



Improved visibility for Basque cinema throughout the Festival thanks to a new section

Zinemira-Basque Film Showcase will propose nine movies, including six premieres

Imanol Uribe will receive the Zinemira Award at the Basque Film Gala

Zinemira-Basque Film Showcase is the title of this new section increasing the presence at San Sebastian Festival of movies chiefly produced or directed by Basques. The Basque Cinema Day until now offering a brief rendezvous with a single screening of each film will this year grow in size to become yet another Festival section, with a series of films selected from among the year's most interesting productions.

Zinemira-Basque Film Showcase is a section organised by the San Sebastian Festival and the Basque Government Department of Culture, sponsored by EITB (the Basque TV and Radio network) and with the collaboration of the producers' associations Ibaia and APV. This section will feature on the Festival's general programme and will run for the entire length of the edition. The six premiered movies will be screened three times, and the three titles already released in commercial cinemas will each have two showings at the Festival.

Furthermore, the Zinemira programme will include the first screening of the new Kimuak 2009 catalogue, encompassing a selection of the best Basque shorts of the year. Kimuak is a Basque Government programme managed by the FilMOTECA Vasca devoted to the international promotion and diffusion of Basque short films. This event will only be open to professionals.

Basque Film Gala and Zinemira Award

Zinemira-Basque Film Showcase includes the Basque Film Gala to take place at the Victoria Eugenia Theatre on Wednesday September 23. The film *La máquina de pintar nubes* (*The Cloud-Painting Machine*), directed by Patxo Tellería and Aitor Mazo, and starring Aitor Mazo, Gracia Olayo, Bingen Elortza, Lander Otaola and Santi Ugalde, will be the Gala premiere.

At the Festival, director Imanol Uribe will receive the Zinemira Award each year feting the noteworthy career of a Basque movie personality to be presented at the Basque Film Gala in the Victoria Eugenia Theatre.

Imanol Uribe (San Salvador, 1950) is one of the biggest names to have emerged from the boom experienced by Basque cinema in the late 70s. A director, screenwriter and producer, he carried off the Pearl of the Cantabrian Award for Best Film in the Spanish Language at San Sebastian Festival years back with *El proceso de Burgos* (*The Burgos Trial*, 1979). Having made *La fuga de Segovia* (*Escape from Segovia*, 1981) and *La muerte de Mikel* (*Mikel's Death*), films also related to the political situation of the time, he turned his attention to other genres resulting in fine contemporary Spanish movie titles: *Adiós pequeña* (*Bilbao Blues*, 1986), *El rey pasmado* (*The Dumbfounded King*, 1991), the two movies for which he landed the Golden Shell at San Sebastian Festival, *Días contados* (1994) and *Bwana* (1996), or the literary adaptations *Plenilunio* (*Plenilune*, 1999) and *La carta esférica* (*The Nautical Chart*, 2007).

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FESTIVAL DE SAN SEBASTIÁN
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57 FESTIVAL DE SAN SEBASTIÁN
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INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 18 | 26 IRAILA SEPTIEMBRE 2009

ZINEMIRA
BASQUE FILM SHOWCASE



PREMIERES

LA MÁQUINA DE PINTAR NUBES (The Cloud-Painting Machine), Patxo Tellería, Aitor Mazo

ITSASOAREN ALABA (Sea's Daughter), Josu Martínez

LIFE AND FILM (THE LABYRINTHINE BIOGRAPHIES OF VOJTECH JASNY), Arkaitz Basterra

ROUGH WINDS, Andrea Olabarria

UMURAGE, Gorka Gamarra

ZUZENDU, MESEDEZI (Action Please!), Juan Miguel Gutiérrez

FILMS OF THE YEAR

ANDER, Roberto Castón

CHECKPOINT ROCK, Fermín Muguruza, Javier Corcuera

SUKALDE KONTUAK, Aizpea Goenaga



PREMIERES

LA MÁQUINA DE PINTAR NUBES

(The Cloud-Painting Machine)

Director: Patxo Tellería, Aitor Mazo • **Screenplay:** Patxo Tellería, Aitor Mazo • **Photography:** Gaizka Bourgeaud • **Cast:** Aitor Mazo, Gracia Olayo, Bingen Elortza, Lander Otaola, Santi Ugalde
Running time: 102 m.

A tale of a teenager taking his first steps as he discovers a passion for painting in the harsh context of a Bilbao working-class area during the grey later years of the Franco dictatorship. In this environment hostile to beauty and art, we will meet a group of foundry workers who paint in their free time; enthusiasts who paint simply for love of the art. Directorial debut.

(ZINEMIRA GALA)

ITSASOAREN ALABA

(Sea's Daughter)

Director: Josu Martínez • **Screenplay:** Josu Martínez • **Photography:** Hibai Castro
Running time: 52 m.

Before she turned two, Haize's father, Mikel Goikoetxea, a refugee nicknamed "Txapela" was killed by the GAL. With no recollection of the man whatsoever, 25 years down the line she starts asking questions. *Itsasoaren alaba* is a testimony to an exercise of the memory. Piecing together the testimonies of those who knew him, Haize gradually discovers her father and his time, mixing different worlds and feelings. Directorial debut.

LIFE AND FILM (THE LABYRINTHINE BIOGRAPHIES OF VOJTECH JASNY)

Director: Arkaitz Basterra • **Screenplay:** Arkaitz Basterra • **Photography:** Arkaitz Basterra
Running time: 79 m.

One of the most successful moviemakers in the Europe of the sixties, Vojtech Jasny (Czech Republic, 1925) now lives in a small New York apartment. In Jasny's case, life and film are inseparable concepts. By visiting friends who are still alive, in *Life and Film*, Jasny narrates in first person his own story and a series of specific episodes in his life: the Nazi invasion and subsequent Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, exile and his arrival to New York years later. From the director of *Agian / Maybe*.

ROUGH WINDS

Director: Andrea Olabarria • **Screenplay:** Andrea Olabarria, Doug Klozzner • **Photography:** Matt Greene • **Cast:** Danna Maret, John Iovino, Jessica Brydon, Albert Campillo
Running time: 110 m.

Three teenage stories fuse beneath the calm of a quiet, average neighbourhood. Having barely survived a suicide attempt, Jess guards a devastating secret. Connor is training to become a professional boxer, but a sexual adventure from the past continues to haunt him. And Ann, who has never had a boyfriend, develops an obsessive love. At one point, their secrets come to a head, changing their lives forever. A North-American production. Directorial debut by Andrea Olabarria from San Sebastian.



UMURAGE

Director: Gorka Gamarra

With the collaboration of: Jean Marie Mbarushimana, Sonia Rolley

Screenplay: Gorka Gamarra, Sonia Rolley, Jean Marie Mbarushimana, Puri Ramírez

Running time: 52 m.

Rwanda was destroyed by the 4-year war waged from 1990 to 1994 and the genocide that followed it. In 1994, in a space of a hundred days, almost a million people were murdered. The release in August 2005 of those who participated in the genocide has made it possible to follow the trail of survivors and executioners since that 1994 until our days through the labyrinth of reconciliation.

ZUZENDU, MESEDEZI!

(Action Please!)

Director: Juan Miguel Gutiérrez

Running time: 68 m.

Juanjo Franco Zabalegi died in San Sebastian on 19 June 2008. This documentary endeavours to portray his life and the keys to his creative processes. Family, friends, students, friends with whom he spent his spare time and colleagues focus their recollections on explaining different aspects, in many cases unknown, of his busy life as a filmmaker, artist, teacher... From the director of *Tabula rasa* (2004) and *Motema na ngai* (2008). The showing will include Juanjo Franco's short *Nere Erria* (1968).



FILMS OF THE YEAR

ANDER

Director: Roberto Castón · **Screenplay:** Roberto Castón · **Photography:** Kike López · **Cast:** Josean Bengoetxea, Cristian Esquivel, Leire Ucha, Mamen Rivera, Paco Revueltas
Running time: 128 m.

Ander, a farmer in his 40s, lives a routine life split between his job at a bicycle factory and agricultural work on the farm where he lives with his mother and sister. One day when he has an accident and breaks a leg, despite his mother's reticence, the family decides to hire a Peruvian immigrant, José, to do the farm work. José's arrival brings change to life in the house and to Ander, who starts feeling things causing him terrible conflict deep down inside. Directorial debut. Presented as part of the Panorama section at Berlin Festival.

CHECKPOINT ROCK

Director: Fermín Muguruza, Javier Corcuera · **Screenplay:** Fermín Muguruza, Javier Corcuera · **Photography:** Jordi Abusada
Running time: 70 m.

From the neon signs of Tel Aviv to the poverty and despair of the occupied territories (Gaza and the West Bank), *Checkpoint Rock* approaches all sorts of musicians, travelling from village to village and checkpoint to checkpoint on a route that will change our idea of this people in conflict.

SUKALDE KONTUAK

Director: Aizpea Goenaga · **Screenplay:** Aizpea Goenaga · **Photography:** Javier Aguirre · **Cast:** Isidoro Fernández, Bárbara Goenaga, Mikel Losada, Aitziber Garmendia, Galder Pérez
Running time: 89 m.

At a cookery school, six last-year chef-to-be students cry their eyes out (over chopped onions). The teacher tries to make something of this lazy bunch, not particularly interested in learning the culinary culture. But the desperate instructor also has to discover the source of the nauseating smell in the kitchen.



KIMUAK 2009

(OPEN TO PROFESSIONALS ONLY)

5 RECUERDOS

Oriana Alcaine / Alejandra Márquez. (12min)

AHATE PASA

Koldo Almandoz (12min)

AMONA PUTZ!

Telmo Esnal (9min)

DIRTY MARTINI

Iban del Campo (24min)

ÉL NUNCA LO HARÍA

Anartz Zuazua (15min)

LOS QUE LLORAN SOLOS

David González (6min)

MARISA

Nacho Vigalondo (3min)

LA PRESA

Jorge Rivero (16min)