



PRESS NOTES

Last updated: 29 September 2008

National Tour 29 October – 19 November 2008
Melbourne * Canberra * Sydney * Brisbane * Perth * Adelaide

Melbourne	Palace Cinema Como	29 October – 5 November
Canberra	Greater Union Manuka	30 October – 3 November
Sydney	Chauvel Cinema	31 October – 10 November
SPECIAL EVENT: <i>The New Babylon</i>	City Recital Hall, Sydney	9 November
Brisbane	Palace Centro Cinema	6 – 12 November
Perth	Cinema Paradiso	13 – 19 November
Adelaide	Palace Nova Eastend	14 – 19 November

Festival held in association with
The Agency for Cinematography of the Russian Federation and the Cultural Fund of Russia



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INTRODUCTION

Before the collapse of the Soviet Union, cinema from the USSR was one of the staples of film festivals around the world. Its history was one of both proud state supporter while simultaneously experiencing the weight of state censorship. However down the years many Russian, Polish and Czech filmmakers developed their own codes for circumventing censors, which resulted in cinema that championed all the finest qualities of filmmaking – challenging, imaginative and distinctive in cultural style.

Since 1990 and the collapse of Soviet Communism, support for this unique film making heritage has been lacking. So it is with great pride that **Russian Resurrection** the Russian Film Festival in Australia enters its 5th year. The festival grows in support and interest every year and 2008 promises to be yet another excellent celebration of the Russian experience. Russian cinema is undergoing a serious revival and it is unquestionable that **Russian Resurrection** plays a major role in the support of this important endeavour.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the next instalment of the Resurrection of Russian Cinema. The 2008 program will feature up to 17 of the best and finest new Russian films including **Vice** (2007) the latest film from **Valery Todorovsky**, **Simple Things** (2007) directed by **Aleksei Popogrebsky**, as well as the latest film by **Andrei Zvyagintev**, **The Banishment** (2007).

Ramping up the fun, in 2008 the Festival will feature two Retrospectives featuring past cinematic treats. First up is the *Russian Fantasia Retrospective*, with the cult classic **Amphibian Man** (1962) directed by **Vladimir Chebotaryov** and **Gennadi Kazansky** headlining. The second Retrospective delves into the work of Director **Karen Shakhnazarov**, screening the classic **Zero City** (1988), the award-winning musical/comedy **We Are Jazz Men** (1983) and his latest film and culmination of his work to date, **Vanished Empire** (2008).

Nicholas Maksymow, Festival Director:

“To date the Russian Resurrection Film Festival has screened over 50 new films, and more than 18 classic and rare films that people otherwise would not have an opportunity to see.”

The **Russian Resurrection Film Festival** in 2008 is certain to deliver a wonderfully diverse line-up of films that is a resounding testament to the strength of this unique film culture.

2004 HIGHLIGHTS

The inaugural event in 2004 played at the Chauvel Cinema in Paddington, with additional screenings at Greater Union, Burwood. Opened by the **Honourable Bob Carr**, the festival was a huge hit held in the centenary year of Anton Chekhov’s death. The Festival featured 5 film versions of his plays, and incorporated live reads of some of his best short stories by a cast of top shelf Australian actors including Angie Millikin and Nicholas Hammond.

2005 HIGHLIGHTS

2005 saw the resurrection of Russian cinema continue with a move into the wider community with screenings at Greater Union Bondi Junction and Burwood. Amongst many highlights of the festival was the late night screening of the cult classic **Night Watch**. It was the first time this film was introduced to an Australian audience and cemented the festival as an extraordinary opportunity to open our minds to such epic film making.

2006 HIGHLIGHTS

2006 saw the **Russian Resurrection Film Festival** return to its roots at the beautifully revamped Chauvel Cinema in Paddington, and expanding interstate to Melbourne and Canberra. Audiences showed a great flexibility in their tastes, as film favourites ranged from the Rambo style Russian box office smash **Piranha**, to the beautiful story of **The Italian** that put a sprinkle of hope into the plight of Russian orphans, and the magnificent Russian science fiction classic **Solaris** as part of the **Andrei Tarkovsky** Retrospective, showcasing highlights of his influential filmmaking career.



2007 HIGHLIGHTS

After the success of the Festival in 2006, the love of Russian cinema spread to all capital cities of Australia (except Hobart and Darwin) in 2007, due to the support of Palace cinemas who have agreed to an on-going deal with the **Russian Resurrection Film Festival**. The festival also welcomed on board its Principal Presenting Partner, **BHP Billiton** and welcomed back **Stolichnaya Genuine Russian Vodka** who creates an amazing atmosphere for the Opening Night parties in each capital city.

The festival screened a magnificent line-up of 10 extremely diverse and culturally reflective films including **Day Watch**, sequel to the 2004 smash hit vampire fantasy **Night Watch**, the internationally acclaimed sword and sorcery fantasy of **Wolfhound**, and the satirical **Beat the Enemy**, which follows a Stalinist propaganda troupe to much misadventure. The 2007 highly successful *Classic Literature in Film* retrospective featured three highly lauded adaptations of arguably the best loved Russian novels, **War and Peace**, **Crime and Punishment**, **Brothers Karamazov** and one of the greatest versions of Shakespeare's **Hamlet** made for the big screen.

2008 HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrating its 5th big year by showcasing up to 17 films over 18 days in 6 cities, the **2008 Russian Resurrection Film Festival proudly presented by BHP Billiton** is set to be the biggest and best instalment in the resurrection of Russian cinema to date. Following its success in 2007, where the festival played to packed cinemas Australia wide with an increase of 55% in national attendance, the **2008 Russian Resurrection Film Festival** continues to delight lovers of Russian films and culture nationwide.

Ramping up the fun, it is with great excitement that the Festival announces that there will be two Retrospectives featuring past cinematic treats. The first will focus on classic soviet "Fantasia" films, for which one of the all time great cult classics, **Amphibian Man** (1962) directed by **Vladimir Chebotaryov** and **Gennadi Kazansky**, will head the line-up.

The second Retrospective delving into the glory of past Russian filmmaking will explore the work of Director **Karen Shakhnazarov**, whose career has spanned 25 years and continues to this date. Considered one of the masters of 1980s soviet and post-soviet cinema, his films screening at the festival will include the classic **Zero City** (1988) and the award-winning musical/comedy **We Are Jazz Men** (1983). Also featuring will be his latest film, **Vanished Empire** (2008), which as the culmination of his work to date will represent the jewel in the crown of this extremely exciting expose of one of Russia's most celebrated Directors. **Vanished Empire** takes a warm and very real look at young love set against the background of student life in the 1970's.

Sydney audiences will be delighted in the special premiere screening of the masterpiece of Soviet expressionist silent cinema **New Babylon** (1929) accompanied by a live orchestral performance of the original Shostakovich score at City Recital Hall, Angel Place. Since its debut performance in Moscow in 1929, **New Babylon** has only been accompanied by a live orchestra 5 times. **Russian Resurrection** is extremely delighted to present the inaugural live performance screening in Australia, a unique occasion to see and hear this masterpiece of Soviet expressionist silent cinema as it was originally envisaged.

Celebrations for Opening Night in each capital city will be as wonderfully Russian as you could hope for, with the **Stolichnaya Opening Night Parties** again immersing audiences in real Russian delights, with the legendary **Stolichnaya Genuine Russian Vodka*** punch beautifully accompanied by Russian tasty treats and the inevitable high spirited Russian love of dancing and celebrating in style.

* Russian Resurrection and Stolichnaya are committed to the responsible serving of alcohol.



2008 FILM LIST

New Films

- **Vanished Empire** Director: Karen Shakhnazarov
- **Vice** Director: Valery Todorovsky
- **The Banishment** Director: Andrei Zvyagintev
- **Simple Things** Director: Aleksei Popogrebsky
- **Tulpan** Director: Sergei Dvortsevoy
- **Travelling with Pets** Director: Vera Storozheva
- **Graffiti** Director: Igor Apasyan
- **Alyosha Popovich & Tugarin Zmey** Director: Andrei Zvyagintsev
- **Captive** Director: Alexei Uchitel
- **Plus One** Director: Oxana Bichkova
- **Twelve** Director: Nikita Mikhalkov

Russian *Fantasia* Retrospective

- **Amphibian Man** Directors: Vladimir Chebotaryov & Gennadi Kazansky
- **Letters from a Deadman** Director: Konstantin Lopushansky

Karen Shakhnazarov Retrospective

- **Zero City** Director: Karen Shakhnazarov
- **We Are Jazz Men** Director: Karen Shakhnazarov
- **American Daughter** Director: Karen Shakhnazarov
- **Rider Named Death** Director: Karen Shakhnazarov
- **Courier aka The Messenger** Director: Karen Shakhnazarov
- **The Assassin of the Tsar** Director: Karen Shakhnazarov
- **Day of the Full Moon** Director: Karen Shakhnazarov

SPECIAL SYDNEY EVENT: Shostakovich the Music; Kozintsev the Film

- **The New Babylon** Directors: Grigorii Kozintsev & Leonid Trauberg



TICKET INFORMATION

TICKETS ON SALE SOON!

Melbourne	Palace Cinema Como 29 October – 5 November
Tickets	In person through the cinema, or
Online	www.russianresurrection.com
Opening Night	\$40 (Includes Reception)
5 Film Pass	\$65 (Excludes Opening Night)
Adult	\$16
Concession	\$13.50
Canberra	Greater Union Manuka 30 October – 3 November
Tickets	In person through the cinema, or
Online	www.greaterunion.com.au
Opening Night	\$30 (Includes Reception)
Adult	\$15
Concession	\$13.50
Sydney	Chauvel Cinema 31 October – 10 November
Tickets	In person through the cinema, or
Online	www.mca-tix.com (Booking Fee Applies)
Opening Night	\$40 (Includes Reception)
5 Film Pass	\$65 (Excludes Opening Night)
Adult	\$16
Concession	\$13.50
Brisbane	Palace Centro Cinema 6 – 12 November
Tickets	In person through the cinema, or
Online	www.palacecinemas.com.au
Opening Night	\$35 (Includes Reception)
5 Film Pass	\$65 (Excludes Opening Night)
Adult	\$15
Concession	\$13.50
Perth	Cinema Paradiso 13 – 19 November
Tickets	In person through the cinema, or
Online	www.lunapalace.com.au
Opening Night	\$30 (Includes Reception)
5 Film Pass	\$60 (Excludes Opening Night)
Adult	\$15
Concession	\$12.00
Adelaide	Palace Nova Eastend 14 – 19 November
Tickets	In person through the cinema, or
Online	www.palacenova.com
Opening Night	\$30 (Includes Reception)
5 Film Pass	\$60 (Excludes Opening Night)
Adult	\$15
Concession	\$12.00



2008 FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Vice (2007)

Тиски

Director: Valery Todorovsky
Starring: Maxim Matveev, Anton Shagin, Fyodr Bondarchuk, Evgeniya Hirivskaya, Katya Vilкова
Duration: 125 minutes

Awards:

- Grand Prix Nomination (2007 Sochi Open Film Festival)

Synopsis

Drama/Thriller

Young ambitious Denis lives in Rostov-on-Don with his beautiful girlfriend Masha, enjoying small time fame and notoriety as a local DJ. Never satisfied, his yearning for the big time takes Denis into the underbelly of drugs and corruption, and soon his life is no longer his own.

From the director of festival favourites, *My Stepbrother Frankenstein* and *The Lover*, this beautifully shot, fast-paced drama takes a nod from Steven Soderbergh's classic *Traffic* (2000), tracking the fall from grace of beautiful young things seduced by a world darker and craftier than they could ever imagine.



The Vanished Empire (2008)

Исчезнувшая империя

Director: Karen Shakhnazarov
Starring: Alexander Lyapin, Lidia Milyuzina, Egor Baranovsky, Ivan Jupreenko, Olga Tumaikina, Armen Jigarkhanyan, Vladimir Ilyin
Duration: 105 minutes

Facts:

- Initially the film was titled *Born in the USSR*

Synopsis

Drama/Comedy

Set in Moscow at the beginning of the 1970's, *The Vanished Empire* depicts the heyday of the Soviet State at the peak of its power, which also marks the starting point of its collapse. Shakhnazarov's new and rather personal film is a delicate study of this imminent and irrevocably passing era.

At its heart is the classic love triangle, as two friends vie for the heart of one girl. Their lives revolve around black market Rolling Stones albums, parties, parents and queuing for vodka – ordinary events in the heartland of communism.

It tells a warm and very real story of young love set against the backdrop of student life in the 1970's, at a time when it seemed the USSR would last forever.

With a career spanning 25 years, *The Vanished Empire* is the culmination of Shakhnazarov's work to date and represents the jewel in the crown of one of Russia's most celebrated Directors.





The Banishment (2007)

Изгнание

Director: Andrei Zvyagintev

Starring: Konstantin Lavronenko, Alexander Baluyev, Maxim Shibayev, Maria Boonevie, Ekaterina Kulkina

Duration: 155 minutes

Awards:

- Best Actor, Konstantin Lavronenko (2007 Cannes Film Festival)
- Best Film (Russian Federation Film Club Award at the Moscow International Film Festival 2007)
- Golden Palm Nomination (2007 Cannes Film Festival)

Facts:

- **The Banishment** is a follow up feature to Zvyagintev's multi award winning and devastating film, **The Return**
- Loosely based on **The Laughing Matter**, a William Saroyan story

Synopsis

Drama

The Banishment is the outstanding follow up to Zvyagintev's internationally acclaimed debut **The Return** (2003).

The Banishment reveals a family in crisis. Alex (Konstantin Lavronenko, who memorably played the father in **The Return**) has brought his beautiful wife Vera and their two young children from their city home to visit his father's old house in the remote countryside. The film is set irrevocably in motion when Vera reveals she is pregnant, but not to her husband. What follows is a breathtaking study of isolation, betrayal and revenge, confirming Zvyagintsev as a director of world stature.

The Banishment is a visually spectacular film that reflects the mythic, almost biblical force of storytelling that this multi award winning director has become renowned for.



Captive (2008)

Пленный

Director: Alexei Uchitel

Starring: Vyacheslav Krikunov, Pyotr Logachev, Irakli Mskhalaia, Julia Peresild, Sergei Umanov, Andrei Feskov

Duration: 77 minutes

Awards:

- Best Director (2008 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival)
- Based on Vladimir Makanin's **The Prisoner from the Caucasus** (1995)

Synopsis

War

From the director of **The Stroll** and **Dreaming of Space**, both Russian Resurrection favourites, comes Uchitel's latest film.

Captive explores the folly of war in an intimate and startling way, focusing on the recent conflict in Chechnya.

The film opens with Russian soldiers under fire and trapped in the vast Chechen landscape, stifling in the heat, lost in hostile, alien surrounds. The handsome, laconic commander Rubakhin and the playful sniper Vovka need a guide to lead their convoy to safety. They seize a local, beautiful boy, who becomes their passport to safety, but must pay a terrible price. And his captors will not escape from the incident unscathed either....

There truly is no beauty in war.





Simple Things (2006)

Простые вещи

Director: Aleksei Popogrebsky
Starring: Sergei Puskepalis, Leonid Bronevoy, Svetlana Kamynina, Dinara Kutuyeva, Ivan Osipov, Malkhaz Zhvaniya, Ivan Shvedoff
Duration: 110 minutes

Awards:

- European Jury Prize, Best Film (2008 Angers European Film Festival)
- Jean Carment Award, Best Actor (2008 Angers European Film Festival)
- FIPRESCI Prize, (2007 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival)
- Best Actor, Sergei Puskepalis (2007 Karlovy Vary International Festival)
- Award of Ecumenical Jury (2007 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival)
- Grand-Prix, Best Film (2007 Sochi Open Film Festival)
- Best Director, Alexei Popogrebsky (2007 Sochi Open Film Festival)
- Best Actor, Sergei Puskepalis (2007 Sochi Open Film Festival)

Synopsis

Drama

At the centre and in every scene of Simple Things is Sergei Maslov, an anaesthetist suffering from a sense of failure only aggravated by his cramped St. Petersburg apartment and financial troubles.

Marvellously played by theatre director Sergei Puskepalis in his first film role, Maslov is emotionally detached but surrounded by people with whom he must interact on a daily basis. We meet him just as his attempts at an affair with a receptionist at his clinic crumble - at the same time that his teenage daughter runs away with her boyfriend and his wife announces that she's unexpectedly pregnant.

However, a side gig for extra cash, giving an acerbic old actor injections for his pain, opens the way to a fragile but potentially life-changing friendship. Popogrebsky's superb new film is a work of imagination, subtlety, humour, maturity, and invention with superb performances on every level.



Tulpan (2008)

Тюльпан

Director: Sergei Dvortsevoy
Starring: Ondas Besikbasov, Samal Esliamova, Ashkat Kuchencherekov
Duration: 100 minutes

Awards:

- Un Certain Regard Prize (2008 Cannes Film Festival)

Synopsis

Drama/Comedy

After completing his naval service, young Asa travels back to the bleak and windswept Kazakh steppe where his sister and her shepherd husband live a nomadic life. To start his new life, eager Asa must get married first before he can become a shepherd himself. Asa's only hope for marriage on the deserted steppe is Tulpan, the daughter of another shepherd family. Poor Asa is disappointed to learn that Tulpan doesn't like him because she thinks that his ears are too big. But Asa doesn't give up and he continues to dream of a life that may not be possible on the steppe.

Polished, funny and utterly charming, **Tulpan** tells of a family not only surviving but relishing the harsh life of sheep and goat herders on the barren landscape of the Kazakh steppe.





Graffiti (2006)

Граффити

Director: Igor Apasian

Starring: Andrei Novikov, Viktor Perevalov, Sergey Potapov, Larissa Guzeeva

Duration: 125 minutes

Awards:

- Special Jury Prize (2007 Yerevan International Film Festival)
- Grand Prix Nomination (2007 Tokyo International Film Festival)

Synopsis

Drama

23 year old art student Andrei is on the wrong side of the law, his teachers and his girlfriend. Not to mention a rival street gang who beat him up after they catch him spraying graffiti on their turf.

As punishment, his teachers send him to rural Russia, instead of the glamorous trip to Venice he had planned, to study 'real life' and landscapes.

The normally aloof Andrei is slowly drawn into the small time dramas of the locals when he is commissioned to paint a mural of the local councillors. He develops a touching friendship with a drunken old man, his son the septic service truck driver and other strange and forgotten people.

The theme of memory and cherishing lost loved ones blossoms through the mural, as it grows to include the men of the village who have died in war, from the great war to the recent Chechen conflict – soldiers of Andrei's age who through their images, reveal to him a deeper meaning to life.



Travelling With Pets (2007)

Путешествие с домашними животными

Director: Vera Storozheva

Starring: Dmitri Dyuzhev, Kseniya Kutepova, Anna Mikhalkova, Yevgeniy Knyazev, Boris Petrov, Mikhail Yefremov

Duration: 97 minutes

Awards:

- Golden St George for Best Film (2007 Moscow International Film Festival)
- FIPRESCI Prize, Dox Quixote Award, Jury Prize (2007 Cottbus Film Festival)

Synopsis

Drama/Romance

Travelling With Pets is a beautifully filmed portrait of a woman discovering her potential after too long on the sidelines. Natalia is miserably married to a brutish man, who simply regards her as a domestic servant. Things turn for the better however, when her husband suddenly dies. Natalia dumps his body at the local hospital, drops by church to say a few prayers and then moves forward with her newfound freedom. She soon finds love in a new man, Sergei, but can't help but wonder if there is even more to discover.

Travelling with Pets took the grand prize at the Moscow International Film Festival and has since travelled the world, a heart warmer with festival audiences all round the world.





Alyosha Popovich & Tugarin Zmey

(2004)

Алеша Попович и Тугарин Змей

Director: Konstantin Bronzit

Duration: 72 minutes

Awards:

- Golden Award Nomination, (2005 Ale Kino! International Young Audience Film Festival)

Synopsis

Children's Animation

Alyosha Popovich & Tugarin Zmey is

Russia's answer to *Shrek*, a beautiful colourful fantasy animation that draws on a traditional Russian fairytale to tell an extremely funny and entertaining tale for all ages!

Alesha Popovich, the noble and high minded knight sets out to catch the evil dragon Tugarin Zmey who has stolen all the gold in the kingdom. He is joined on his quest by his long suffering and highly talkative horse, the beautiful Lyubava, her wise grandmother Marudna and a donkey.



Plus One (2008)

Плюс один

Director: Oxana Bichkova

Duration: 108 minutes

Starring: Madeline Dzhabrailova, Dzhetro Skinner, Pavel Derevyanko, Artem Zhimolohov, Vladimir Ilyn, Miroslav Karpovich, Elena Simonova, Evgenii Tsiganov

Awards:

- Gold Turo Award, Oxana Bichkova (2008 Window to Europe Film Festival)

Synopsis

Romantic Comedy

Plus One is a wonderful romantic comedy about letting go for love.

30 year old Masha is totally engrossed in her work, and shuns human contact, burnt from a failed marriage. However when she is offered a job as a translator to assist a visiting Londoner, her world is opened up to the potential of new love.

Tom Greenwood is in Moscow to present a seminar for a puppet show. His meeting with Masha changes both their lives forever, as they learn to let go of old hurts and mistrusts, falling in love, trying to understand each other, and simply allowing themselves to be happy.





12 (2007)

Director: Nikita Mikhalkov

Starring: Sergei Makovetsky, Sergei Garmash, Aleksei Petrenko, Yuri Stoyanov, Sergei Gazarov, Nikita Mikhalkov, Mikhail Yefremov, Valentin Gaft, Alexei Gorbunov

Duration: 159 minutes

Awards:

- Best Foreign Language Film Nomination (2008 Academy Awards)
- Golden Lion Nomination (2007 Venice Film Festival)

Synopsis

Drama

From Oscar winning director Nikita Mikhalkov (*Burnt by the Sun*), **12** is a powerful remake of the 1957 Sidney Lumet classic *12 Angry Men*. It has also received the 2008 Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Language Film, making waves in cinematic circles around the world.

12 is set in a Russian school in the war-torn republic of Chechnya. Twelve jurors are struggling to decide the fate of a Chechen teenager who allegedly killed his Russian stepfather. The jurors: a racist taxi-driver, a suspicious doctor, a vacillating TV producer, a Holocaust survivor, a flamboyant musician, a cemetery manager, and others represent the fragmented society of modern day Russia. Amidst the battle between Chechens and Russians outside, a stray bird (a touch of New Age cinema) flies above the jurors' heads, as an allusion to tolerance.





RETROSPECTIVE 1: *The works of Karen Shakhnazarov*

In 2008, the Russian Resurrection Film Festival will be presenting two Retrospectives, exploring two very diverse but exciting areas of Russian filmmaking, from Soviet Russia onwards.

The first Retrospective will explore the work of one of the masters of the modern Russian filmmaking, **Karen Shakhnazarov**, whose career has spanned 25 years and continues to this date. This retrospective will be one of the most in-depth collections of any director's works to be screened at a foreign language film festival anywhere in the world. Such a Retrospective will illustrate a historical sketch that starts with some of the more popular Soviet films made in the early and late 80's through the state backed Soviet film industry, and then follows the director through the social, political and life upheaval of Perestroika in 1989 and the subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. **Shakhnazarov's** career rode the waves to continue to produce ground breaking and highly popular films into the period known as Post-Soviet cinema in the 90's, and has gone from strength to strength to create relevant and powerful Russian cinema to the present day.

The amazing and highly diverse collection of award winning and internationally acclaimed films Directed by **Karen Shakhnazarov** to be showcased at the Festival include ***We Are Jazz Men*** (1983), ***Courier*** (1987), ***Zero City*** (1988), ***The Assassin of the Tsar*** (1993), ***American Daughter*** (1995), ***Day of the Full Moon*** (1998) and ***Rider Named Death*** (2004).

As an extra bonus treat, his latest film, ***The Vanished Empire*** (2008), will be screening as a true highlight of the Festival. It reveals a heartfelt and fascinating study of student life in the 1970's through the last years of the Soviet Union. As the culmination of his work to date, ***The Vanished Empire*** will represent the jewel in the crown of this extremely stimulating expose of one of Russia's most celebrated Directors.

Shakhnazarov is also available for interviews prior to the festival.

Karen Shakhnazarov Retrospective

We Are Jazz Men (1983)

Мы из джаза

Director: Karen Shakhnazarov
Starring: Igor Sklyar, Aleksandr Pankratov-Chyorny, Nikolai Averyushkin, Yelena Tsyplakova
Duration: 89 minutes

Awards:

- Jury Prize (1983 Grenoble Film Festival)

Synopsis

Comedy/Musical

Shakhnazarov's first feature, ***We Are Jazzmen*** was the No.1 Film at the Soviet Box Office in 1983. This high spirited zesty film, full of wit and charm, pays homage to the beginnings of jazz in Russia. It follows the travails of a group of young jazz enthusiasts who head to Moscow to make it in the big time, over coming obstacle after obstacle to live their dreams.

Shakhnazarov explains: "*Jazzmen* was a huge hit in Russia. I suppose when it first appeared, jazz was a new theme. Not that Russians didn't know jazz, for it was already in the Soviet Union. But it always had an up-and-down history, sometimes forbidden, sometimes allowed. But to make a film about such things was very new. And to make a musical without political themes was even more new."





Courier (1987)
Курьер

Director: Karen Shakhnazarov
Starring: Fedor Dunayevsky, Anastasia Nemolyaeva
Duration: 88 minutes

Synopsis
Comedy/Drama

Based on the novel of the same name by Karen Shakhnazarov, **Courier** is about a young high school graduate, Ivan Miroshnikov, who starts working as a courier in a publishing house for a literary magazine after he fails his exams. While delivering some documents, Ivan meets Katya and the two quickly fall in love. Ivan develops a knack for using his charm to please those around him, but just as easily seems to end up in a horrible mess by his own foolhardiness.



Zero City (1988)
Город Зеро

Director: Karen Shakhnazarov
Starring: Leonid Filatov, Oleg Basilashvili, Vladimir Menshov, Eugeny Evstigneev, Alexey Zharkov, Peter Shcherbakov
Duration: 103 min

Synopsis
Black Comedy

One of the key films of the Perestroika era, **Zero City** tells the story of a Moscow engineer named Varakin who arrives in a small town with instructions to change the size of a locally manufactured air-conditioner part. He arrives at the company office and is welcomed by a naked secretary. Next, he finds himself sitting down to lunch. The dessert arrives, a cake that strongly resembles his own head, baked by a chef who soon shoots himself in the head. With its images of a burdensome past and an indeterminate future based on both folk tale and more modern forms of absurdism, Shakhnazarov's very funny and poignant film is a true historical touchstone.



- Awards:**
- Winner of the *Bronze Rosa Camuna* (1990) for Best Director at the Bergamo Film Meeting
 - Nominated for Best Production Design at the Nika Awards (1990)

The Assassin of the Tsar (1993)
Царевичийца

Director: Karen Shakhnazarov
Starring: Oleg Yankovsky, Malcolm McDowell, Armen Dzhigarkhanyan, Andrey Krivitsky
Duration: 104 minutes

Synopsis
Drama

Boasting an amazing array of actors including British born Malcolm McDowell (*A Clockwork Orange*, *Heroes*), **The Assassin of the Tsar** is a film about the assassination of Tzar Nikolay II and his family in the town of Ekaterinburg on the night of 16th June 1918.



- Awards:**
- Palm De Ore Nomination (1993 Cannes Film Festival)
 - Best Actor, Oleg Yankovsky (1993 Nika Awards)

Several decades pass and a patient at a mental hospital, who believes he is the assassin, begins to recount the events of that horrible night.



American Daughter (1995)

Американская дочь

Director: Karen Shakhnazarov
Starring: Alison Witbek, Vladimir Mashkov, Maria Shukshina, Armen Dzhigarkhanyan

Duration: 98 minutes

Awards:

- Winner of Special Jury Prize (1995 Shanghai International Film Festival)

Synopsis

Comedy/Drama

A bittersweet road movie about a father and daughter looking to reconnect after a forced separation.

Varakin's wife secretly leaves Russia for San Francisco, and marries a respectable American, taking their daughter Anyuta with her. Four years pass, and Varakin arrives in America to track down his beloved daughter, who after a touching reunion, together plan a secret escape. Here starts their fascinating hitchhiking trip across America, packed with comical situations and moments of adventure.



Day of the Full Moon (1998)

День Полнолуния

Director: Karen Shakhnazarov
Starring: Anna Germ, Andrey Panin, Eugeny Stychkin, Elena Koreneva, Valery Priyomykhov

Duration: 93 minutes

Awards:

- FIPRESCI Prize (1998 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival)
- Crystal Globe Nomination (1998 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival)

Synopsis

Drama/Short stories

Day of the Full Moon is a stunningly photographed series of vignettes from Russia past and present that summons the spirit of Max Ophuls' 1950 classic *La Ronde*, and Robert Altman's *Nashville* and *Short Cuts* to tell provocative and interconnecting stories.

During the full moon, three different people are captivated by a mysterious woman in a lilac dress. The effects of this event ripple through the years, and grow to wash over more than 80 characters, from a disc jockey to a fairy princess to a gangster to Alexander Pushkin to a nostalgic dog. But which of these are dreams, and which represent reality?

Shakhnazarov continues his career-long focus on the intersection of past and present with this mysterious yet exhilarating mosaic of humankind, which in the end offers both seduction and satisfaction to the receptive viewer.





Rider Named Death (2004)
Всадник по имени смерть

Director: Karen Shakhnazarov
Starring: Andrey Panin, Dmitry Dyuzhev, Artyom Semakin, Ksenia Rappoport

Duration: 106 minutes

Awards:

- Grand Prix Nomination (2004 Montreal World Film Festival)

Synopsis
Drama/Thriller

In 1904 Russia is shocked by a series of cruel and cold-blooded murders. Prominent government and military officials fall victim to terrorists, and neither their high position, nor their security efforts help them escape from the bold criminals. Confident of their infallibility and impunity, the terrorists start hunting members of the royal family.

The film is based on the novel *The Pale Horse* by Boris Savinkov the Russian political figure who organised and took active part in a series of terror acts that convulsed Russia in the early 1900's. He was arrested in 1906 and was condemned to death, but managed to escape from custody abroad. He then performed subversive activities till 1924, when he was seized and imprisoned by the Soviet government, where, according to the official version, committed suicide in jail.





RETROSPECTIVE 2 - *Russian Fantasia*

Russian Fantasia is the subject for the second Russian Resurrection Film Festival Retrospective, focusing on classic soviet fantasy and science fiction films. Heading the line-up is one of the all time great fantastical cult classics ***Amphibian Man*** (1962), directed by **Vladimir Chebotaryov** and **Gennadi Kazansky**, which is strangely complimented by the second film featured, the multi-award winning and internationally acclaimed, devastating post nuclear holocaust thriller ***Letters from a Deadman*** (1986) directed by **Konstantin Lopushansky**.

Amphibian Man (1962)
Человек-амфибия

Director: Vladimir Chebotaryov
and Gennadi Kazansky

Starring: Vladimir Korenev,
Nikolai Simonov, Anastasia
Vertinskaya, Mikhail Kozakov

Duration: 99 minutes

Facts:

- Based on the novel by Alexander Beliaev

Synopsis
Fantasy

Amphibian Man tells the story of a boy named Ichthyander who was surgically altered by his father to survive under the sea, saving his ailing son's life by transplanting to him the lungs of a shark.

The fantasy elements are well integrated into the period setting, with beautiful underwater scenarios designed with a theatrical flair that creates a sumptuous visual feast. This is coupled with a haunting music score and exquisite colour photography that is highlighted by a classic 1960s sensibility.

A virtually unclassifiable nautical reverie, ***Amphibian Man*** combines seafaring adventure, romance, monstrous fantasy, water choreography and tragedy into a strange, beguiling dream of a film.



Letters From a Deadman (1986)
Письма мёртвого человека

Director: Konstantin Lopuchansky
Starring: Rolan Bykov, Iosif
Ryklin, Victor Mikhailov, Alexander
Sabinin

Duration: 90 minutes

Awards:

- Grand Prix, Best Film (1986 Mannheim-Heidelberg International Film Festival)

Synopsis
Science Fiction

Set in Moscow post nuclear holocaust, ***Letters From a Deadman*** follows a history professor and several of his colleagues who have survived in a fallout shelter beneath the museum where they used to work. The professor spends his time writing a series of letters to his son in the unlikely hope that he is still alive. Amid the surface devastation, the professor finds a group of children who have been struck catatonically mute by the holocaust. Though the city has been placed under rigid militia rule, he attempts to take them away to a place of safety.





2008 SYDNEY SPECIAL EVENT

The New Babylon: Shostakovich the Music/Kozintsev the Film

Lovers of traditional Russian cinema and classical music will be captivated by the premiere live performance of the original **Dmitri Shostakovich** score by the **SBS Youth Orchestra**, Conductor Matthew Krel, to accompany the screening of *The New Babylon* (1929). Directed by the internationally award winning pair, **Gregoriy Kozintsev** and **Leonid Trauberg**, this wonderful event will take place on **Sunday 9th November** at the **City Recital Hall Angel Place, Sydney**.

Since its debut performance in Moscow in 1929, *The New Babylon* has only been accompanied by a live orchestra 5 times. **Russian Resurrection** is extremely delighted to present the inaugural live performance screening in Australia, a unique occasion to see and hear this masterpiece of Soviet expressionist silent cinema as it was originally envisaged.

Sydney Premiere Performance

Date: Sunday 9th November
Time: 4:00pm – 6.00pm
Venue: City Recital Hall Angel Place
Location: 2 Angel Place
Sydney NSW
Price: \$35
Tickets available: www.cityrecitalhall.com or call 02 8256 2222

The New Babylon (1929)

Новый Вавилон

Director: Gregoriy Kozintsev and Leonid Trauberg

Starring: David Gutman, Yelena Kuzmina, Andrei Kostrichkin, Sofiya Magarill

Duration: 92 minutes

Facts:

- Since its debut performance in Moscow in 1929, *New Babylon* has only been accompanied by a live orchestra 5 times.
- Russian Resurrection will present the inaugural live performance screening in Australia

Synopsis

Silent Film with Live Orchestra
Expressionist Revolutionary Drama

This ground-breaking film is an experimental and politically-inspired melodrama about violence, revolution and class-conflict between the Paris workers and the bourgeoisie during the Commune of 1871. The film's heroine Louise works as a clerk in a luxury store in Paris – the New Babylon of the film's title. Forced by the circumstances of her position to cater to the whims of the rich, her sympathies lie with the working-class patriots, and as she becomes increasingly politicised she joins the Communards, sacrificing herself in pursuit of her principals and 'The Cause'.



New Babylon is a powerful reminder of the incredible explosion of artistic energy in 1920s Russia – an explosion which reverberates even today. **Kozintsev, Trauberg** and **Shostakovich** all truly believed that film could and would change the world.



 city recital hall angel place



BIOGRAPHIES

Karen Shakhnazarov

Russian Retrospective: Film director, Scriptwriter, and Producer

Shakhnazarov is a leading Russian Filmmaker with a true sense of modernity. His ability to effectively punctuate significant moments is paralleled only by his capacity to entertain, enabling his audience to empathise with a variety of characters and their respective plights. His films are well known to both Russian and foreign spectators and are the recipient of prizes at the world's most prestigious film festivals and forums, making Shakhnazarov one of the most commercially successful directors in Russia.

He has received an array of outstanding awards including, the People's Artist Award of the Russian Federation (2002), the State Award of the Russian Federation, Lenin Komsomol Award (1986), Vasilev Brothers State Award of RSFSR (1988), and is currently a member of the European Film Academy. In 1975, Shakhnazarov graduated from the Film Directing Department of the Moscow State Institute of Cinematography (VGIK, studio of I. Talankin).

Since 1976 he has been a film director of the Mosfilm Studios (one of the oldest Film Studios in Europe), and from 1991-1998 served as Chairman of the "Courier" Studio of Mosfilm Cinema Concern. In 1998, Shakhnazarov was appointed president and CEO of Mosfilm Studios, where he has managed to pull the studios out of a long-term crisis and revive it as an attractive production facility for movies and TV-series.

Shakhnazarov is also available for interviews prior to the festival.

BEHIND THE FESTIVAL

Nicholas Maksymow

Festival Director, *Russian Resurrection Film Festival*

Managing Director, *Fairmont Aged Care Centre*

Nicholas Maksymow graduated from the University of NSW in 1995 obtaining a Bachelor of Arts with Honours and immediately went to work as a Researcher at Federal Parliament House in Canberra. Initially he worked as a volunteer for Philip Ruddock MP, before taking up a Research position with Alexander Downer MP, drafting coalition foreign policy. Nicholas then moved back to Sydney and worked for over 2 years with the State Department for Education and Training, conducting projects and operations for the State's Community Languages Schools Program. During this time Nicholas got married and completed the first of his postgraduate degrees – Master of International Relations, also from the University of NSW. Nicholas then made a complete career transformation and moved into the Aged Care industry managing Fairmont Aged Care - he has found the industry work to be challenging yet rewarding at the same time. From 1997-1999 Nicholas served as President of the Russian Ethnic Community Council of NSW and from 2001-2004 as Board Director of The Russian Club. In 2006 he completed his MBA at the Australian Graduate School of Management (combined Universities of Sydney & NSW Degree). Nicholas has two young children who are still too young to attend the festival! The ***Russian Resurrection Film Festival*** was instigated by Nicholas in 2004, and plays nationally to all walks of life with a passion for Russian culture. The inaugural festival was noted by the NSW Premiers Department as being one of the most successful in film festival history.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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