

### **Not to be Missed at TIFF 2013: What's Up Doc & Focus**

Touching stories, exciting portraits and original visions – all of this and more in two of the traditional sections of **Transilvania International Film Festival** (May 31 – June 9, Cluj): **What's Up Doc?** and **Focus**.

The "**What's Up Doc?**" section presented by HBO, encompasses 15 films, some of them already internationally acclaimed, others selected by the curator of this section, Ana-Maria Sandu, out of more than 100 submissions. Unanimously praised by the critics and recipient of the Oscar for "Best Documentary", **Searching for Sugar Man** (by Malik Bendjelloul) is the absolute *must-see* of this edition. The film tells the touching story of musician Sixto Rodriguez who, without even knowing it, inspired a whole generation.

An amazing story has to tell **Dreams of a Life** (by Carol Morley), the reconstruction of the life of a young woman who died without anyone noticing it: alone on the couch, surrounded by unopened Christmas presents and with her TV turned on. Her body was discovered three years later. And **Fuck for Forest** (by Michal Marczak) takes us in the notorious world of the first eco-porno ONG, an institution that raises money for the tropical forest by selling pornography.

TIFF audiences will enjoy complex portraits such as **A World Not Ours** (by Mahdi Fleifel), the personal journal of the director about the Palestinian refugee camp Ain el-Helweh from Liban, where he was brought up, the multi-awarded **Hit So Hard** (by P. David Ebersole), a rockumentary about the thrilling life of Patty Schemel, the drummer of Hole, Courtney Love's band, **Liv & Ingmar** (by Dheeraj Akolkar), telling the love and friendship story of director Ingmar Bergman and actress Liv Ullman or **Pablo** (by Richard Goldgewicht), a film as ingenious as its protagonist, the "famed nobody" Pablo Ferro, the eccentric artist called by Stanley Kubrick "the father of the 60s style and of the MTV esthetics".

**Tzvetanka** (by Youlian Tabakov) – which was also screened at New York's MoMA – is the fascinating portrait of the director's grandmother who witnessed three different eras in Bulgaria's recent history: monarchy, communism and democracy; **In the Dark Room** (by Nadav Schirman), which was selected in numberless festivals, makes the portrait of Magdalena Kopp, the wife of the most wanted terrorist of the 70s, Carlos the Jackal; **Grandpa's Watch** (by Alex Levy Heller) takes the director back to Transilvania, in search of a watch hidden by his grandfather before being sent to Auschwitz; **Nadea e Sveta** (by Maura Delpero) focuses on two Bessarabian girls working in Italy.

**TIFF - Transilvania International Film Festival**

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Stylish, inventive and amusing, *L'amour des moules/ Mussels in Love* (by Willemiek Kluijfhout) sees the world through the eyes of the mussels who, like those eating them, make love, multiply, are stressed and travel. *Naked Opera* (by Angela Christlieb), is a mix of fiction and documentary focusing on a lethal disease-stricken manager who opts for an opulent and decadent lifestyle. *Man at War* (by Jacek Blawut) explores some men's obsession with a video game, while *Swandown* (by Andrew Kotting) is a self-deprecating and poetic travelogue following Kotting and writer Iain Sinclair while taking a swan boat across the lake.

The **Focus** section centers on two expanding cinemas: **Greece** and **Slovakia**. The internationally famed "peculiarity" of Greek cinema will come to TIFF thanks to films such as *The Capsule* (by Athina Rachel Tsangari), an avant-garde and genre-defying film, *Higuita* (by Alexander Voulgaris), a hypnotic dystopia about a group of people self-stranded on an island or *Boy Eating Bird's Food* (by Ektoras Lygizos), a highly stylized, alienating and absurd film about a young man barely making ends meet. Focus Greece also encompasses *Unfair World* (by Filippos Tsitos), Greece's Oscar 2012 official submission. The selection for this sub-section was made by Dimitris Kerkinos, programmer of the Balkan Survey section of Thessaloniki Film Festival, with the support of the Greek Film Center.

Slovakia brings to the table no less than seven films, two of them made by the same director, Mátyás Prikler: *Fine, Thanks*, an intimate portrait of an unraveling family and *Dancing on Broken Glass*, a life portrait made of dance scenes. The *Dancing on Broken Glass* special screening is presented by JTI. *My Dog Killer* (by Mira Fornay), which premiered in Rotterdam, focuses on a skinhead, and *New Life of Family Album* (by Adam Ol'ha), selected in Karlovy Vary, is the director's attempt at finding out the reasons behind his parents' separation, via old photographs, films and testimonies.

This section also encompasses two classics of Czechoslovakian cinema: *The Sun in a Net* (by Stefan Uher, 1963) and *Birds, Orphans and Fools* (by Juraj Jakubisko, 1969), the latter being banned by the communist regime until 1990. The documentary *Bells of Happiness* (by Jana Bučka, Marek Šulík) tells the story of two Roma people, Mariena and his cousin Roman, who make a DVD of themselves performing a song by their favorite artists. **Focus Slovacia** is presented in partnership with the Slovak Film Institute and with the support of Slovakian Ministry of Culture.



**Transilvania International**

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