 588, fax: +371 7503 589, vfs@vfs.lv, www.vfs.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia, the State Culture Capital Foundation, Baltic Media Centre, Denmark and LTV, Latvia

At the end of the 1950s, an airplane carrying a group of Latvian Brazilian missionaries lands in the jungles of southern Bolivia. The local Ayore Indian community mistake the plane for a huge bird and shower it with arrows. Among the missionaries there is a baby called Samuel. The Indians name him Child of the Big Bird. Fifty years later, Samuel has become the soul of the Baptist mission, and the only confidante of the Ayore Indians trapped in the dead end street between nature and civilization.

To be Released November 2006

## The Church will Arrive in the Evening

Director Andis Mizišs / Producer Uldis Cekulis / Production Company Vides Filmu Studija / Contacts Vides Filmu Studija: Kalnciema 28, Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia, tel: +371 7503 588, fax: +371 7503 589, vfs@vfs.lv, www.vfs.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia, the State Culture Capital Foundation, Baltic Media Centre, Denmark, LTV, Latvia and MEDIA Development

In the ice-free months Father Gennady captains a barge transformed into a floating church on a mission, cruising up and down the Don River and bringing spiritual food to the remote Cossack villages. A tragicomic drama of human passions based on the relationship between the contradiction-ridden personality of Father Gennady and the imperfect world he lives in.

MEDIA

To be Released September 2006

## Farmers

Director Ivars Seleckis / Producer Aldis Bērziņš / Production Company IK Studija / Co-production with WFDiF / Poland / Contacts IK Studija: Šmerļa 3, Rīga LV-1006, Latvia, tel./fax: +371 7529 864, ik-studija@inbox.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia and the State Culture Capital Foundation

A thorough study of the situation in rural Latvia over the course of the last thirty years, where the conflict between the familiar and the new, and desire and opportunity has fostered creative thinking in farmers looking to be masters of their own land.

To be Released October 2006

Documentary, 52', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia



Documentary, 58', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia



Documentary, 52', HDV, colour, stereo, Latvia



Documentary, 52', HDV, colour, stereo, Latvia



Documentary, 90', 35 mm, colour, stereo, Latvia



## Hello, Where Are You From? The Tourist

Documentary, 90', HDV, colour, stereo, Latvia

Director Roberts Vinovskis / Producer Roberts Vinovskis / Production Company Locomotive Productions / Contacts: Locomotive Productions: Bruninieku 28-57, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia, tel: +371 2 9298 667, +371 7298 538, office@locomotive.lv www.locomotive.lv

"Hello, where are you from?" is the question most frequently posed to tourists all over the world. I am from Latvia, a small Eastern European country increasingly visited by tourists. I am thirty years old, and during the last twelve years I have made a few films and visited 35 countries. I can be described as a "professional tourist". I am now returning to a few of the places I have visited in order to get an answer to a seemingly simple question – what is a tourist, and what does a tourist expect and receive from the places he or she visits. It's a story created in the first person, an anthropological survey ranging from the travellers of the "tourism homeland" in Ancient Rome, Egypt and Babylon, right through to the modern world – a cross-section of mass tourism.

To be Released September 2008



## homo@lv

Documentary, 52', HDV, colour, stereo, Latvia

Director Kaspars Goba / Producer Ieva Ūbele / Production Company elm media/ Contacts elm media: A.Čaka 83/85-19/2, Rīga, LV 1011, Latvia, tel/fax: +371 7299 722, goba@parks.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia and the State Culture Capital Foundation

A story exploring the reasons for openly negative attitude of the majority of Latvian society towards homosexual people in the country. Through looking at the life of homosexual people in Latvia the film will try to answer the question why is the nation that was a minority just a decade ago so intolerant against other minorities?

To be Released December 2007



## Little Bird's Diary

Documentary Animation, 30', Digital Betacam, b/w &amp; colour, stereo, Latvia

Director Edmunds Jansons / Producer Bruno Aščuks / Production Company Studija Centurms / Contacts Studija Centurms: Alberta 7-8, Rīga LV-1010, Latvia, tel./fax: +371 7333 043, brunoa@e-teliamtc.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia and the State Culture Capital Foundation

The first Latvian documentary animation film is based on unique drawings from the diary of 80 year-old Iriņa Piļke, encompassing a period from the end of WWII until the beginning of the 80s. These drawings, where the author appears as a little bird, show everything around her...everything we call life. Through the eyes of the little bird, Chiz, we get a glimpse of an earlier age.

To be Released March 2007



## Lottery

Documentary, 26', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia

Director Jānis Kalējs / Producer Alise Gelze / Production Company Film Angels Studio / Contacts Film Angels Studio: Kr.Valdemāra 33-10a, Rīga LV-1010, Latvia, tel: +371 7331 921, fax: +371 7331 933, ivo@angels.lv www.angels.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia and the State Culture Capital Foundation

Is there anybody who doesn't know what a lottery is? Sportlotto, Bingo, Sprints... scratch and win instantly! An ideal marketing tool. Is there anybody who hasn't heard a heavy sigh quickly followed by the words: "...everything in life's a lottery...?"

To be Released November 2006



## Mansur's War Dance

Documentary, 52', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia

Director Aija Bley / Producer Guntis Trekeris / Production Company Ego Media / Contacts Ego Media: Vairoga 54-4, Rīga LV-1039, Latvia tel: +371 9219 373, egomedia@inbox.lv / Created with the support of the State Culture Capital Foundation

Mansur Musaev is a 12 year-old Chechen boy who has spent his childhood in wartime and as a refugee. He is slowly going blind. But Mansur is also an exceptionally talented dancer who has been performing since he was a toddler.

To be Released May 2007



## The Station

Creative Documentary, 30', Betacam SP, b/w, stereo, Latvia

Director Ilona Brūvere / Producer Ilona Brūvere / Production Company Kinolats / Contacts Kinolats: Kapseļu 3b, Rīga-1046, Latvia, tel: + 371 2 6440 907, art.is@apollo.lv, www.dvdvideo.lv/world / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia and the State Culture Capital Foundation

A film about the first railroad stations in Latvia – fixtures of past times and ideals and possessing architectural value. The history of the stations characterizes forgotten truths, and the sense of provincial Latvian life. The station is a kind of transition between various realities – even when the possibility of getting on a train and leaving for somewhere no longer exists, the dream remains. The station is a miniature model of society, a meeting-place for those who are searching for a forgotten romanticism, and for those who have already transcended into the reality of gas stations, airports, banks and supermarkets, it's the only connection to the rest of society.

To be Released March 2007



## Us and Them

Documentary, 60', Digital Betacam, colour, stereo, Latvia

Director Antra Cilinska / Producer Antra Cilinska / Production Company Juris Podnieks Studio / Contacts Juris Podnieks Studio: Citadeles 2, Rīga LV-1010, Latvia, tel: +371 7216 967, fax: +371 7210 908, jps@jps.lv, www.jps.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia, the State Culture Capital Foundation and MEDIA Development

The existence of two parallel communities – one Latvian, the other Russian, is the reality of present day Latvia. After the establishment of an independent Latvian Republic in 1991, the Russian speaking community began to view themselves as a threatened minority, and to depict themselves as oppressed. Where does the truth lie? Are there victims? Or is it simply that the idea of integration does not work properly for either side?

MEDIA

To be Released September 2006



## Victor

Documentary, 52', Digital Betacam, colour, stereo, Latvia/France

Director Roy Lekus / Producers Roy Lekus, Uldis Cekulis / Production Company Vides Filmu Studija / Co-production with Private Joke Productions, France / Contacts Vides Filmu Studija: Kalnciema 28, Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia, tel: +371 7503 588, fax: +371 7503 589, vfs@vfs.lv, www.vfs.lv / Created with the support of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council, the National Film Centre of Latvia, LTV, Latvia

In April 2000, an old, storm-damaged Latvian cargo ship was abandoned by its owner in a French port, leaving its crew members to fend for themselves. Six years later, the cloud of abandonment still hangs over the surviving crew members, while the owner lives freely. This is a story of the Latvian cargo ship VICTOR, and its crew of fifteen sailors from Latvia, Lithuania and Russia, which reveals with equal power the individual character of the seafarers in an extreme situation, and the recent history of shipping in ex-Soviet countries. Or, shall we say, the dark side of this history, hitherto undocumented on film, which still continues today.

To be Released September 2008



## Working Class Ballet

Documentary, 60', HDV, colour, stereo, Latvia

Director Roberts Vinovskis / Producer Roberts Vinovskis / Production Company Locomotive Productions / Contacts: Locomotive Productions: Bruņinieku 28-57, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia, tel: +371 2 9298 667, +371 7298 538, office@locomotive.lv, www.locomotive.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia, the State Culture Capital Foundation

In 2004, the Latvian National football team qualified for the European Championship for the first time in history. The participation of the Latvian team in EURO 2004 serves as background for observing football not only as social, but also as an aesthetic phenomenon. The lines between football and art are examined by formulating less discussed aspects of this beautiful game.

To be Released December 2006



Films from Latvia

Culture Released

## Good Friday (Venerdi Santo)

Documentary, 42', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2005

Director Herz Frank / Producers Angelo Curti, Herz Frank / Production Company Film Studio EFEF / Co-production with Teatri Uniti, Italy / Sales Film Studio EFEF / Contacts Film Studio EFEF: Kr.Valdemāra 18-1, Rīga LV-1010, Latvia, tel: +371 7242 611, fax: +371 7242 612, herzfrank@yahoo.com

On the islet of Procida near Naples, Italy, the Mystery Procession commencing at dawn on Good Friday of each year has been traditionally conducted by the Turchini Fraternity since 1627... The film captures portraits of Procida's inhabitants during the procession and in effect reveals characteristics of the Italian people.

Released September 2005



## Philosopher Escaped

Documentary, 60', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2005

Director Uldis Tironis / Producer Roberts Vinovskis / Production Company Locomotive Productions / Sales Locomotive Productions / Contacts: Bruņinieku 28-57, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia, tel: +371 2 9298 667, +371 7298 538, office@locomotive.lv, www.locomotive.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia, the State Culture Capital Foundation

Alexander Piatigorsky – expert on Buddhist and Indian philosophy, a paradoxical thinker and a legendary figure in Russian intellectual circles since the late 60s, an accomplished writer who “collects interesting people” and “does not care to prepare for death”. The film follows him to various cities: London, his hometown since emigrating in 1974; Moscow, the city of his birth; Vienna, Riga, Paris, and Berlin, where he visits to give lectures and talk to friends, as well as to the Buddhist monasteries in the Himalayas, the place of his dreams and source of his research. While the setting changes, the conversation continues unperturbed: friendly, exuberant, funny, dead serious, inviting the viewer to join the philosopher in his quest.

Released May 2005



## Version. LNO

Documentary, 28', DVCAM, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2006

Director Davis Simanis jr. / Producer Roberts Vinovskis / Production Company Locomotive Productions / Sales Locomotive Productions / Contacts: Bruņinieku 28-57, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia, tel.: +371 2 929 8667, +371 7298 538, office@locomotive.lv, www.locomotive.lv

Ten years ago the Latvian National Opera was re-opened after massive reconstruction. It is a now place where artists and the stage come together in an unusual atmosphere to create “the miracle” of music, action and text – the opera phenomenon.

Released April 2006



## Vijaya

Documentary, 70', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia 2005

Director Ināra Kolmane / Producers Jānis Juhņevičs, Ināra Kolmane / Production Company Film Studio Devīni / Sales Film Studio Devīni / Contacts Film Studio Devīni: Ludzas 24, Rīga, LV-1003, Latvia tel: +371 7241 688, fax: +371 7241 434, devini@parks.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia and the State Culture Capital Foundation

Her dancing was admired by Jawaharal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. She was loved by the world famous American poet Robert Lowell. She was the first to introduce sacred dance into church services in many countries around the world. Her name is Vija Vētra. She began to dance when she was eight. She is now eighty, and still dancing.

Released July 2005



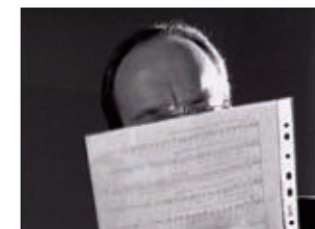
## While...

Documentary, 26', Betacam SP, b/w, stereo, Latvia, 2005

Director Ivars Zviedris / Producer Ivars Zviedris / Production Company Ansis Epnars Studio AVE / Sales Ansis Epnars Studio AVE / Contacts Ansis Epnars Studio AVE: Miera 39-27, Rīga, LV-1001, Latvia, tel./fax: 371 7370 087, ave@deponet.lv / Created with the support of the State Culture Capital Foundation

The film is a mirror reflection of the choir Kamēr..., as seen through the girls' white dresses, the beads of sweat on the tip of the conductor's nose, and through close-ups of moments when musical ecstasy reaches a culmination.

Released April 2005



Films from Latvia

Culture To be Released

## The Deconstruction of an Artist

Documentary, 52', Digital Betacam, colour, stereo, Latvia/France

Director Pēteris Krilovs / Producer Uldis Cekulis / Production Company Vides Filmu Studija in cooperation with Digitālā Darbnīca, Latvia / Co-production with Vivement Lundi, France / Contacts Vides Filmu Studija: Kalnciema 28, Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia, tel: +371 7503 588, fax: +371 7503 589, vfs@vfs.lv, www.vfs.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia, Culture Capital Foundation of Latvia, LTV, Latvia, LRT, Lithuania, ETV, Estonia YLE, Finland, RAI SAT, Italy, TV Rennes, France and MEDIA TV Broadcasting

Artist Gustav Klucis (1895-1938), one of the pioneers and major exponents of constructivism and photo collage, is also one of the most controversial figures in Latvian art. Born to an obscure peasant family, he is probably the best known Latvian artist in the world. Gustav Klucis' life and artistic career still poses many unanswered questions. Who was he? A hero or a victim of his own political naivety? An idealist or conformist? A patriot or a traitor of his country? Killed during the Stalin purges, his name lives on in art history as one of the classics of the Russian avant-garde. This film will make an effort to “decipher” Klucis using the means of his own artistic thinking.

MEDIA

To be Released April 2007



## The Hands

Documentary, 60', HD/HDV, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2006

Director Davis Simanis jr. / Producer Roberts Vinovskis / Production Company Locomotive Productions / Sales Locomotive Productions / Contacts: Bruņinieku 28-57, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia, tel: +371 2 9298 667, +371 7298 538, office@locomotive.lv, www.locomotive.lv

A view of the opera as the synthesis of all arts – the most sophisticated challenge and creative conflict. Richard Wagner in Riga – four directors from different European countries stage *The Ring of the Nibelung*, for the first time in Latvia. The film is a dynamic anthropology of the contemporary artist – lacking a mission and seeking cooperative creativity.

To be Released April 2007



## Nude

Documentary, 26', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia

Director Ināra Kolmane / Producer Jānis Juhņevičs / Production Company Film Studio Devīni / Contacts Film Studio Devīni: Ludzas 24, Rīga, LV-1003, Latvia, tel: +371 7241 688, fax: +371 7241 434, devini@parks.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia and the State Culture Capital Foundation

Some people create family albums, but accomplished arts scholar, Sarmīte Sīle, takes a nude picture of herself every ten years. Behind this unique series of nude photos that span a lifetime, is her story.

To be Released May 2007



## The Courts

Documentary, 52', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia

Director Andris Rozenbergs / Producers Jānis Juhņevičs, Ināra Kolmane / Production Company Film Studio Devīni / Contacts Film Studio Devīni: Ludzas 24, Rīga, LV-1003, Latvia tel: +371 7241 688, fax: +371 7241 434 devini@parks.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia, the State Culture Capital Foundation

A sign on one church in Europe says: „God, guard us from black death and the Courts”. The Courts have been hiding and living in the Courtland dunes and forests, fighting for their freedom and preserving their language and traditions. Sometimes they lived under the laws of the Duchy of Prussia, sometimes under the laws of Russia. Through the remaining Courts and spectacular evidence and locations, the intriguing past and present of the Courts shall be revealed.

To be Released May 2007



## The Debt to Afghanistan

Documentary, 58', HDV, colour, stereo, Latvia

Director Askolds Saulitis / Producer Askolds Saulitis / Production Company Subjektīva Filma / Contacts Subjektīva Filma: Stabu 17, Rīga LV-1011, Latvia, tel: +371 7295 640, +371 2 9299 564, fax: +371 7358 877, subjektivfilma@inbox.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia, the State Culture Capital Foundation and MEDIA Development

There is an old saying attributed to Alexander the Great: he who will rule Afghanistan will rule the world. The film will portray “the roof of the Earth” and track the close links between this far-off country and Latvia.



To be Released November 2006



## Double Portrait of a Coin

Documentary, 52', Digital Betacam, b/w, stereo, Latvia

Director Romualds Pipars / Producer Baiba Urbāne / Production Company Film Studio Ģilde / Contacts Film Studio Ģilde: Amatu 5, Rīga LV-1941, Latvia, tel./fax: +371 7210 022, pipars@mailbox.riga.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia and the State Culture Capital Foundation

Using previously unpublished footage shot by amateurs in the era of 8mm cameras, the film is about the simple human life of those who lived in Soviet Latvia from 1940 until 1991, a time when a double-moral ruled society.

To be Released December 2006



## My Husband Andrei Sakharov

Documentary, 52', Digital Betacam, colour, stereo, Latvia

Director Ināra Kolmane / Producers Jānis Juhņevičs, Ināra Kolmane / Production Company Film Studio Devīni / Co-production with Odysseus Productions, France / Contacts Film Studio Devīni: Ludzas 24, Rīga, LV-1003, Latvia tel: +371 7241 688, fax: +371 7241 434 devini@parks.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia, National Film Centre of France, the State Culture Capital Foundation and MEDIA TV Broadcasting

The life of Andrei Sakharov, the most famous Soviet dissident, Nobel Peace Prize winner and creator of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, will be revealed through exclusive archive materials and interviews, and personally narrated by his wife, Yelena Bonner.



To be Released November 2006



## Nazi and Blondes

Documentary, 58', HDV, colour, stereo, Latvia/Estonia/Lithuania

Director Arbo Tammiksaar / Producers Askolds Saulitis, Jaak Kilmi, Valdas Navasaitis / Production Company Subjektīva Filma, Latvia / Co-production with Kuukulgur Film, Estonia, VG Studija, Lithuania / Contacts Subjektīva Filma: Stabu 17, Rīga LV-1011, Latvia, tel: +371 7295 640, +371 2 9299 564, fax: +371 7358 877, subjektivfilma@inbox.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia/Estonian Film Foundation

A film about the fate of Baltic actors in Soviet cinema. Not, however, about the glory, the big roles and stars, but of the darker side - the way in which the stereotype of the enemy was created by the Soviet era film industry.

To be Released April 2007



## Riverside of Freedom

Documentary, 60', HD, b/w and colour, Dolby Stereo, Latvia

Director Olafs Okonovs / Producer Guna Stahovska / Production Company Platforma / Contacts Dzintaru pr. 19, Jūrmala, LV-2015, Latvia, tel: +371 7147 022, fax: +371 7147 020, guna@platformafilma.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia and the State Culture Capital Foundation

Rīga is a city caught between the east and the west, alternately war-trodden and rebuilt. The November 11th Riverside road is the place where every era and every major event has emerged and transpired, and a place where people have partaken in the making of history.

To be Released October 2007



## Search for the Truth

Documentary, 52, Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia

Director Ināra Kolmane / Producer Jānis Juhņevičs / Production Company Film Studio Devīni / Contacts Film Studio Devīni: Ludzas 24, Rīga, LV-1003, Latvia tel: +371 7241 688, fax: +371 7241 434 devini@parks.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia

Through the experience of the residents of the Republic of Latvia, the film shall portray the fragile time of WWII – the lies and suppression of the Soviet era, and the endless search for the truth, moreover, it shall reveal the evidence of the historical contradictions.

To be Released November 2007



## Wreck Style

Documentary, 52 min., Digital Betacam, colour, stereo, Latvia/Italy

Director Raffale Brunetti / Producer Uldis Cekulis / Production Company Vides Filmu Studija / Co-production with B&B Films, Italy / Contacts Vides Filmu Studija: Kalnciema 28, Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia, tel: +371 7503 588, fax: +371 7503 589, vfs@vfs.lv, www.vfs.lv / Created with the support of Planet Italia, LTV, Latvia, LRT, Lithuania, ETV, Estonia

A fog-bound ship navigates dangerously close to an island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean well known to sailors as the land of shipwrecks. The ship crashes onto the rocks, and after launching the first SOS signal in history, the captain tries to commit suicide. The island's inhabitants as usual hurry to collect from the wreck. The remains of this 1909 shipwreck, the Slavonia, the largest ocean liner of its time, causes two islanders to become competitors and enemies.

To be Released April 2008



## Zapp: Minox Was His Life

Documentary, 52', DigiBeta, colour, stereo, Latvia/Switzerland

Director Kurt Wiedmer / Producers Ray McCormack, Guntis Trekeris / Production Company Ego Media, Latvia / Co-production with NZZ Format, Switzerland / Contacts Ego Media: Vairoga 54-4, Rīga LV-1039, Latvia tel: +371 2 9219 373, egomedia@inbox.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia

Photography enthusiasts know that Walter Zapp is the father of the Minox, the first, revolutionary miniature camera, with one million units sold since its invention in 1935. Because the Minox was so small, it became a legendary and sought after tool for a generation of spies – much to the displeasure of its inventor.

To be Released November 2006



## Engure. Lake Given by the Sea

Documentary, 46', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2005

Director Kaspars Goba / Producer Kaspars Goba / Production Company elm media / Co-production with Latvian Fund for Nature / Sales elm media / Contacts elm media: A. Čaka 83/85-19/2, Rīga LV-1050, Latvia, tel./fax: +371 7299 722, goba@parks.lv

One of Latvia's most unique lakes and its fate during various political eras through the people who have experienced these changes – fishermen, ornithologists, hunters, reed harvesters, nature reserve workers and farmers. They tell their stories of the lake.

Released July 2005



## Sea of Attractions

Documentary, 26', 35 mm, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2005

Director Dainis Kļava / Producer Uldis Cekulis / Production Company Vides Filmu Studija / Sales DR TV International Sales / Contacts Vides Filmu Studija: Kalnciema 28, Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia, tel: +371 7503 588, fax: +371 7503 589, vfs@vfs.lv, www.vfs.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia and LRT, Lithuania

The narrow, sandy strip of seashore is a no man's zone belonging both to the sea and the coastland. What's interesting is that this zone exerts an almost magnetic attraction on people, and so the seashore often turns into a playground where the old cohabits with the new, the primitive with the civilized, and the traditional with the modern. This film presents an ironic view of one such place on the Baltic Sea coast.

Released August 2005



Films  
from  
Latvia

## Wildlife / Natural History To be Released

## Imposed Double Life Of the Saamis

Documentary, 52', Digital Betacam, colour, stereo, Latvia/Estonia

Director Dainis Klava / Producer Uldis Cekulis / Production Company Vides Filmu Studija / Co-production with Vesilind / Estonia / Contacts Vides Filmu Studija: Kalnciema 28, Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia, tel: +371 7503 588, fax: +371 7503 589, vfs@vfs.lv, www.vfs.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia, Estonian Film Foundation, Estonian Cultural Endowment, ETV, Estonia, LTV, Latvia, LRT, Lithuania, SVT, Sweden, MEDIA TV Broadcasting



A film based on the dilemma that many Saami men and women face today – whether to continue the centuries-old lifestyle of nomadic wanderings across the vast reaches of northern tundra together with their herds of reindeer, or to adapt themselves to the realities of the modern world at the cost of gradually losing their traditional identity. This dilemma will be reflected through the contrasting portrayal of two brothers. Nil who lives in a town and tries to preserve the traditions of his people through information by producing Saami language programmes for Swedish television, while Lars lives 'inside' the tradition on the tundra tending his reindeer.

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To be Released August 2007

## Stasys

Documentary, 52', Digital Betacam, colour, stereo, Latvia

Director Māris Maskalāns / Producer Uldis Cekulis / Production Company Vides Filmu Studija / Contacts Vides Filmu Studija: Kalnciema 28, Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia, tel: +371 7503 588, fax: +371 7503 589, vfs@vfs.lv, www.vfs.lv / Created with the support of the National Film Centre of Latvia, LTV, Latvia



Nature holds no interest for Stasys, but he cannot avoid nature because it comes into his yard and house. A wagtail has built a nest in an old tractor, and the white stork is nesting on his rooftop. There are corncrakes behind the house, mice inside the house and a myriad of other creatures. For thirty years ornithologist Janis has been spending his summers with Stasys – his arrival is always a festive occasion, and his departure brings sadness.

To be Released May 2007

Films  
from  
Latvia

## Science Released

## Treading the Pharaoh's Dust

Documentary, 34', Betacam SP, colour, stereo, Latvia, 2005

Director Romualds Pipars / Producer Romualds Pipars / Production Company Film Studio Ģilde / Sales Film Studio Ģilde / Contacts Film Studio Ģilde: Amatu 5, Rīga LV-1941, Latvia, tel./fax: +371 7210 022, pipars@mailbox.riga.lv / Created with the support of the State Culture Capital Foundation



For the first time in the history of world cultural heritage preservation, a Latvian scientific expedition explores the ancient Karnaka temple in Egypt using the most up-to-date technique: three-dimensional laser scanning.

Released January 2005

## BALTIC SEA FORUM FOR DOCUMENTARIES

As of September 2006, Latvia will become a regular host of the Baltic Sea Forum for Documentaries, thus celebrating the 10th anniversary of the event started by the Baltic Media Centre on the beautiful island of Bornholm in Denmark. The event moved on to other Baltic countries, where it has now become the most important yearly international venue for documentary film under the auspices of Baltic Films.

- The Baltic Sea Forum is a documentary project market supported by MEDIA, the State Culture Capital Foundation and Baltic Films, and is organized by the National Film Centre of Latvia, MEDIA Desk Latvia, the Producers Association and the European Documentary Network.

- It brings together Baltic, Polish, Russian, Belarusian, Ukrainian and, for the first time, Georgian producers, with the commissioning editors and representatives of film funds from all over Europe, looking for new and exciting documentary projects from the region.

- A total of 25 projects will be selected for

the forum which is to take place September 9-10, 2006. The panel will consist of 11-13 commissioning editors from European TV stations and film funds. Commissioning editors from Baltic televisions will also be represented.

- A co-production workshop will be held from September 6-8, 2006, in the good hands of Steven Seidenberg (UK), Paul Pauwels (Belgium), Tue Steen Müller and Lena Pasanen (Denmark). Participants will be introduced to the latest developments in the European documentary film market, along with presentations of case studies of well-known international co-productions, and insight into co-production agreements and other legal issues regarding co-production. The main focus will be on project development, story-telling and developing presentation skills.

- The forum and the workshop will be a continuation of a good and well-established tradition (since 1997), that has by now brought new skills, knowledge, contacts and possibilities of cultural exchanges to its immediate participants, as well as indirectly to the wide television audiences who view the films co-

produced internationally as the result of the forum.

- Over the last 10 years, the forum has been godfathering prize-winning films from such acclaimed directors as Herz Frank and Ivars Seleckis from Latvia, Peeter Urbla from Estonia, Audrius Stonys and Arunas Matelis from Lithuania and many others.

- To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Baltic Sea Forum, a screening of the past most successful forum films from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine, Russia will be organised in Riga during this year's event.

- More info on the Baltic Sea Forum for Documentaries at [www.mediadesk.lv](http://www.mediadesk.lv)



## Films (Premieres and Repeats) Screened in Cinemas of Latvia in 2005

Films	Number of Films	%	Admissions %	GBO %
European Films incl.: <b>documentaries</b>	235 15	44.7 2.9	20.4 0.7	21.8 0.9
Latvian Films incl.: <b>documentaries</b>	40 20	7.6 3.8	1.8 0.5	0.9 0.3
US Films incl.: <b>documentaries</b>	197 2	37.5 0.4	70.8 0.1	70.3 0.1
Other Films	54	10.2	7.0	7.0
Total	526	100.00	100.00	100.00

## TOP 3 Latvian documentary films screened most in international festivals all over the world in 2005

## Dream Land / Leiputrija

by Laila Pakalniņa, Vides Filmu Studija – 28 international film festivals

There are places that we don't want to know anything about, places that we would rather pretend don't exist at all. One such place is a dumpsite. From the humans' point of view, it is a ghastly place, a stinking desert of trash. But it's a desert that is teeming with life. The astounding profusion of insects, reptiles, birds and mammals, all intertwined in an existential life-death relationship imparts some strangely alluring dream-like quality.

## Romeo and Juliet / Romeo un Džuljeta

by Viesturs Kairiņš, Kaupo Filma – 16 international film festivals

Emotional and stylistically consistent documentary musical depicting the staging of Bernstein's West Side Story with deaf youths. The dramatic material is intertwined with life and the emotional scenes of the musical; it creates a distinctive choreography, which is a statement of the deaf people's craving to love this world and to be open. Reciting to music, which is the way of singing of the deaf, is the strongest and most unexpected witness of the realities of their world.

## But the Hour is Near / Bet stunda nāk

by Juris Poškus, FA Filma – 11 international film festivals

On the streets of Riga, Eriks and Daniels preach both the Gospel and their version of a modern Christian lifestyle. Although friends, they hold opposing views of life – that of an extreme materialist and extreme idealist. Their story unfolds against the background of the emergence of charismatic new sects, determined to corner the religious market. A grotesque story from real life about ordinary people who try to embrace fanatical faith in the face of temptations and demands of everyday life.

In the year 2005/2006 Latvian documentaries received 10 prizes and 2 important nominations in film festivals and film events.

## NOMINATIONS

**Dream Land / Leiputrija** by Laila Pakalniņa, Vides Filmu Studija – nominated as **the Best Documentary by the European Film Academy**;

**Romeo and Juliet / Romeo un Džuljeta** by Viesturs Kairiņš, Kaupo Filma – nominated as **the Best Film of CIS and Baltic States by the Russian Film Academy NIKE**.

## PRIZES

## DREAM LAND / LEIPUTRIJA

by Laila Pakalniņa

**The Best Short Documentary**, National Film Festival Lielais Kristaps 2005, Latvia

**Grand Prix**, Ukrainian International Documentary Film Festival 2005, Ukraine

**Main Prize**, International Film Festival GREEN VISION 2005, St. Petersburg, Russia

**Jury's Special Mention**, International Film Festival ECOCINEMA 2005, Greece

**The Best Naturalistic Film**, 4th International Naturalistic Film Festival 2006, Italy

## MOSKATCHKA / MOSKAČKA

by Annett Schütze

**Jury's Special Mention**, International Documentary Film Festival VISIONS DU REEL 2005, Switzerland

**Jury's Special Mention**, Golden Apricot Film Festival 2005, Yerevan, Armenia

## HOME OF THE SUN / IEVAINOTĀ SAULE

by Urmas Liiv

**Grand Prix**, EKORAJ Film Festival 2005, Kozlowka, Poland

## THE WORM / TĀRPS

by Andis Mizišs

**The Best Feature Length Documentary**, National Film Festival Lielais Kristaps 2005, Latvia



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The National Film Centre of Latvia is a state financed governmental organisation overseeing the film branch in Latvia, granting governmental financial support to Latvian films, preserving the national audio-visual heritage, promoting Latvian films abroad, co-operating with the relevant international and national organisations and organising training for Latvian film professionals. We are members of

the EURIMAGES Foundation as of 2001 and MEDIA Plus as of January, 2002. At major international events we work together with Estonians and Lithuanians under the co-operation platform BALTIC FILMS. We are keen on attracting film, television, and video production to Latvia, stimulating inward investment, creating employment opportunities for creative staff, technicians and support service companies.

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