



PRESS RELEASE

Discovering Georgian Cinema

Goethe-Institut Presents Nine Films from MoMA Retrospective

January 12 – February 2, 2015

**Goethe-Institut Washington
812 7th St. NW
Washington, DC 20001**

Download images from Dropbox [here](#).

www.goethe.de/washington

(Washington, DC, December 18, 2014) – Part of a retrospective of Georgian cinema organized by the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), *Discovering Georgian Cinema* comes to Washington, DC thanks to the National Gallery of Art. The Goethe-Institut Washington will present nine Georgian films from January 12 – February 2, 2015. The first and last screenings are by the director brothers Eldar and Giorgi Shengelaia, famous in Georgia and Russia for their films made in the 1960s and 1980s. These classics will frame several modern films made by directors who have been influenced by and connected to the German culture. All films screen at no charge; reservations at www.goetheinstitutwashington.eventbrite.com.

Surveying a century of moving image works from this distinctive cultural milieu with routes in antiquity, *Discovering Georgian Cinema* provides an opportunity to view a remarkable national cinema rarely shown in North America. Exhibiting a range of artistic styles and themes, from whimsical satire to poetic meditation on landscape and tradition, the films in this series are presented as rare 35mm exhibition prints borrowed from international archives and collections.

The larger retrospective from which this program has been selected was organized by Susan Oxtoby (Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive) and Jytte Jensen (Museum of Modern Art). With special thanks to the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Embassy of Georgia, and the Georgian National Film Center. Additional films will be screened at the Freer Gallery of Art, Embassy of France, and the American Film Institute.

Throughout the turbulent history of the last century, Georgian cinema has been an important wellspring for national identity, a celebration of the spirit, resilience, and humor of the Georgian people. These filmmakers, working across a broad range of styles and thematic concerns, have created everything from anti-bureaucratic satires of the Soviet system, to philosophical studies rooted in a humanist tradition, to lyrical, poetic depictions of the region's spectacular landscape. *Discovering Georgian Cinema* illuminates not only Georgia's rich cinematic heritage, but how that tradition can be traced through to its modern incarnation: equally personal, equally bold, and eternally unique.

More and the complete film schedule: www.nga.gov

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Films at the Goethe-Institut:

Monday, January 12, 6:30 pm

Blue Mountains aka An Unbelievable Story (Tsisperi mtebi aka Daujerebeli ambavil /Golubye gory)

USSR, 1984, 97 min., Georgian with English subtitles, Director: Eldar Shengelaia

Introduced by Peter Rollberg, Professor of Slavic Languages, Film Studies and International Affairs at George Washington University.

Blue Mountains is a charming and disarming critique of bureaucracy. In a publishing house in Tbilisi, a writer and his manuscript submission are all but ignored as the employees carry on with their private affairs and outside interests, oblivious to his needs.

Eldar Shengelaia is a Georgian and Soviet film director and screenwriter who directed ten films between 1957 and 1996. His films are considered classics in Georgian film society.

A **reception** with a wine tasting sponsored by the Embassy of Georgia will follow the screening of *Blue Mountains* to highlight the exclusive exhibition **Photographs from Tbilisi in 1991 by Barbara Klemm**. These images show the Georgian capital after the fall of the USSR in a unique light. A well-known German photographer, Barbara Klemm worked for the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* for 45 years and has received several awards for her work, including her induction into the Leica Hall of Fame.

Tuesday, January 13, 6:30 pm

The White Caravan (Tetri karavani/ Belyy karavan)

USSR, 1964, 97 min., Georgian/ Russian with English subtitles, Directors: Eldar Shengelaya, Tamaz Meliava

Amid a rugged landscape and the forces of nature, a group of shepherds, led by the experienced Martia and his sons, move their flock to winter pastures. The rural way of life is contrasted with the lure of the big city, and one character's decision to break with tradition ultimately comes to haunt him.

Tamaz Meliava (b. 1929, d. 1972) was a Soviet film director and screenwriter. He directed six films between 1958 and 1973.

Thursday, January 15, 6:30 pm

An Unusual Exhibition (Arachveulebrivi gomopena/ Neobyknovennaya vystavka)

USSR, 1968, 96 min., Russian with English subtitles, Director: Eldar Shengelaia

An Unusual Exhibition is a tragicomedy about a sculptor who, in order to feed his family, develops a niche carving tombstones bearing the likeness of the now departed.

Monday, January 26, 6:30 pm

Felicità

Georgia, 2009, 30 min., Georgian with English subtitles, Director: Salomé Alexi

Tamara lives and works in Italy. Her job allows her to save up some money and support her family in one of Georgia's tiny villages. When her husband dies in a car accident and she finds herself unable to attend his funeral, she participates via a long distance cellular call.

Salome Alexi studied Theatre Design and Painting at the Tbilisi Academy of Fine Arts. She currently lives in Hamburg, Germany.

and

Bakhmaro

Germany/ Georgia, 2011, 58 min., Georgian with English subtitles, Director: Salomé Jashi

A three-story brick building in a provincial Georgian town. At the center of the building is a restaurant where nobody eats and staff that serves no one. Produced in Georgia and

Germany, *Bakhmaro* is a quiet, unhurried documentary about the persistence of hope in the face of irrelevancy.

Salomé Jashi is a Georgian-based documentary filmmaker. *Bakhmaro* is her first film shot in Germany.

Tuesday, January 27, 6:30 pm

Waiting for Mum (Deda)

Georgia, 2011, 8 min., Georgian with English subtitles, Director: Nana Ekvimishvili

A young man comes out of his apartment and forgets his car keys. He shouts up at his mother to get her to throw them out of the window to him.

Nana Ekvimishvili (b. 1978, Tbilisi) is a Georgian writer and director. She studied screenwriting and dramaturgy at the Konrad Wolf University of Film and Television Art in Potsdam-Babelsberg, Germany.

and

In Bloom (Grzeli nateli dgeebi)

Georgia, 2013, 162 min., Georgian with English subtitles, Directors: Nana Ekvimishvili, Simon Gross

In Bloom is set in Georgia in the early 1990s, during a time of political turbulence and hardship. Fourteen-year-old Natia and her best friend Eka are at the center of the film, making the best of circumstances in which choices are limited, particularly for young women. Natia seems the more poised and worldly of the two, but appearances can be deceptive.

Simon Gross is a German director and producer who studied film directing at the film school in Munich, Germany. He founded his own production companies in Germany and Georgia.

Thursday, January 29, 6:30 pm

The Machine Which Makes Everything Disappear (Manqana, romelic kvelafers gaaqrobs)

Georgia/ Germany, 2012, 101 min., Georgian with English subtitles, Director: Tinatin Gurchiani

A film director organizes a casting call for 15- to 23-year-olds, and the results form the basis for a revealing portrait of Georgian society.

Tinatin Gurchiani (b. Tbilisi) studied painting, dance and psychology at the Saint Petersburg State University in Tiflis, the Albert-Ludwigs-University in Freiburg, Germany, and the University of Graz, Austria.

Monday, February 2, 6:30 pm

Pirosmani

USSR, 1969, 85 min., Georgian with English subtitles, Director: Giorgi Shengelaia

In his film about the life of the great Georgian primitive artist Nikoloz (Niko) Pirozmanishvili (1862–1919), Shengelaia avoids the usual clichés of films about artists' lives, instead experimenting with color control techniques based on the painter's style. Introduced by Peter Rollberg.

Giorgi Shengelaia is a Soviet and Georgian film director. He has directed 14 films since 1961.

About the Goethe-Institut Washington

On behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany, cultural institutes around the world provide cultural programs, language courses, support to educators, and up-to-date information on Germany in the context of Europe. Founded in 1990, Goethe-Institut Washington, DC is a center for German culture and language in the midst of the revitalized Downtown. Visit www.goethe.de/washington for more information.

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