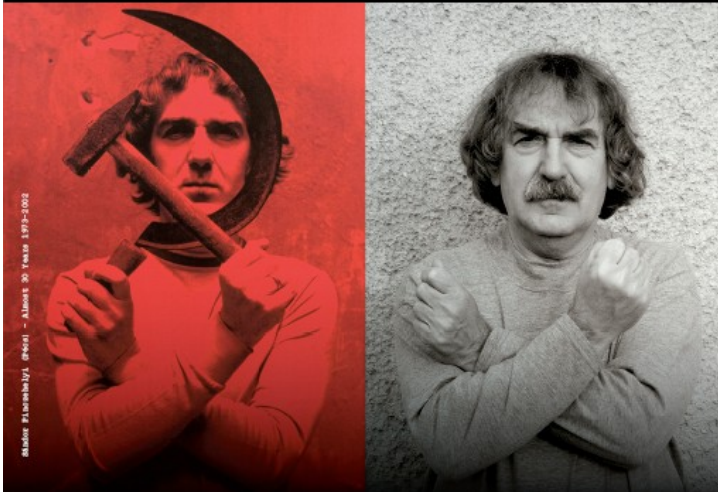


OVERCOMING DICTATORSHIPS



FILM SCREENINGS AT THE RAINBOW

Free entry.

Every Wednesday 15 Oct- 5 Nov

Films start 7pm, bar open from 6pm.

The Rainbow, 160 High Street, Digbeth.

www.overcomings.blogspot.com

www.myspace.com/rainbowevents

The film series is organised on the occasion of the exhibition *Overcoming Dictatorships* held at the Aston Webb Building, The University of Birmingham, 9 Oct.-9 Nov., weekdays 10-5, Sat. 10-1

Wednesday 15.10.08: Das Leben der Anderen, (The Lives of Others) Germany 2006.

Academy Award Best Foreign Language Film 2007. Winner of seven Deutscher Filmpreis awards

The film begins in East Berlin in 1984, five years before Glasnost and the fall of the Berlin Wall and ultimately takes us to 1991 and reunited Germany. *The Lives of Others* traces the gradual disillusionment of Stasi officer Captain Gerd Wiesler. His mission is to spy on a celebrated playwright and his actress wife, Georg Dreyman and Christa-Maria Sieland. Five years before its downfall, the former GDR ensures its claim to power with a ruthless system of control and surveillance via the Stasi, a vast network of informers whose goal is to know everything about "the lives of others." *The Lives of Others* captures not only the paranoia and danger inherent in such a world, but also expresses hope that even in the most desperate situations, people can make a difference.

Wednesday 22.10.08: Nyócker, (The District) Hungary 2005

Sitges, Cristal d'Annecy ,Ottawa Animation IFF, SICAF Korea prizes for Best Animation/Feature Film 2005

Set in a Budapest ghetto, a group of teens band together to make themselves rich by travelling back in time, burying a horde of mammoths under the city's streets in order to return to the present and drill for oil. As creators of a new oil-producing nation, their scheme draws the attention of Putin (who uses the district's Russian hookers as spies), Blair and George W. Bush. In the midst of it all, star-crossed teen love is in bloom as Richie, a young gypsy falls in love with Julia, daughter of the local Hungarian pimp. This outrageous and visually stunning animated satire plays like an unhinged updating of Romeo & Juliet smash-filtered through a politically-charged and politically-incorrect-kaleidoscope of clashing world views and social unrest, complete with musical numbers and a wicked soundtrack of Hungarian hip-hop.

Wednesday 29.10.08: La Vita è bella, (Life is Beautiful) Italy 1999

Winner of three academy awards Best Actor, Best Foreign Language Film, Best Original Dramatic Score.

A moving and poignant tale of one father's sacrifice to save not just his young son's life but his innocence. This is the story of a Jewish Italian, Guido Orefice who comes to the Tuscan town of Arezzo in 1939. He falls in love with Dora, a beautiful young schoolteacher and a fairytale romance ensues. Several years later the occasional bigotries Guido once ignored have become Racial Laws. Throughout it all, he determines to shield his son from the brutal reality governing their lives. This determination becomes a matter of life and death when Guido and his son are sent to a concentration camp three months before the war's end. Of her own accord Dora departs herself on the same train. Now, in this unimaginable world, Guido must use his bold imagination and every ounce of his indefatigable spirit to save those he loves.

Wednesday 05.11.08: Korowód, (Twists of Fate) Poland 2007

Winner of Best Screenplay at the Polish Film Festival 2007

A blind-chance-driven plot throws an amoral student onto a collision course with a guilt-ridden professor who betrayed a friend during communist times. This gripping film spans the moral attitude of two generations and their complex entanglements. The plot revolves around Bartek Wilkosz, a student keen to exploit the academic system through plagiarism and anxious to grab a buck (or zloty) however he can. After a chance encounter on a train, the lives of several people are altered forever. Middle-aged academic, Mezczyzna, appears to be staging his own disappearance; leaving his briefcase and coat inside the train and a door open so it looks like he fell out en route. But Bartek then spots him at a provincial station and follows him across Poland. He's helped in the pursuit by a friend's sister, Ula whom Bartek takes a fancy to, despite the fact that he already has a long-suffering girlfriend Kasia. Bartek tricks Mezczyzna into confessing all in this web of Political secrets-and-lies.