

# SIBERIAN KANSK FILM FESTIVAL



## Siberia's Kansk Film Festival visits London

In collaboration with VideoDOM Studio, CINE FANTOM club (Russia), the FOUNDRY and Genesis Cinema (UK)

**Launch – June 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Festival – June 12-14<sup>th</sup>**

From its remote beginnings eight years ago in the Siberian town of Kansk, an alternative Russian film festival is making its inaugural trip to London.

The Kansk Film Festival started off as an artistic pun on 'Cannes' - inspired by a troupe of avant-garde Russian film makers who decided to put Eastern Siberia on the map.

'The town was found on the Internet by chance', explains organiser Nadya Bakuradze. 'In Russian, Kansk is pronounced the same as Cannes, so the idea grew as an artistic joke – Siberia having its own *Festival de Cannes*.'

Each year the festival showcases new independent and uncompromising filmmakers and hosts an international film jury. 'We promote young authors and encourage experimental productions looking at the crossovers between cinematography and contemporary art,' says Nadya.

Highlights of this year's festival include *Volga-Volga* – the remake of a 1930's cult Soviet comedy in which the original version is preserved completely, with the exception of the leading actress; *Einstein and Margaret* charting Albert Einstein's love affair with a Soviet secret service employee and *Blind Spot* this year's debut.

Now in its eighth year, hundreds of Russians brave the annual trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway; a total of 4,500 km from Moscow and 300 km from Krasnoyarsk into Siberia's severe sub arctic climate.

'Most Russian film festivals are either for film stars and take place near the sea side, or in the big cities. Ours is the only event that has actually shaped the culture of a region,' says Nadya.

Kansk is an unusual town – it produces 90 per cent of the world's nickel and is almost entirely responsible for Kremlin's wealth. It is also a mere eight hour drive from Krasnoyarsk – Stalin's infamous Gulag Administrative Centre, making many of its citizens descendants of Gulag operators or of Communist dissidents expelled there.

But despite its unusual underpinnings, Siberia shouldn't be alien to the West, says artist Tracey Moberly, who is responsible for bringing the festival to London after an inspirational 2007 visit to Kansk.

'We still think of Russia in Cold War terms and people talk about being "Sent to Siberia" but hardly anyone ever visits - it's an unusual and lovely place with temperatures reaching 40 degrees celcius in the Summer months. The festival offers a chance to experience a new take on Russia, especially Siberia.'

The Siberian Kansk festival launches on June 11 with ***Russian Spirit Returns*** – a poster exhibition at **The Foundry**. Screenings between 12-14 June take place at Bethnal Green's **Genesis Cinema**.

**For interviews please contact: Tracey Moberly +44 (0)7951 608787 [tracey@foundry.tv](mailto:tracey@foundry.tv)  
[photinip@gmail.com](mailto:photinip@gmail.com) +44 (0)7879 466809  
urls: [www.genescinema.co.uk](http://www.genescinema.co.uk) [www.foundry.tv/kansk/](http://www.foundry.tv/kansk/)**

# Event Information

**June 11, 09 / The Foundry**

## RUSSIAN SPIRT RETURNS

The festival launches at the Foundry with a free exhibition of contemporary Russian posters from 7pm.

The Foundry / [www.foundry.tv](http://www.foundry.tv)  
84, Great Eastern  
London  
EC2A 3JL  
(exit 3 Old Street tube)

## SIBERIAN KANSK FILM FESTIVAL

**Friday June 12, 09 / Genesis Cinema**

**Screening 7pm**

Shorts and video-art from Kansk Video Festival (Russian program)  
evening screening 2 hours total

**Saturday June 13, 09 / Genesis Cinema**

**Screening 3pm**

'Volga-Volga', directed by Pavel Labazov & Andrey Silvestrov, 70 min, 2006

**Screening 5.30pm**

'Einstein and Margaret', directed by Iraida Yusupova and Alexander Dolgin, 90 min, 2006  
day / evening 4 hours total

**Sunday June 14, 09 / Genesis Cinema**

**Screening 3pm**

Shorts and video-art from Kansk Video Festival (International program)

**Screening 5.30pm**

Premiere! 'Blind Spot', new film by Oleg Mavromatti, 83 min, 2009  
day/evening 4 hours total

Genesis Cinema / [www.genescinema.co.uk](http://www.genescinema.co.uk)  
93-95 Mile End Road  
Whitechapel  
London  
E1 4UJ

*(Stepney Green-district line)  
turn right, keep walking straight cinema on left.  
Bus numbers 25 and 205 stop outside the cinema.*

### **Ticket costs:**

£ 7.00

£ 4.50 students/concs

£ 15.00 3 day festival ticket

Booking line: 08700 60 60 61

# Program

June, 12<sup>th</sup>



7pm

## Shorts and video-art

Russian Program 93 min

**Once upon a time there was Zina** / 2007 / 26' / MiniDV / directed by Alexander Belobokov / DOC

**An old story or circle of continuity** / 2008 / 9'31" / MiniDV / directed by Shvedov Aleksey / EXP

**Stokyyard** / 2007 / 4'15" / DVD / directed by Vera Myakisheva / ANIM

**Wolves** / 2008 / 4' / directed by Nadezda Gorokhova / VA

**Perfectionist's Catalogue** / 2007 / 4'04" / dvd / directed by Ivan Vaschenko / VA

**Virtual Stamps Series** / 2005 / 5'19" / dvd / directed

by Natalia Lamanova / VA

**Cutter # 18** / 2007 2'30" / dvd / directed by Nikita Alekseev and Konstantin Moshkin / EXP

**Encoding Stitch by E.R.Gerz** / 2006 / 5'30" / dvd / directed by Ekaterina Ilyina / FIC

**Animal** / 2005 / 3' / dvd / directed by Eugeny Golubeva / ANIM

**Death and Girl** / 2005 / 2'24" / dvd / directed by Vladimir Seleznev / EXP

**Blue Puddle** / 2005 / 5'05" / dvd / directed by Ekaterina Maximova / ANIM

**Twilight** / 2005 / 5'31" / DVD / director Vladimir Logutov / EXP

**Tchaikovsky** / 2004 / 4'30" / Betacam SP / director Andrey Golovin / ANIM

**Let us go drink** / 2004 / 4' / DVD / directed by Viktor Nazarov / VA

**Mutabor** / 2004 / 1'45" / DVD / directed by Zer Gut group / VA

**Ilya Muromets 1-2** / 2004 / 1'30" / DVD / directed by Maxim Moiseev / FIC

**Magic Tomatoes** / 2003 / 3'30" / Mini DV / directed by Dmitriy Bulnygin / EXP

**Fine Correction** / 2003 / 0'30" / Mini DV / directed by Dmitriy Bulnygin / DOC

**Baby Boom** / 2004 / 3'30" / Mini DV / directed by Dmitriy Bulnygin / EXP

**Spider Rasta Story** / 2004 / 1'30" / CD-Rom / directed by Dmitriy Bulnygin / ANIM

**730 Days** / 2004 / 1'38" / DVD / directed by Zer Gut group / VA

**Trophy Films** / 2003 / 10' / VHS / directed by O&A Florensky / EXP

June, 13<sup>th</sup>



dimension.

3pm

## Volga-Volga

Directed by Pavel Labazov and Andrey Silvestrov

Production: Videodom Studio

70 min (2006)

In this remake of the cult Soviet comedy musical of late 1930s, the original version has been preserved completely, with the exception of the leading actress and soundtrack. Originally directed by Grigory Aleksandrov and starring Liubov Orlova (Russia's answer to Marlene Dietrich), the story depicts a gifted village girl whom local bureaucrats try to prevent entering a singing competition in Moscow. The lead is replaced by Russian artist Vladislav Mamyshev-Monroe, giving the film an entirely new metaphysical



5.30pm

## Einstein and Margaret

Libretto: Iraida Yusupova and Vera Pavlova

Video by Alexander Dolgin and Iraida Yusupova

Puppet installation and set design: Alexander Dolgin

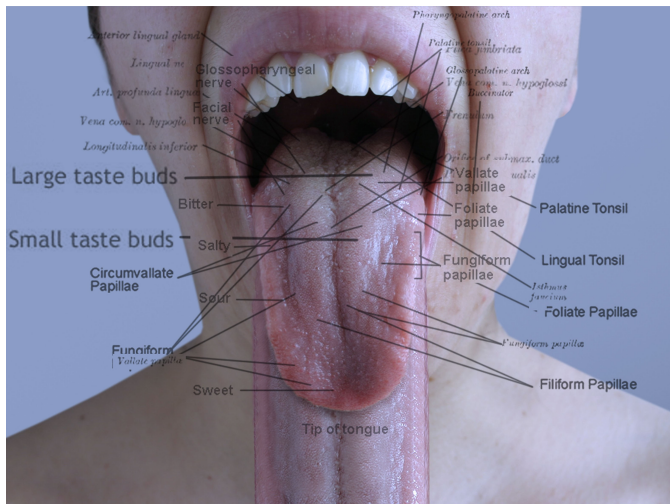
Composer: Iraida Yusupova

90 min (2006)

This video-opera charts Albert Einstein's love affair with Margarita Konenkova - the Soviet secret service employee and wife of a celebrated Russian sculptor. Based on a true story, the love affair inspired leading avant-garde composer Iraida Yusupova and poet Vera Pavlova to make 'the opera of all operas'.

*Einstein and Margaret* exceeds the librettos of most romantic operas by sheer intensity and emotional volatility. Cult contemporary artist Dmitry Prigov and Alexander Dolgin- conceptual photographer and film director have both been involved in producing the film. The score is comprised of six languages which appear as subtitles.

June, 14<sup>th</sup>



## 3pm Shorts and video-art

International program  
108 min

**Surprise!** / 2007 / 18' / DVD / directed by Fabrice Maruca / France / FIC

**Man OS** / 2006 / 13' / DVD / directed by Seidel Roland / Austria / EXP

**What business here?** / 2006 / 6' / DVD / directed by Spandan Banerjee / India / DOC

**Hezurbeltzak, una fosa comun** / 2007 / 4'30" / 35mm / directed by Izibene Onederra / Spain / ANIM

**Flash Lesson** / 2007 / 9'14" / 35mm / directed by Alejandro Lubezki / Mexico / FIC

**My tree** / 2007 / 6' / MiniDV / directed by Sara Siadatnejad / Iran / EXP

**Colorful EU** / 2006 / 2' / DVD / directed by Peter Vadocz / Hungary / EXP  
ANIM

**Cirugia** / 2006 / 2'15" / 35mm / directed by Alberto Gonzalez Vazquez / Spain / ANIM

**Taxi?** / 2007 / 5' / 35mm / directed by Telmo Esnal / Spain / ANIM

**Genesis** / 2008 / 8'40" / DVD / directed by Alessandro Vitali / Italy / ANIM

**Reality Show** / 2007 / 17' / DVD / directed by Federico Schmucler / Mexico / FIC

**Alone** / 2008 / 3' / DVD / directed by Gerard Freixes Ribera / Spain

**Crazy love** / 2007 / 03'53" / DVD / directed by Yoel Vazquez / Cuba / VA

**Pablo V** / 2008 / 2' / DVD / directed by Theo Firmo / Spain – Brazil / VA

**The Bellringer** / 2007 / 4' / 35mm / directed by Dustin Rees / Switzerland / ANIM

**Terminal Communication** / 2008 / 2'53" / DVD / directed by Michael Fortune / Ireland / VA

## 5.30pm Blind Spot

Directed by Oleg Mavromatti  
83 min (2009)



Oleg Mavromatti: "It's difficult to describe the film's plot. Maybe it's about America - the idea being to show America in a different way. This is not Hollywood, this film is about vision and points of view. The Hollywood method can be used by any average student without brains. But independent art society is looking for a new language. It's looking for it strangely and painfully."