

The 22nd SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL L.A. with BALTIC FILM EXPO@SFFLA

JANUARY 7th - 10th

Screen the following four films anytime during this date range

Another Round (Oscar submission - feature)

Druk (Denmark), 2020, 117 minutes, Thomas Vinterberg

The story of four high school teachers, tired and weary of the everyday monotony of their lives. Together, they decide to test the theory, conceptualized by a Norwegian psychologist Finn Skårderund, who contended that a certain constant level of alcohol in the system was required to thrive in society. As the four friends experiment with this theory, *Another Round* shows how it affects them all quite differently.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40X5EX6Us7c>

Agnes Joy (Oscar submission - feature)

(Iceland), 2019, 92 minutes, Silja Hauksdóttir

Rannveig is experiencing burnout in all aspects of her mundane suburban life. She's stuck with a job she hates and a marriage that is slowly dying. On top of that, she's constantly fighting with her rebellious daughter, Agnes, and can't face the possibility of Agnes growing up and leaving her behind. When a new neighbor, Hreinn, shows up at their doorstep, Rannveig and family face new challenges that are beyond their control.

<https://vimeo.com/359260012>

Bizzard of Souls (Oscar-submission - feature)

Dvēseļu putenis (Latvia), 2019, 104 minutes, Dzintars Dreiberģis

This coming-of-age story is set during WWI between 1915 and 1921, and focuses on Latvian soldiers fighting against different enemies, thus reflecting the complex history of Latvia and the circumstances of the foundation of the independent republic on the backdrop of WWI. After losing his mother and home sixteen-year-old Artūrs decides to join the national Latvian Riflemen battalions of the Imperial Russian army in hopes of finding glory. He goes on to fight where he loses his father and brother and

quickly becomes disillusioned. Eventually, Artūrs returns to his newly-proclaimed country of Latvia to start everything from scratch.

<https://vimeo.com/366724445>

The Last Ones (Oscar submission - feature)

Viimeiset (Estonia), 2020, 117 minutes, Veiko Õunpua

A brutal portrait of the other side of the Lapland dream, very far from the touristic clichés of snowmobile and canoe adventures. Owner of a mine that is falling apart, Kari commands the days and nights of his workers, who he secretly supplies with drugs so that their drunken evenings and their dreams of faraway places can help them forget a little about the bitterness of their existence, the narrowness of their mobile homes, the dangerous tunnels filling with water. However, at surface level, a completely different way of life subsists, that of the reindeer breeders, a small community struggling to make ends meet and progressively disappearing, its last members gathering around campfires while the explosions from the mine echo in the distance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ysj1KjagU6Q>

JANUARY 14th - 17th

Screen the following four films anytime during this date range

Charter (Oscar submission - feature)

(Sweden), 2020, 94 minutes, Amanda Kernell

After a divorce, Alice hasn't seen her children in two months as she awaits a custody verdict. When her son calls her in the middle of the night, Alice takes action, abducting the children on an illicit charter trip to the Canary Islands.

<https://vimeo.com/419841401>

Hope (Oscar submission - feature)

Håp (Norway), 2019, 130 minutes, Maria Sødahl

The relationship of artist-partners Tomas and Anja, with a large blended family, breaks down when the wife is diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, exposing neglected love. An intimate and original story about a family going through an all-encompassing crisis. In the shadow of sudden and serious illness, the film pays homage to life and love in the encounter with the worst imaginable experience.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciBUMhNSBPs>

Nova Lituania (Oscar submission - feature)

(Lithuania), 2019, 96 minutes, Karolis Kaupinis

It's late 1930's. Foreseeing the upcoming war in Europe, Lithuanian geographer Feliksas Gruodis comes up with an idea to save his country by establishing a Lithuanian colony overseas. The plan is a massive exodus to the so called "Reserve Lithuania" in case of occupation. Feliksas tries to sell his idea to one of the most important persons of the state - a grey cardinal of the president, the prime minister Jonas Servus. Dismissing the idea at first, soon the prime minister experiences a heart stroke as the country gets the first signs of war at it's borders. As the president uses his illness to turn him into a scapegoat, the already ex-prime minister gets back to Feliksas, persuades him to reveal his plan and offers his help. The hope to implement the plan doesn't bring much light to Feliksas' personal life. Him and his wife, a childless couple, live in a stiff and cold relationship. As Feliksas finds a fulfilment in his utopia, his wife Veronika finds no way to diminish her loneliness. As Feliksas' political dream comes to realisation, his marriage approaches a collapse. As the country loses the first piece of it's territory, ex-prime minister decides that the only way to implement the plan is to overthrow the president with the help of the military. He invites Feliksas to spend the last night at his home, together with his family. The ideal picture of it makes Feliksas to drop his plan at the last minute and try to save his personal life instead of saving the country.

<https://vimeo.com/444496588>

Tove (Oscar submission - feature)

(Finland), 2020, 117 minutes, Zaida Bergroth

The Moomins, with their hippo-like silhouettes, are beloved cartoon characters familiar to readers around the globe. But less is known about their creator, the bisexual, Swedish-speaking, Finnish visual artist and author Tove Jansson and her surprisingly unconventional life. Featuring a mesmerizing lead performance by Alma Pöysti, the sensuously textured film concentrates on a formative decade in Tove's life (from the mid-1940s to mid-'50s) and explores her artistic and personal passions, and the challenges they entail.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMpdDpO__X4

JANUARY 21st - 24th

Screen the following films anytime during this date range

My Favorite War (Oscar submission - animated feature)

(Norway/Latvia), 2020, 80 minutes, Ilze Burkovska - Jacobsen

An animated documentary based on the childhood story of director Ilze Burkovska-Jacobsen, growing up in the USSR during the Cold War. A coming of age story about the personal road of escape from the brainwash of the mighty authoritarian regime. “I had to make a choice then - who do I want to become and what do I believe in? The same questions young generations are asking themselves today”.

<http://myfavoritewar.com/press-kit/>

Life After Death (Oscar submission - feature)

Livet efter döden' (Finland), 2020, 80 minutes, Klaus Härö

Nisses wife Leila has just died, but he has mourned enough, with only some practical arrangements left to do. After deciding it's going to be a small funeral — no fuss — Nisse soon finds himself overrun by sons, mothers, and friends, when all he wants is for everyone to do is leave him alone and stop the lamentation, to be alone with what remains: sorrow. But despite these wishes, he begins to understand that he's not the only one with the right to say goodbye. A tragicomic film about an older man who manages to push the people around him away when he would need them the most, the film is also humorous in tone as the characters' find difficulty in understanding one another. Life After Death is the first autobiographical film by Klaus Härö, and his first comedy.

Short Films: Oscar Contenders

Featuring Nordic and Baltic Short Films that are eligible for Best Short and Best Short Documentary Academy Award.

Films include:

The Weight of All the Beauty /Süda Sõrve Sääres (Estonia, 2019; dir. Eeva Mägi). 24 min. In Estonian and English with English subtitles

Ivo (Norway, 2019; dir. Christina Lande). 18 min. In Norwegian with English subtitles
Dummy/Atkūrimas (Lithuania, 2020; dir. Laurynas Bareiša). 13 min. In Lithuanian with English subtitles

Njuokčamat/The Tongues (Norway 2019; dir. Marja Bål Nango and Ingir Ane Bål Nango). 15 min. In Sami with English subtitles

The Kicksled Choir/Sparkekoret (Norway 2020; dir. Torfinn Iversen). 18 min. In Norwegian with English subtitles

My Dear Corpses/Mu kallid laibad (Estonia, 2020; dir. German Golub). 34 min. In Estonian and Russian with English subtitles.