

Cine Europa turns 22, expands reach

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FOR the first time in its 22-year history, Cine Europa will be screening film classics at the Cinema 1 of Greenbelt 3 in Makati City starting September 20.

Every year, Cine Europa endeavors to reach out to more Filipinos. This time, it will travel to Bohol on October 11 and 12, in addition to its runs in the cities of Cebu, Baybay in Leyte and Iloilo.

The festival maintains its presence in the cities of Naga and Puerto Princesa, in addition to Makati and the Film Development Council of the Philippines's (FDCP) head office in Kalaw, Manila.

The European Union's Delegation to the Philippines's Chargé d'Affaires a.i. Thomas Wiersing considers the film festival as the "most influential cultural diplomacy tool"

"Cine Europa is a distinct way to showcase European cultural diversity, while opening up opportunities in the cultural and creative industries," he said.

This year, 13 movies about the enduring tales of love, friendship, faith, triumph and courage will be presented by the Embassies of Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Polish film screened

The press-screening film was *Cold War*, a passionate love story between a man and a woman who meet in the ruins of post-war Poland. With different backgrounds and temperaments, they are fatally mismatched, yet fatefully condemned to each other.

Set against the backdrop of the 1950's Poland, Germany, Yugoslavia and France, the couple is separated by politics, character flaws and unfortunate twists of fate—an impossible love story in impossible times.

The film director is Pawel Pawlikowski, who cowrote the screenplay. His most recent film, *Ida*, was a global success. It won an Oscar, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts' recognition for Best Foreign Language Film, as well as five European Film Awards, including Best European Film, Best Director and Best Screenplay.

Said movie is a Polish-British-French production, which shows the interconnection of the European film industry, according to the Embassy of Poland's Chargé d'Affaires a.i. Jaroslaw Szczepankiewicz.

Roadshow

Started in 1998, Cine Europa is the longest and most comprehensive film festival in the Philippines as it takes place across nine cities in a variety of venues: theaters, malls and universities.

The film festival will roll out at the Cinema 1 of Greenbelt 3 from September 20 to 24. It will head on to SM City in Cebu City and Iloilo City, in Bohol, then to Ateneo de Naga University and SM City Naga, Palawan State University and SM City Puerto Princesa, then to the Visayas State University in Baybay City, Leyte. The festival returns to Manila at the FDCP headquarters in November for its last leg.

Together with the EU Delegation to the Philippines and the embassies of some of its member-countries, Cine Europa 2019 is also presented in partnership with the Alliance Francaise-Manila, the British Council, the Goethe-Institut, Instituto Cervantes and the Philippine-Italian Association.

Cine Europa has earned a niche among film enthusiasts in the country because of its strong collaboration with local partners, including the FDCP, Ayala Malls, SM Corp., the abovementioned universities, as well as the provincial governments of Bohol and Palawan.

For more information, visit <http://www.eeas.europa.eu/philippines> and its social-media accounts: Facebook—EU Delegation to the Philippines; Cine Europa Philippines, Instagram—@EUinthePH, @CineEuropaPH and Twitter —@EUinthePH, @CineEuropaPH.



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