

**Fermata Arts Film Program
Farmington Public Library , Farmington, CT
June 1 - June 30, 2009**

No	Country	Genre	Title	Director	Year	Length
1	Bulgaria	Drama / History	Kozijat rog / The Goat Horn	Nikolai Volev	1995	93 min
<p>Synopsis: This Bulgarian tragedy is a remake of that country's most popular film of all time. Unlike the sharply political original, this version centers more on the human relationships involved in the story of a humble Christian shepherd and his small family during the Ottoman rule. The sad story begins as the shepherd's beautiful wife is brutally ravished by two wandering Turks. While he and his daughter helplessly look on, the two pierce the wife's throat with a curly goat horn and leave her to die. Father and daughter, Maria, are utterly horrified; the daughter is so traumatized that she becomes mute, and more than a little insane. The father too, goes mad with grief. He takes Maria to a huge cave deep in the mountains where he hacks off her hair, dresses her in sheepskins and teaches her to kill without flinching. It is she who goes out to exact revenge on the two who murdered her mother. They die as she did and are found with goat horns sticking from their throats. Back at the cave, life becomes more difficult when Maria blossoms into a beautiful young woman and her father begins to develop sexual feelings for her. Though he resists his lustful urges, he cannot help but become insanely jealous when she falls in love with a lonely Muslim shepherd.</p> <p><i>Awards: GRAND PRIX "EUROPA" - 5th European Film Festival, La Baule, France 1994 GRAND PRIX "GOLDEN EAGLE" - 4th International Film Festival, Georgia 1994 GRAND PRIX "GOLDEN ROSE" 22nd National Film Festival, Bulgaria 1994 "ROSA D'ARGENTE" - 13th Bergamo Film Meeting, Italy 1995 SPECIAL PRIZE OF THE JURY - 2nd International Film Festival, Varna, Bulgaria Participated at International Film Festivals in: VENICE, EDINBURGH, COPENHAGEN, SAN JOSE, MUNICH, GENT, GOTEBOURG, BELGRADE and THESSALONIKI.</i></p>						
2	Bulgaria	Documentary	Tarpenieto na kamaka / The Patience of a Stone	Kostadin Bonev	1998	53 min
<p>Synopsis: In a God-forsaken village somewhere in the eastern part of Rhodopes Mountains a bunch of old men and women carry</p>						

	<p>on the remains of their days. They live bound to their own existence just like Sisyphus and the stone. The film story takes place within a single day - twenty-four hours before Christmas. DOES NOT HAVE ENGLISH SUBTITLES! Kostadin Bonev is a prominent member of the younger generation of Bulgarian documentary filmmakers. The award-winning THE PATIENCE OF THE STONE, his best known work, was filmed on Christmas Eve in a little village somewhere in the Rhodope mountains, and features a day in the life of its elderly inhabitants. Forgotten by the living and dead alike, and left entirely to themselves, they cling to life with stubborn determination, not unlike Sisyphus to his stone. <i>Belgrade Film Festival</i> <i>International Documentary Film Festival München</i> <i>World Film Festival Montreal</i></p>					
3	Bulgaria	Documentary	Imam edna idea / I have an Idea	Ilian Simeonov	1997	56 min
	<p>Synopsis: Talented, young Bulgarian artists share their ideas, against the background of the political events in Sofia in January 1997, in which they were active participants. Original, funny and sad at the same time these ideas for films, theater performances, exhibitions, music and architecture cannot be accomplished and are doomed to die around the pub table. Just like authentic Bulgarian culture. <i>Awards: FBNF, Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 1978 - The Jury's Special Award, 7th Film Festival "Zlaten vityaz", Bulgaria, 1998 - The TV and Video Movie Special Award</i></p>					
4	Russian / Kazakhstan	War / Drama	Kavkazskiy plennik / Prisoner of the Mountains	Sergei Bodrov	1996	98 min
	<p>Synopsis: A group of Russian soldiers is ambushed by rebels in the Chechen mountains and two of them are taken prisoner by an old man who wants to swap them for his son in the Russian detention. The two prisoners cope with the situation in very different ways, as the war-hardened and cynical officer Sasha (Oleg Menshikov) works to escape while the young and naive conscript Vanya (Sergei Bodrov, Jr.) tries to make friends with his captors. After an escape plan fails, the different personalities of these prisoners determine their fate.</p>					
5	Bulgaria	Drama / History	Time of Violence	Ljudmil Staykov	1987	158 min
	<p>Synopsis: Time of Violence focuses on the fate of one valley during this crisis. The son of the miller was taken off by the Turks years ago, while still a boy, to become a janissary. Janissaries were special troops used by the Ottomans. Recruited (involuntarily) from Christian boys, they were separated from their families at an early age, indoctrinated in Islam, and turned into fiercely reliable troops with no allegiance to anyone but the sultan. The miller's son is now a highly trusted janissary, with the task of</p>					

	<p>converting his entire home valley to Islam. But the people there take their religion very seriously, and will not submit. The janissary becomes more and more brutal in his attempts to convert the valley, for he must slaughter them all if they don't take the turban.</p> <p>The film is painted on a large, sweeping canvas, with many characters and subplots, all cleverly woven into a single story. (This accomplishment is even more remarkable when you consider that the original Bulgarian version was nearly two hours longer, yet there is no sign at all that anything has been cut.) And, surprisingly, this isn't a "vile Turk" story. Director Ludmil Staikov has much more ambitious goals, including an examination of the power of religion and of the destructiveness of violence and fanaticism. Not all of the Christians are good, nor all of the Muslims bad.</p> <p>The Turkish governor of the valley is not loved by his subjects, yet does all he can to avert their doom. He is given a beautiful, tender moment as he leaves the valley forever, in disgrace. Crossing a bridge that leads out of his valley, he notices a stone that has worked out of place. He gets down from his horse, carefully puts the stone back into its place, and then proceeds on to his exile. Even the janissary has his complexities, as he truly wants to spare his people from unnecessary pain, despite having completely transferred his loyalties to the sultan.</p>					
6	Kazakhstan	Drama	Shiza	Gulshad Omarova	2004	86 min
	<p>Synopsis: Shiza is the nickname of a 15-year-old boy. Money, power, and girls - he has none of these, yet, in his young life. But, he does have the illegal, underground circuit of bare-knuckle fist-fighting, where he is able to eke out a living by scouting for fighters. When a man is accidentally killed in the ring, though, his life is changed forever. He decides that he should return the dead man's money to his widow and child. But, after he meets the woman, Shiza understands that he has real feelings of love for her. Now, he knows for whom he must earn money, no matter what the cost...</p>					
7	Latvia	Drama	The Shoe	Laila Pakalnina	1998	78 min
	<p>Synopsis: Every night, Soviet tractors comb the coast of Latvia looking for signs of anyone who could have infiltrated the Soviet border from the sea. One morning, three Soviet patrolmen discover a woman's shoe in the sand and footsteps leading to the quaint little village of Liepaja. Alarms sound, troops are dispatched, and an official investigation begins. Just like Cinderella, each woman in the village tries on the shoe, though the reward for a perfect fit won't be Prince Charming. Laila Pakalnina's sly fairy tale combines subtle humor and political commentary into a compelling whole, shot beautifully in black and white.</p>					
8	Bulgaria	Drama	Canary Season	Eugeny Mihaylov	1993	128 min
	<p>Synopsis: This is the story of the 'lost generation' (1960-1990) of Bulgaria. Angry and defiant upon his release from prison, young Malin confronts his mother Lily and violently forces her to reveal the truth of the horrors that she had hoped Malin would never know.</p>					

9	United States	Documentary	Waiting for Uighurstan	Sean R. Roberts	1996	55 min
Synopsis: Caught between the politics of the Soviet Union, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and China the Uighurs who were cut off from their homeland in China's Xinjiang province have been dreaming of the establishment of their own state in their homeland which will allow them to determine their own fate.						
10	Ukraine	Comedy/Satire	A Friend of the Deceased	Vyacheslav Krystofovich	1997	100 min
Synopsis: From the director of 1992's <i>Adam's Rib</i> comes this edgy social satire about life in the contemporary Ukraine. An unemployed academic living in economically depressed Kiev decides to hire a hit-man to end his misery. When an affectionate prostitute makes him rethink his plans, he is forced to hire another assassin to stop the one he cannot call off. "The material approaches the wild exaggerations of farce, but Kristofovich plays it in terms that make the ricochets of the plotting seem logical, even inevitable" (Dave Kehr, <i>New York Daily News</i>).						
11	Latvia	Animation	Selection of Animations from Latvia	Nils Skapans, Dace Riduze et al.	2000	26 min
12	Latvia	Documentary	New Times at Crossroad Street		2001	85 min
Synopsis: There is a small sidestreet in the suburbs of Riga, the capital of Latvia. It is no more than 800 metres long. In the town centre at the monument of freedom the supporters of Gorbachov's policy are having a heated argument with the sympathisers of yesterday's reality. In front of the procurator's office and government buildings pickets are protesting against the injustice and malpractice that has been committed. They demand immediate adaptation of new human laws. The people living in this street do not seem to be involved in political life, yet, is it really so?						
13	Russia	Arthouse/Drama	4	Ilya Khrzhanovsky	2005	126 min
Synopsis: From director Ilya Khrzhanovsky comes this post-Soviet Russian film that uses a basic plot structure--three strangers sitting in a bar telling wild, untrue stories, then going their separate ways--as an excuse to film some of the most nightmarishly sinister images to come out of Russia in recent years. <i>4</i> makes <i>Night Watch: Nochnoi Dozor</i> (2004) seem like a playful <i>Van Helsing 2</i> in comparison. Highly allegorical, <i>4</i> is filled with rott en meat, wild animals, old hags, and other abject objects befitting an industrial wasteland, just one of film's unavoidable critiques of contemporary Russian life. "The stark surreal images evoke a mixture of terror and absurdity th at comes as close to the experience of actual nightmare as anything I've seen on screen"						
14	Latvia	Drama	Baiga Vasara (Dangerous Summer)	Aigars Grauba	2000	112 min
Synopsis: Baltic Germans are leaving Latvia for Germany. The Red Army is nearing the borders of the independent state of Latvia.						

	Isolde, a Baltic German student must depart too. But the matter of chance brings her together with Robert, a reporter of Latvian Radio.					
15	Russia	Drama	Vor (The Thief)	Pavel Chukhrai	1997	110 min
	Synopsis: Widow Katya and her young child, Sanya, meet a handsome army captain, Tolyan, on a train in 1952 Russia. Posing as a family, the three find a rooming house where Tolyan becomes everyone's favorite with his good looks, charm and generosity -- especially toward Sanya. But the relationship goes sour when Tolyan's plans for the rooming house become clear, and his real identity as a cruel thief is revealed.					
16	Russia	Drama	Russian Ark	Alexander Sokurov	2002	96 min
	Synopsis: A modern filmmaker magically finds himself transported to the 18th century where he embarks on a time-traveling journey through 300 years of Russian history. The first feature film ever created in a single take.					
17	Russia	Drama	Italianets (The Italian)	Andrei Kravchuk	2007	99 min
	Synopsis: Six-year-old Vanya (Kolya Spiridonov) is about to be handed every Russian orphan's dream: A loving Italian family wants to adopt him and take him away from the rundown orphanage he calls home. But Vanya can't let go of his yearning for his birth mother. Determined to find her, he runs away and sets off on an adventure that leads him into a mysterious and sometimes perilous world. This moving drama received several international awards.					
18	Russia	Action	Nochnoi Dozor (Night Watch)	Timur Bekmambetov	2004	115 min
	This first installment of the trilogy based on the best-selling science fiction novels by Russian writer Sergei Lukyanenko plays upon the tension between light and dark, pitting the superhuman Night Watch patrollers (known as the "Others") against the shadowed forces of the night. But the biggest fear of all stems from the lines of an ancient prophecy, which warns of a renegade Other whose betrayal could bring chaos to the land.					
19	Russia	Animation	Masters of Russian Animation	Various	2000	
	Synopsis: This exciting collection of animated shorts offers a rare glimpse the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s in Russia. The program contains over two dozen award-winning films.					
20	Russia	Drama	Vozvrashcheniye (The Return)	Andrei Zvyagintsev	2003	90 min
	Synopsis: The sudden reappearance of a man (Konstantin Lavronenko) who left his family 12 years earlier stirs up some mixed emotions in the household. His sons know him only from photographs, and while teenage Andrey (Vladimir Garin) is content to accept the unexplained turn of events, his younger brother, Ivan (Ivan Dobronravov), wants answers: Where has the man been all this time, and why is he back? Director Andrey Zvyagintsev's feature film debut.					