ArteKino Classics: A New Look at Europe’s Film Heritage

Europe’s film heritage is a cultural treasure of astonishing diversity that will have a special place in ARTE with the establishment of the new programme ArteKino Classics. The works waiting to be (re)discovered by all Europeans include both well-known classics and films that are remarkable for their view of the world, their cinematography, or the superb acting.

ArteKino Classics is to kick off on 29 March 2022. It’s composed of a three-month-long highlight, followed by a monthly offering, as of June 2022. The films on arte.tv will be available Europe-wide with subtitles in six languages. The twenty recently restored films from almost as many countries were selected in close consultation with the Association des Cinémathèques Européennes (ACE). A third of them are by women directors. ArteKino Classics brings together European films that broke new ground in cinematography.

The ArteKino project, of which ArteKino Classics is part of, is cofunded by the Creative Europe MEDIA Programme of the European Union.

Films already available on arte.tv

- The Road
  DIRECTED BY: FEDERICO FELLINI, ITALY 1954, 103 MIN.
- Benny’s Video
  DIRECTED BY: MICHAEL HANEKE, AUSTRIA 1992, 105 MIN.
- Something Different (O něčem jiné)
  DIRECTED BY: VERA CHYTILOVÁ, CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1963, 82 MIN.
- The Wayward Girl (Ung Flukt)
  DIRECTED BY: EDITH CARLMAR, NORWAY 1959, 95 MIN.
- Do You Remember Dolly Bell? (Sécaš lise Dolly Bell?)
  DIRECTED BY: EMIR KUSTURICA, YUGOSLAVIA 1981, 108 MIN.
- Death of a Horse (Vdekja e kalit)
  DIRECTED BY: SAMIR KUMBARO, ALBANIA 1992, 90 MIN.
- And Now for Something Completely Different
  DIRECTED BY: TERRY GILLIAM UND IAN MACNAUGHTON, GREAT BRITAIN 1971, 88 MIN.

Films to be available in the course of the year on arte.tv:

- Solo Sunny
  DIRECTED BY: KONRAD WOLF, GDR 1980, 99 MIN.
- Derborence
  DIRECTED BY: FRANCIS REUSSE, SWITZERLAND 1985, 99 MIN.

The man who had his hair cut short (De man die zijn haar kort liet knippen)
DIRECTED BY: ANDRÉ DELVAUX, BELGIUM 1966, 98 MIN.

Carmen
DIRECTED BY: CARLOS SAURA, SPAIN 1983, 102 MIN.

She Didn’t Say No
DIRECTED BY: CYRIL FRANKEL, IRLAND 1958 97 MIN.

Scrubbers
DIRECTED BY: MAI ZETTERLING, SWEDEN/GREAT BRITAIN 1982, 90 MIN.

Charles und Lucie
DIRECTED BY : NELLY KAPLAN, FRANCE 1979 , 96 MIN.

The Wheelchair (El cochecito)
DIRECTED BY: MARCO FERRERI, ITALY/SPAIN 1960, 85 MIN.

Blood on the Lips (Les lèvres rouges)
DIRECTED BY: HARRY KÜMEL, BELGIUM 1971, 87 MIN.

This Night (Nuit de chien)
REGIE: CHANTAL AKERMAN, BELGIUM 1982, 87 MIN.

Women (Ök Ketten)
DIRECTED BY: MARTA MÉSZÁROS, HUNGARY 1978, 100 MIN.

Journey to Italy (Viaggio in Italia)
DIRECTED BY: ROBERTO ROSSELLINI, ITALIEN 1954, 80 MIN.
ArteKino Classics opens with one of the great classics of Italian cinema history: Federico Fellini’s La Strada, a neorealist drama set in the world of street performers living on the fringes of society. The film music by Nino Rota was a key factor in the work’s success, as was the acting of Giulietta Masina, whose face became an icon of Italian cinema. La Strada was first screened at the Venice Film Festival 1954, where it won the Silver Lion, followed by the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film three years later.

La Strada (The Road)

Online from 21/03/2022 to 19/06/2022 in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

Austria’s spot in ArteKino Classics is taken by its foremost film-maker working today, Michael Haneke. Benny’s Video is a psycho-drama about the estrangement and isolation of a disturbed teenager called Benny, whose violent videos eventually prove too much for both him and his family to bear.

Benny’s Video

Online from 21/03/2022 to 30/04/2022 in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

here were far more women directors in the former Eastern Bloc than in the West in the 1960s. One such film-maker was the Czech director Vera Chytilová, whose first full-length feature film, O něčem jiném (Something Different) parallels the stories of two women, one real, the other fictional. The real woman was the Czech gymnast – and later gold medallist – Eva Bosáková, who plays herself in the film.

Something Different (O něčem jiném)

Online from 21/03/2022 to 20/09/2022 in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv
The Wayward Girl (Ung Flukt)

Online from 21/03/2022 to 20/06/2022
in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY EDITH CARLMAR
NORWAY 1959, 95 MIN
WITH: ATLE MERTON, ROLF SODER, LIV ULLMANN

Ung Flukt, Liv Ullmann’s debut film from the year 1959, is a wonderful rediscovery from the Norwegian film archives that is to have its Europe-wide TV premiere as part of ArteKino Classics. A beautiful work by Norwegian director Edith Carlmar, it shows Ullmann in the role of Gerd, a headstrong girl who refuses to be bound by convention. The film was modern for the late 1950s and radical in its unsentimental depiction of the class differences that will eventually destroy the main characters’ budding romance.

Do You Remember Dolly Bell? (Sjećaš li se Dolly Bell?)

Online from 23/03/2022 to 22/06/2022
in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY EMIR KUSTURICA
YUGOSLAVIA 1981, 108 MIN.
WITH: KINEMA SARAJEVO, SLAVKO ŠTIMAC, SLOBODAN ALIGRUDIĆ

What forty years ago was a “Yugoslavian film” is now a film from Serbia. Whether Yugoslavian or Serbian, it was shot by Emir Kusturica, whose debut work Do You Remember Dolly Bell? made him internationally famous almost overnight. His reminiscences of a rebellious youth in a communist state is undoubtedly one of the highlights of ArteKino Classics.

Death of a Horse (Vdekja e kalit)

Online from 29/03/2022 to 20/06/22
in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY SAIMIR KUMBARO
ALBANIA 1992, 90 MIN.
WITH: RAJMONDA BULUKU, NIKO KANXHERI, TIMO FLLOKO

Albania, too, has a place in ArteKino Classics: Vdekja e kalit (Death of a Horse) was made during the presidency of Sali Berisha, when the country was moving away from communism. In it, film-maker Saimir Kumbaro addresses the communist leadership’s absurd politics of repression and summarizes the history of his country in a sweeping, visually powerful allegory.
And Now for Something Completely Different

Online from 21/03/2022 to 01/06/2022 in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY TERRY GILLIAM UND IAN MACNAUGHTON
GREAT BRITAIN 1971, 88 MIN.
WITH: GRAHAM CHAPMAN, JOHN CLEESE, ERIC IDLE

The legendary Pythons have also earned a place on ArteKino Classics. And Now for Something Completely Different, an anthology of the best sketches from the successful BBC series Monty Python's Flying Circus, is fairly brimming with weird animation sequences and hilarious skits. The compilation is a tour de force of black humour, cheap slapstick, utter silliness, and profound absurdity.

Solo Sunny

Online from 01/04/2022 to 31/07/2022 in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY KONRAD WOLF AND WOLFGANG KOHLHAASE
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC 1980, 99 MIN.
WITH: RENATE KRÖSSNER, ALEXANDER LANG, HEIDE KIPP

The country represented by Solo Sunny in ArteKino Classics no longer exists, because it was made in East Germany. The film that grew out of the close collaboration between the director Konrad Wolf and the screenwriter Wolfgang Kohlhaase tells the story of a young woman called Sunny who dreams of a career as a pop singer. Clearly this will be no easy undertaking for a person with such a rebellious personality living in a heavily conformist socialist state. Solo Sunny was shot in the Prenzlauer Berg district of Berlin and gives viewers an authentic glimpse of what life there was like at the time.

Derborence

Online from 01/04/2022 to 20/07/2022 in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY FRANCIS REUSSER
SWITZERLAND 1985, 99 MIN.
WITH: JACQUES PENOT, BRUNO CREMER, ISABEL OTERO

The film representing Switzerland in ArteKino Classics is the work of one of its leading directors, Francis Reusser. Derborence, based on the novel by Swiss author – and erstwhile Nobel nominee – Charles F. Ramuz is generally ranked among his greatest films. It is deeply rooted in the culture of French-speaking Switzerland.
What Irish cinema is lacking in numerical terms it makes up for with films that have a potential for scandal. One good example of this is this adaptation of the novel We Are Seven by Una Troy, which tells the true story of Moll McCarthy. The comedy had to be shot in Cornwall, the Irish authorities having refused to grant a filming permit for such “uncatholic” subject matter, and screenings of it were initially prohibited on the Emerald Isle. She Didn’t Say No! is an intriguing archive find from the Irish Film Institute and a perfect fit for ArteKino Classics.

Carmen

The Spanish contribution to ArteKino Classics is one of Spanish cinema’s all-time greats: Carlos Saura’s Carmen. The film turns on a group of Flamenco dancers who are rehearsing for a very Spanish version of Prosper Merimee’s famous drama of the same name. Antonio (the chief protagonist) has fallen in love with Carmen (the main dancer), but the ensuing love drama is destined to take a fateful turn.

De man die zijn haar kort liet knippen (The Man who Had His Hair Cut Short) by André Delvaux is a cinematic gem from the Royal Belgian Film Archives and one of the jewels in European Classics crown. The film is based on the eponymous novel by Johan Daisne (1947). It tells the story of a teacher’s unrequited love for one of his pupils and his futile attempts to overcome his infatuation. It was shown at the BFI London Film Festival 1966, where it was awarded the Sutherland Trophy.

She Didn’t Say No!

Online in may in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY ANDRÉ DELVAUX
BELGIUM 1966, 98 MIN.
WITH: SENNE ROUFFAER, BEATA TYSZKIEWICZ, HECTOR CAMERLYNCK

Online from 01/05/2022 to 30/10/2022
in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY CARLOS SAURA
SPAIN 1983, 102 MIN.
WITH: ANTONIO GADES, LAURA DE SOL, PACO DE LUCIA

Online from 02/05/2022 to 31/07/2022
in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY CYRIL FRANKELS
IRELAND 1958, 97 MIN.
WITH: WILFRED DOWNING, EILEEN HERLIE, PERLITA NELSON

Online from 02/05/2022 to 31/07/2022
in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv
Scrubbers

Online in may 2022 in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY MAI ZETTERLING
SWEDEN/GREAT BRITAIN 1982, 90 MIN.
WITH: CHRISIE COTTERILL, AMANDA YORK, KATE INGRAM

Scrubbers, one of the great icons of rebellious feminist cinema, has been retrieved from the archives for ArteKino Classics. It is the work of Mai Zetterling, a Swedish director famed for her radicalism, and tells the story of the violent relationships that develop between incarcerated women. It can therefore be read as a feminist take on the vulgar subgenre of the “women’s prison film” – and one that manages entirely without voyeurism.

Charles and Lucie

Online in june 2022 in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY NELLY KAPLAN
FRANCE 1979, 85 MIN.
WITH: DANIEL CECCALDI, JEAN-MARIE PROSLIER, CINETTE GARCIN

Fortunately there is also room for satire in ArteKino Classics. El Cochechito is a Spanish film by Italian director Marco Ferreri, who etched himself into the history of European cinema with scandalous films such as La Grande Bouffe. El Cochechito (The Wheelchair), is a black comedy that pokes fun at 1960s Spain. It won the Critics’ Prize at the Venice Film Festival and is now regarded as a cult classic of Spanish cinema.

The Wheelchair (El cochechito)

Online from 01/08 to 31/08/2022 in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY MARCO FERRERI
ITALY/SPAIN 1960, 85 MIN.
WITH: JOSÉ ISBERT, PEDRO PORCEL, OSÉ LUIS LÓPEZ VÁZQUEZ

Fortunately there is also room for satire in ArteKino Classics. El Cochechito is a Spanish film by Italian director Marco Ferreri, who etched himself into the history of European cinema with scandalous films such as La Grande Bouffe. El Cochechito (The Wheelchair), is a black comedy that pokes fun at 1960s Spain. It won the Critics’ Prize at the Venice Film Festival and is now regarded as a cult classic of Spanish cinema.

This Night (Nuit de chien)

Online from 01/09 to 30/09/2022 in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY WERNER SCHROETER
GERMANY/FRANCE/PORTUGAL 2008, 118 MIN.
WITH: PASCAL GREGORY, BRUNO TODESCHINI, ÉRIC CARAVACA

This rarely screened Portuguese-French-German co-production is set to be one of the monthly highlights of ArteKino Classics. Werner Schroeter’s last film, Nuit de Chien (This Night) is a dystopian vision of a city in the grip of a violent dictatorship – and at the same time an accomplished art film.

Blood on the Lips (Les lèvres rouges)

Online from 01/07 to 31/07/2022 in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY HARRY KÜMEL
BELGIUM 1971, 87 MIN.
WITH: DELPHINE SEYRIG, DANIELLE OUIMET, ANDREA RAU

Blood on the Lips has also been included in ArteKino Classics as a classic of the vampire genre. The cult film tells the story of a young couple who during a stop-over in the Belgium seaside town of Ostend fall into the clutches of the mysterious Hungarian Countess Báthory, who together with her secretary Ilona is staying at their hotel. The countess also seems to be implicated in a series of grisly murders in nearby Bruges....

Women (Ök Ketten)

Online from 01/10 to 31/10/2022 in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY MARTA MÉSZÁROS
HUNGARY 1978, 100 MIN.
WITH: ÉVA SZABÓ, MARINA VLADY, LILI MONORI

ArteKino Classics’ also features a work by one of Europe’s great female directors, the Hungarian film-maker Martá Martá Mészáros. Like so many of her films, Ök Ketten (Women) turns on fateful turning points in the lives of her female characters. In this particular case, a mature woman who runs a women’s shelter meets a young, downtrodden mother. Despite the differences in age and class, the two women become close.
Journey to Italy (Viaggio in Italia)

Online from 01/11/2022 to 30/11/2022 in the ARTE-media center and on arte.tv

FILM DIRECTED BY ROBERTO ROSSELLINI
ITALY 1954, 80 MIN.
WITH: INGRID BERGMAN, GEORGE SANDERS, MARIA MAUBAN

ArteKino Classics’ also features one of the timeless classics of Italian cinema: Viaggio in Italia by the great Roberto Rossellini. It film tells the story of a British couple, Catherine and Alexander Joyce (played by Ingrid Bergman and George Sanders), who no longer have much to say to each other. They have come to Italy to sell a house they have inherited near Naples and are visiting some of the sights at the same time. Their trip becomes a journey through their own memories, yearnings, and projections.