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BUZZ**



21st Chennai International Film Festival

Dec 15, 2023

We thank you all for making the Inaugural Function such a GRAND SUCCESS with a FULL HOUSE at PVR Sathyam Cinemas! We are glad that you all enjoyed the Inaugural Film 'PERFECT DAYS by Wim Wenders'.

We welcome you all to the next edition of the Chennai International Film Festival (CIFF). This is our 21st Edition and we would like to thank you for all your continued support and encouragement in making all our previous editions successful! We hope to have your support this year also!

Here's a brief synopsis of all the CANNES FILM FESTIVAL Winners that we are playing at our festival this year!



ANATOMY of a FALL by JUSTINE TRIET (Palme d'Or winner)

Anatomy of a Fall premiered at the 76th Cannes Film Festival on 21 May 2023, where it won the Palme d'Or and the Palm Dog Award and competed for the Queer Palm. It was released theatrically in France by Le Pacte on 23 August 2023.

Synopsis:

A woman is suspected of her husband's murder, and their blind son faces a moral dilemma as the main witness.

WINS : 22

NOMINATIONS : 38

HOW to HAVE SEX by MOLLY MANNING WALKER (Uncertain regard winner)

Winner of the 2023 Un Certain Regard Award, How To Have Sex revealed British director Molly Manning Walker at Cannes. A strong questioning on the injunction to have sex and the notion of consent, her first feature film is to be discovered in theaters in France from November 15.

Synopsis:

Three British teenage girls go on a rites-of-passage holiday - drinking, clubbing and hooking up, in what should be the best summer of their lives.

WINS : 11

NOMINATIONS : 21



A BRIGHTER TOMORROW by NANNI MORETTI

A Brighter Tomorrow is a 2023 Italian-French comedy-drama film co-written and directed by Nanni Moretti. It is a co-production between Italy and France.

Synopsis:

A movie director struggles with his relationship with his family, and with his latest movie, about the impact on the Italian Communist Party of the USSR invasion of Hungary in 1956.

Trivia:

The original title, "Il sol dell'avvenire", is a lyric from the Italian resistance song "Fischia il vento."

WINS : 2

NOMINATIONS : 9



CLUB ZERO by JESSICA HAUSNER

The film was selected to compete for the Palme d'Or at the 76th Cannes Film Festival, where it had its world premiere on 22 May 2023.

Synopsis: Miss Novak joins the staff of an international boarding school to teach a conscious eating class. She instructs that eating less is healthy. The other teachers are slow to notice what is happening and by the time the distracted parents begin to realise, Club Zero has become a reality.

Trivia: A key location used in the film was St Catherine's College, Oxford, making this one of the two films which were shooting at colleges of the University of Oxford during August 2022, the other being Emerald Fennell's Saltburn (2023), which filmed scenes at the university's Magdalen College during the same month.

WINS : 3 NOMINATIONS : 5

FALLEN LEAVES by AKI KAURISMÄKI

Fallen Leaves (Finnish: Kuolleet lehdet, lit. 'Dead Leaves') is a 2023 Finnish-German romantic comedy-drama film written and directed by Aki Kaurismäki. It is Kaurismäki's 20th full-length film and a continuation of his Proletariat series, which was originally planned as a trilogy and already includes Shadows in Paradise (1986), Ariel (1988), and The Match Factory Girl (1990). Alma Pöysti and Jussi Vatanen star in the main roles. The film is produced by Sputnik and Bufo.

Synopsis: Ansa (which means 'trap' in Finnish), is single and lives in Helsinki. She works on a zero-hour contract in a supermarket, stocking the shelves; later she sorts recyclable plastic. One night she accidentally meets the equally lonely worker Holappa, an alcoholic. Against all odds and misunderstandings, they try to build a relationship. As a result, Holappa manages to get his alcohol addiction under control. According to Alma Pöysti, the female lead, "the film is about lonely people with baggage, who meet later in life. It takes courage to fall in love later in life." It has been described as a tragicomedy.

WINS : 6 NOMINATIONS : 21



KIDNAPPED by MARCO BELLOCCHIO

Synopsis: Kidnapped (Italian: Rapito) is a 2023 Italian-language historical drama film co-written and directed by Marco Bellocchio, about Edgardo Mortara, a young Jewish boy who was taken from his family by the Papal States and raised as a Catholic. It is loosely based on Daniele Scalise's book Il caso Mortara. It is a co-production between Italy, France and Germany.

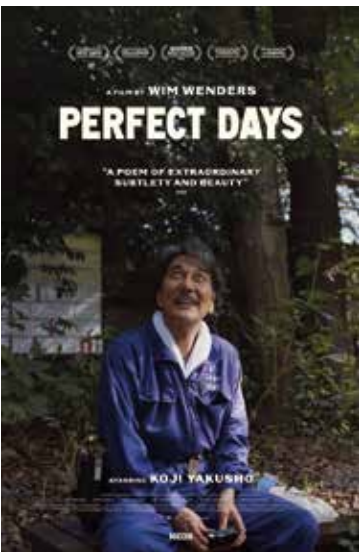
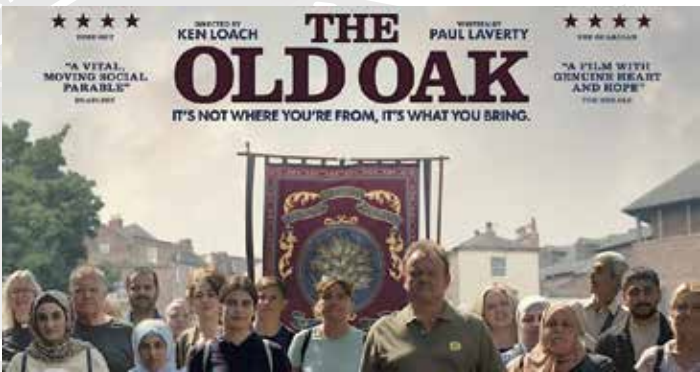
Steven Spielberg was intending to direct a version of this story around 2016. He even was looking at casting the young boy's role through open auditions from Jewish Schools in Europe and America. Although he had cast Mark Rylance as Pope Pius IX and Oscar Isaac as the older Edgardo Mortara, Spielberg's inability to find the right child actor led to the project becoming stalled.

WINS : 10 NOMINATIONS : 8

THE OLD OAK by KEN LOACH

The Old Oak is a 2023 drama film directed by Ken Loach and written by Paul Laverty. It is a co-production between the United Kingdom, France and Belgium.

Synopsis: Pub landlord TJ Ballantyne, living in a previously thriving mining community in County Durham, struggles to hold onto his pub and keep it as the one remaining public space where people can meet in the town. Meanwhile, tensions rise when Syrian refugees are placed there, but Ballantyne strikes up a friendship with one of the refugees, Yara (Mari).



PERFECT DAYS by WIM WENDERS

Perfect Days is a 2023 drama film directed by Wim Wenders, from a script written by Wenders and Takuma Takasaki. A co-production between Japan and Germany, the film combines four short stories and stars Kōji Yakusho in the role of a toilet cleaner.

Right after the pandemic, Wenders was invited to Tokyo by Koji Yanai to observe the Tokyo Toilet Project, a project in which Japanese public toilets were redesigned in 17 locations throughout Shibuya with the help of 16 creators invited from around the world. Wenders was invited to take a look at the uniqueness of each of these facilities. At first, the producers envisioned Wenders would make a short film or series of short films on the facilities, but he opted for a feature film, with co-screenwriter Takuma Takasaki explaining that the conception of the character of Hirayama felt like new territory for them. The film is produced by Master Mind Limited (Japan) and Spoon Inc. (Japan) in collaboration with Wenders Images (Germany). The film was shot over 17 days in Tokyo.

WINS : 4 NOMINATIONS : 14

SCREENING SCHEDULE

DEC 15 FRIDAY

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| SANTHAM | 9.30 am Waltz for Three(Mirjaveh) Dir.:Arman Zarrinkoub Iran 2023 81' WC-NC | 11.15 am The (Ex) perience of Love (Le syndrome des amours passées) Dir.: Raphaël Balboni, Ann Sirot Belgium, France 2023 89' WC-NC | 1.15 pm Baghdad Messi .(Baghdad Messi) Dir.: Sahim Omar Kalifa Belgium 2023 88' WC-NC | 3.15 pm The Old Oak (El Viejo Roble) Dir.: Ken Loach UK, France, Belgium 2023 113' WC-NC | 6.00 pm How to Have Sex (How to Have Sex) Dir.:Molly Manning Walker UK, Greece 2023 91' WC-NC |
| SERENE | 9.40 am Riviera East(Nyugati nyaralás) Dir.:Balázs Lévai, Dániel Tiszeker Hungary 2022 105' Hungarian Cinema | 12.00 noon Yannick(Yannick) Dir.:Quentin Dupieux France 2023 67' WC-NC | 1.45 pm The Safe(The Safe) Dir.:Uwe Schwarzwald Switzerland 2023 103' WC-C | 4.00 pm Nyurnberg(Nuremberg) Dir.:Nikolay Lebedev Russia, Czech Republic, UK, Germany 2023 131' WC-NC | 7.00 pm My Neighbor, Adolf (My Neighbor Adolf) Dir.: Leon Prudovsky Israel, Poland, Colombia 2022 96' WC-NC |
| SEASONS | 9.30 am Magyar Passion(Magyar Passio) Dir.:Károly Eperjes Hungary 2021 95' Hungarian Cinema | 12.00 noon Lubo(Lubo) Dir.:Giorgio Diritti Italy, Switzerland 2023 175' WC-NC | No Screening | 3.30 pm Udanpaal(Udanpaal) Dir.:Karthik Seenivasan India 2022 113' TFFC | 6.00 pm Por Thozhil(Por Thozhil) Dir.:Vignesh Raja T India 2023 147' TFFC |
| 6 DEGREES | 9.15 am Pedro, Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea (A Viagem de Pedro) Dir.:Laís Bodanzky Brazil 2021 96' Retrospective of Dir. Laís Bodanzky | 11.00 am Master Classes – 11.00 am & 12.30 pm | 2.30 pm Pattu(Pattu) Dir.: Arul Subramaniam India 2023 95' IP | 5.10 pm Wild Swans(Gorai Phakhri) Dir.:Rajni Basumatary India 2023 95' IP | 7.15 pm Aaraairaaro(Aaraairaaro) Dir.:Sandeep Kumar V India 2022 125' IP |
| ANNA CINEMAS | 9.30 am Captain(Capitan) Dir.:Mohammad Hamzei Iran 2022 90' WC-NC | 11.45 am Lost in the Night (Perdidos en la Noche) Dir.:Amat Escalante Mexico, Netherlands, Germany 2023 122' WC-NC | 2.15pm Inshallah A Boy (Inshallah walad) Dir.: Amjad Al Rasheed Jordan, France, Saudi Arabia, Qatar 2023 113' WC-NC | 4.45 pm La Chimera(La Chimera) Dir.:Alice Rohrwacher Italy, France, Switzerland 2023 130' WC-NC | 7.20 pm Kidnapped(Rapito) Dir.:Marco Bellocchio Italy, France, Germany 2023 134' WC-NC |

BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL Winners not to miss at our festival this year!

20,000 SPECIES of BEES by ESTIBALIZ URRESOLA SOLAGUREN
(Best Leading Performance winner and Golden Berlin Bear nominee)



20,000 Species of Bees (Spanish: 20.000 especies de abejas) is a 2023 Spanish drama film written and directed by Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren in her debut feature and starring Sofía Otero, Patricia López Arnaiz, Ane Gabarain and Itziar Lazkano.

Synopsis: The film narrates the story of Lucía, an eight-year-old girl, who is on a quest for identity. During a summer in a village house linked to beekeeping, she explores her femininity alongside the women of her family who at the same time reflect on their own femininity.

It was selected to compete for the Golden Bear at the 73rd Berlin International Film Festival, where it had its world premiere on 22 February 2023. Nine-year old Sofía Otero won the Silver Bear for Best Leading Performance for the role of Lucía. The film was also nominated for Best Feature Film Teddy Award. Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren, the first feature director was nominated for GWFF Best First Feature Award in the festival. In March 2023, the film won Golden Biznaga for Best Spanish Film at the 26th Málaga Film Festival. It was released in cinemas in Spain on 21 April 2023. The film was shortlisted for submission to 96th Academy Awards as Spanish entry for Best International Feature Film in September 2023.

WINS : 20 NOMINATIONS : 26



WINS : 5
NOMINATIONS : 7

Afire by Christian Petzold (Silver Berlin Bear winner and Golden Berlin Bear nominee)

Synopsis: Afire (German: Roter Himmel, lit. 'Red Sky') is a 2023 German drama film directed by Christian Petzold, starring Thomas Schubert, Paula Beer, Langston Uibel and Enno Trebs. The relationship drama focuses on four people who are trapped in their holiday home on the Baltic Sea by uncontrolled forest fires.

The film won the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize at the 73rd Berlin International Film Festival, where it had its world premiere on 22 February 2023. It was released theatrically in Germany on 20 April 2023. In August 2023, it was shortlisted as the German submissions for the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film for the 96th Academy Awards.

THE PLOUGH by PHILIPPE GARREL (Silver Berlin Bear winner and Golden Berlin Bear nominee)

The Plough (French: Le Grand Chariot) is a 2023 drama film co-written and directed by Philippe Garrel. Starring Louis Garrel, Damien Mongin, Esther Garrel, Lena Garrel and Francine Bergé, it depicts the story of romantic and tragic destiny of a family of puppeteer artists.

It competed for the Golden Bear at the 73rd Berlin International Film Festival, where it had its world premiere on 21 February 2023. It was released theatrically in France on 13 September 2023.

Synopsis: A traveling puppet theater is legacy of three siblings, father and grandmother. When the father dies during a performance, the remaining family members keep the show running and try to keep legacy alive.



Movies to Watch Out for Today



Yannick
Dir.: Quentin Dupieux
France | 2023 | 67' | WC-NC | Serene 12:00 PM

Quentin Dupieux's Yannick unfolds the humorous tale of a middle-aged man chasing his childhood dream of becoming a singer. Led by the talented Benoît Poelvoorde, this comedy skillfully blends witty satire with a touching narrative of self-discovery and ambition. A delightful and thought-provoking film that both entertains and inspires.



The Old Oak (El Viejo Roble)
Dir.: Ken Loach
UK, France, Belgium | 2023 | 113' | WC-NC |
Santham 3:15 PM

Directed by the legendary Ken Loach, The Old Oak depicts the struggles and resilience in a former mining town, merging heartfelt community stories with poignant social commentary. This powerful and emotionally charged film resonates deeply with contemporary societal issues.



How to Have Sex
Dir.: Molly Manning Walker
UK, Greece | 2023 | 91' | WC-NC | Santham 6:00 PM

Directed by Molly Manning Walker, this candid film explores the trials of teenage girlhood, blending humor with poignant moments. It's a heartfelt reflection on youth, authentically capturing the essence of adolescence with both humor and empathy.

Movie Review: Little Forest | Liteul Poleseuteu | 2018
by Abhinav Subramanian

Rediscovering Roots in the Peaceful Little Forest
Director: Soon-rye Yim

If you're drawn to films where the simplicity of life and the joy of cooking intertwine, Little Forest is a refreshing choice. Director Yim Soon-rye offers a serene narrative, where the act of preparing food is elevated to an art form, inviting viewers into a world where every ingredient tells a story.

In this tranquil countryside setting, Hye-won finds solace from her city life. Her journey is less about escapism and more about rediscovery, where cooking becomes a bridge to her past and a path to self-awareness. Each dish she prepares is not just a culinary delight but a step towards understanding life's unspoken rhythms.

The film is enriched by the presence of Jae-ha and Eun-sook, Hye-won's childhood friends. Their interactions bring layers of warmth and nostalgia, underscoring the film's emphasis on the importance of relationships and community.

Little Forest transcends the typical narrative, weaving a story that resonates with the seasons of the mind and the healing power of nature. This film might not transform your world view, but it will offer a peaceful, thoughtful experience. As you watch, it gently reminds us that in the simple act of cooking and the quiet moments of life, there's a profound beauty and truth to be found.

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