

# TRIP AROUND THE WORLD

**EN |** That, too, is the magic of cinema. Wandering into a cinema in town on a rainy evening, being plunged into the dark, and waking up in Kinshasa, Rio De Janeiro, Beijing, Moscow, or Metropolis. Can you feel the urge? You're in luck because you have one world cinema event after the other to look forward to in the next few weeks. A summary. **NIELS RÜELL**

## CAMERA CONGO

**Takes you to?** The mighty Congo, which was not always treated well by Belgium. **Mission?** Before 1960, when Congo was still a Belgian colony, missionaries, entrepreneurs, and civil servants, but also adventurers, tourists, and filmmakers recorded life in the colony on film. Just under a thousand of these films have been preserved. Cinematek is now sharing this treasure with the general public with a DVD and a unique programme.

**On the menu?** The work of the three greatest Congo filmmakers: Ernest Genval, André Cauvin, and Gérard De Boe. They applauded colonial achievements but were also interested in the local culture, the daily life of the indigenous population, and the consequences of super-fast industrialisation, modernisation, and Christianisation. Lectures provide more information about the context of each film. The extremely interesting Congo documentaries are a necessary addition to the programme.

**Film to look forward to?** *Verschroeiende aarde (Terres brûlées)*, the report of an expedition in Belgian Congo, which at the time was hailed as the first real Africa

film that depicted – free from false exoticism – the Africans' struggle to survive. Besides Henri Storck, director Charles Dekeukeleire is one of the greats of Belgian cinema.

**When and where?** 6 > 31/10, Cinematek, [www.cinematek.be](http://www.cinematek.be)

## ITINÉRAIRES

**Takes you to?** The continent of Gabriel García Márquez, Diego Maradona, and Simón Bolívar.

**Mission?** Opening Brussels's eyes to the economic realities and the social conditions of Latin America, a continent with many faces, by screening unreleased films and documentaries.

**On the menu?** Numerous documentaries. The Salvador Allende Prize awards documentaries that fight for honest justice, equality, and the rights of human beings. Furthermore, the spotlight is being cast on Mexican cinema. This is an excellent idea because directors like Amat Escalante (*Los bastardos*, *Sangre*), Fernando Eimbcke (*Lake Tahoe*, *Temporada de patos*), and Caméra d'or winner Michael Rowe (*Año bisiesto*) are among the best directors of world cinema. Big festivals

love their uncompromising films.

**Film to look forward to?** *Vámonos con Pancho Villa*, made in 1935, this was Fernando de Fuentes's final film of his trilogy about the Mexican Revolution. The film is one of the best Mexican films ever made. A group of idealistic friends join the army of Pancho Villa. For once, the great revolutionary is not depicted as a hero, but rather as a cruel leader who exposed his troops to the horrors of war without thinking twice about it.

**When and where?** 11 > 19/10, Espace Magh, [www.cinema-itineraires.net](http://www.cinema-itineraires.net)

## CINÉBRASIL

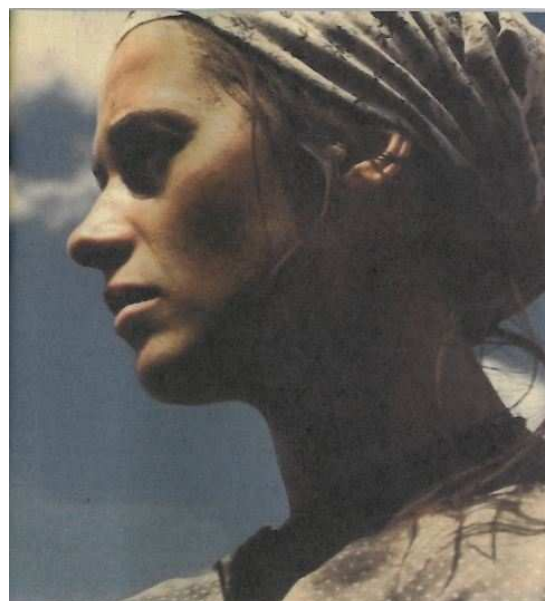
**Takes you to?** One of the greatest countries in the world, Brazil during the presidency of Lula.

**Mission?** Showing that Brazilians are not only gifted footballers and carnival revellers. They also produce surprising cinematic results.

**On the menu?** Eight films. Sílvio Tendler, the festival's curator, is presenting *Utopia e Barbárie*, a documentary that reflects back on the resistance movements, the struggles for independence, and Latin American dictatorships during the second



"BEYOND THE STEPPES" AT CINEMA TROÏKA



half of the twentieth century. The last day is reserved for a tribute to Nelson Pereira dos Santos. In the 1950s, this socially committed, inspired director stood at the cradle of Cinema Novo, a film genre that is related to Nouvelle Vague and put Brazilian cinema on the map.

**Film to look forward to?** Director José Joffily is coming to Brussels to introduce *Olhos azuis*. This is the story of an arrogant immigration official at the airport in New York who takes pleasure in making the lives of migrants or visitors from Latin America miserable. His dirty games end in tragedy. Many years later, having fallen seriously ill, he travels to Brazil in search of forgiveness.

**When and where?** 8 > 10/10, Vendôme, [www.brasbruxelas.be](http://www.brasbruxelas.be)

## JAPAN ANIME LIVE

**Takes you to?** Good question.

**Mission?** To astound fans of manga and anime with a Japanese multimedia presentation that cost 1.8 million euro.

**On the menu?** A show with famous anime characters, a fancy dress event, a giant karaoke, Japanese percussion, and anime on a giant screen.

**Film to look forward to?** New episodes of *Fullmetal Alchemist Brotherhood*, a particularly popular anime about alchemists and existential questions.

**When and where?** 29/10, Vorst Nationaal/Forest National, [www.japananimelive.com](http://www.japananimelive.com)

## CHINOISERIE

**Takes you to?** A copy of China.

**Mission?** A bit of everything. Essentially, it is a unique location-based project that no sinologist or cinema lover can afford to miss.

**On the menu?** Chinoiserie, a type of artwork in reproduction Chinese style, was not only used in 19<sup>th</sup> century Western painting and interior design, it also features in early silent film. *The Red Lantern* (1919) by Albert Capellani is an excel-

lent example. Film diva Alla Nazimova plays a girl who is out for revenge after Templeton, the son of an American diplomat, falls for her white half-sister instead of her. Dressed as a heavenly goddess, she encourages the superstitious population to join the Boxer Rebellion against the "White race". Yves De Mey (Eavesdropper) has composed a soundtrack. The screenings will take place at the most famous Chinoiserie building in the city: the Chinese Pavilion (1910) in Laken/Laeken. Cinematek is presenting a yellow face cycle in conjunction with this event: six films from 1910 in which white actors play Asian roles.

**Film to look forward to?** *The Red Lantern* of course. The "Yellowface" cycle includes *Broken Blossoms*, a film by D.W. Griffith, the director who made a lasting impression on cinema with his *Birth of a Nation*.

**When and where?** *The Red Lantern*, 14 > 24/10, Chinese Pavilion. Cinematek is organising the "Yellowface" cycle from 18 to 30/10, [www.cinematek.be](http://www.cinematek.be)

## CINEMA TROÏKA

**Takes you to?** A sovkhos in the USSR.

**Mission?** To mark the Belgian presidency of the EU, Bozar and the French and Flemish communities are organising a weekend dedicated to recent Belgian, Spanish, and Hungarian cinema.

**On the menu?** Twenty recent films from Belgium, Spain, and Hungary. The directors will be in attendance to introduce their films and the programme also features film lessons.

**Film to look forward to?** In *Beyond the Steppes*, young Belgian director Vanja d'Alcantara sketches an intimate portrait of a woman defending herself in an inhospitable environment. In 1940, the Soviet army deports Nina and her baby to a remote place in the USSR. Guarded by the Russian political police, she is forced to work in a sovkhos. When her son falls seriously ill, she goes in search of medicines with Kazakh nomads.

**When and where?** 22 > 24/10, Centre for Fine Arts, [www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)

**NI |** Ook dat is de magie van cinema: op een regenachtige avond een bioscoop induiken, ondergedompeld worden in het donker en drie tellen later ontwakken in Kinshasa, Rio, Peking, Moskou of Metropolis. Vliegt u het al krielen? Dat treft want de volgende weken volg het ene evenement met wereldcinema het andere op. Een overzicht.

**FR |** Cela fait partie de la magie du cinéma: entrer dans une salle lors d'un soir de pluie et se retrouver à Kinshasa, Rio, Pékin, Moscou ou Métropolis. Vous n'attendez que ça? Vous avez de la chance, en ce moment se succèdent les festivals de cinéma du monde dans divers lieux bruxellois.