ESTONIAN FILMS, 9.-11. March at Gilmorehill G12
The best new Estonian documentaries, animation and feature films will be shown!

Monday 9. March, 6 pm
Alyosha
Documentary (2008)
Most monuments erected during the Soviet regime were taken away after Estonia regained its independence in 1991. The Bronze Soldier Alyosha, located in the centre of Tallinn, remained in its place. For Estonian nationalists this monument was the symbol for Soviet occupation and marked the beginning of Stalinist repressions. However, for many Russians the monument was one of the few remaining symbols that connected them to Russia and Russian identity.

The documentary Alyosha brings us the people who gathered to the Bronze Soldier in 2005-2007 and whose behaviour created a new line in our cultural memory. What mattered were the rituals around the monument, not the monument itself. Differences of opinion about history resulted in tragic conflicts and relocating the monument.

Russian and Estonian with English subtitles
Written and Directed by Meelis Muhu
Operator: Erik Norkroos
67 min

9. March, 7.30 pm
Life Stories
Documentary animation (2008)
"This film is not fictional. All events portrayed have actually transpired. They are memoirs, moments from life. Our life." (Rao Heidmets)

The basis of this film is a selection of life stories of Estonians from the period 1920 – 2004. The fate of the entire people is reflected in each life story. A particularly characteristic selection of stories of people is found in this film. Life Stories combines documentary film with animation on the screen.

Estonian with English subtitles
Writers: Mats Traat, Rao Heidmets
Director: Rao Heidmets
Composer: Olav Ehala
28 min

Tuesday 10. March, 7 pm
Life Without Gabriella Ferri
Animation (2008)
Dramatic story about love, locked doors, a faceless thief, a wounded stork, a lost laptop and virtual prostitutes the O'Key sisters... There is no Gabriella Ferri but there is an almost happy ending.

Festivals and awards: Utrecht (Grand Prix), Leipzig, Fredrikstad
Estonian with English subtitles
Writer: Prit Pärn
Director: Prit Pärn, Olga Marchenko
45 min

Wednesday 11. March, 5 pm
The Class
Feature film (2007)
Seven chapters from the life of the pupils of an anonymous Estonian secondary school. An average guy of an Estonian high-school decides to defend his bullied classmate. This starts war between him and the informal leader of the class. As teenagers' honour is a touchy thing, everything ends in bloodshed.

The film has won the Europa Cinemas Label as Best European film at the 42nd Karlovy Vary International Film Festival and 3 other awards.
Estonian with English subtitles
Written and directed by Ilmar Raag
97 min

Wednesday 11. March, 7 pm
I Was Here
Feature film (2008)
The story (based on the award-winning novel by Sass Henno, I Was Here: First Arrest) is about growing up, about boys who start a game but don't realize how serious it suddenly gets, nor that starting again is no longer possible. A 17 year old boy becomes a drug dealer and this decision draws him into turbulent events he can't control.

The film is this year's Estonian entry for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar nominations.
Estonian with English subtitles
Written by Sass Henno and Ilmar Raag
Director: Rene Vilbre
94 min

Before the film meeting with writer and film director Ilmar Raag!