



Contact:

Anna Kadyшева
CEC ArtsLink
212-643-1985 x17
akadyшева@cecartslink.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2010

PREMIERE SCREENING HIGHLIGHTS NEW VOICES IN RUSSIAN CINEMA
Award-winning young filmmakers attend Telluride Film Festival, present films in New York and Washington D.C.

Thursday, September 9th, 2010

New Russian Cinema: A Program of Short Films

Screenings at 6:00pm and 8:15pm

Tribeca Cinemas

54 Varick Street, NYC

\$5 suggested donation at the door. Seating is limited. Please use [the online form](#) to reserve tickets.

Four independent filmmakers from Russia will make their first US visit this September to take part in a residency co-hosted by CEC ArtsLink and the Telluride Film Festival. [Tatiana Kevorkova](#), [Konstantin Smirnov](#), [Irina Volkova](#) and [Mikhail Zheleznykov](#) will attend the festival in Telluride, CO, which runs from September 3-6, 2010, and present the North American premiere of their short films at **Tribeca Cinemas** in New York City on **September 9th**. Their visit will conclude with an additional screening in **Washington, D.C.** on **September 13th** (details TBA).

A new generation of talents has been emerging in Russian independent and art-house cinema over the past decade, and while their names often appear on the European festival circuit, little is known about them in the US. CEC ArtsLink aims to bridge this gap by introducing American audiences to these emerging talents. Completely different in their approach from both the old guard of classic Soviet film and the blockbusters popular in Russia today, these young filmmakers offer a fresh and candid look at the lives of their generation.

The featured films are:

For Home Viewing (2009, 29 mins, directed by Mikhail Zheleznykov)

"An ordinary Soviet school, the Olympic Bear, the death of Brezhnev, Perestroika, long-awaited adulthood. The trees outside my window were once so small, and now I can hardly see anything through them..." Using a collection of school pictures, news footage, and 8mm home movies, Zheleznykov takes stock of growing up in the USSR in this poetic documentary.

Onda Curta (Short Wave) Award, 2010 Curtas Vila do Conde Festival (Portugal). Official selection, 2009 International Documentary Film Festival (Amsterdam), 2010 ZagrebDox Festival (Croatia), 2010 Tampere Film Festival (Finland), 2010 Documenta Madrid Festival (Spain), 2010 Huesca Film Festival (Spain).

Spring (2009, 15 mins, directed by Tatiana Kevorkova)

Polina is coming home from a date at the crack of dawn, trying not to wake up her mother as she sneaks into their tiny apartment. But she's in for a surprise that will bring the entire family

closer... An upbeat story about love, breaking stereotypes, and water trucks.
World premiere.

Kolyan (2010, 15 mins, directed by Konstantin Smirnov)

Kolyan has a minimum-wage job and a sick mother, and every day is a struggle. Under the circumstances, falling under the sway of nationalism is all too easy, especially when you share this outlet of aggression with your friends, and it pays in cash. But sooner or later the political crosses over into the personal, and Kolyan realizes the impact of his actions only when it's too late.

Official Selection, 2010 Kinotavr Festival (Sochi, Russia) and 2010 Kustendorf Film and Music Festival (Serbia).

Seagulls (2010, 22 mins, directed by Irina Volkova)

Two young newlyweds embark on a strange honeymoon. He has his head in the clouds, she's got both feet firmly planted on the ground, and they're already bickering. Their life is ordinary, their means limited, and the future holds little promise. But dreams can come true, just like in the movies. All it takes is a flight of the imagination.

World premiere.

Please note that there are two back-to-back screenings in New York on September 9th. Both screenings include all four films and are followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers. All films will be shown with English subtitles. For advance press copies, please call Anna Kadysheva at 212-643-1985 x17.

The filmmakers' US visit is part of the [Open World Cultural Leaders Program](#), whose aim is to promote cross-cultural understanding through professional exchange. While in New York City and at the Telluride Film Festival, the filmmakers will attend industry events, meet with their US counterparts, and partake in a range of cultural activities, spurring cross-cultural dialogue and professional collaboration. The Open World Cultural Leaders Program is an endeavor of the Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress, with partnership and funding from the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) and the [Renova Group of Companies](#).

#

CEC ArtsLink, through a multi-faceted program of cultural exchange, serves to create and sustain constructive, mutually beneficial relationships in the arts between the United States and Eastern and Central Europe, Russia, Central Asia and the Caucasus. Working with artists, arts organizations and community-based groups, CEC ArtsLink provides an essential structure for ongoing dialogue, contributing to a culture of openness and trust between nations.

With years of experience as a leader in cultural exchange between the United States and Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus, CEC ArtsLink has long been a behind-the-scenes player in numerous esteemed cultural events, as a supporter and facilitator of residencies, projects, and networks for artists and art managers at venues across the U.S. and around the world. Today, we are pleased to bring an on-going series of cultural events to the public through our partnerships in New York, around the United States, and abroad. Visit www.cecartslink.org for more about upcoming events and on-going projects.

Open World's Cultural Leaders Program aims to forge better understanding between the United States and Russia by enabling emerging Russian leaders in the arts to experience

America's cultural and community life, and to work with their American counterparts. Support for the cultural program is provided through partnership and funding from the **National Endowment for the Arts** and the **Renova Group of Companies**. Open World is a unique, nonpartisan initiative of the U.S. Congress. Delegates range from judges to mayors, from innovative nonprofit directors to experienced journalists, and from political party activists to regional administrators. Over 11,000 Open World participants have been hosted in all 50 U.S. states since the program's inception in 1999.

The **Telluride Film Festival** ranks among the world's best film festivals and is an annual gathering for film industry insiders and a major launching ground for the fall season's most talked-about films. Co-founded in 1974 by Tom Luddy, James Card and Bill and Stella Pence, Telluride Film Festival, nestled in the beautiful mountain town of Telluride, Colorado, is a four-day international celebration of the art of film. The Festival's long-standing commitment is to join filmmakers and film connoisseurs together to experience great cinema. The exciting schedule, kept secret until Opening Day, consists of over two dozen filmmakers presenting their newest works, special Guest Director programs, three major Tributes to guest artists, special events and remarkable treasures from the past. Festival headquarters are in Berkeley, California.

For more information, please contact Anna Kadysheva, Program Coordinator, CEC ArtsLink, at (212) 643-1985 x17 or akadysheva@cecartslink.org. Advance copies of the films (DVD format) available for press reviewers upon request.

#