

The 19th edition of the successful Cinematik IFF starts soon. It will present us with unique film experiences and exclusive premieres

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For the 19th time, Piešťany will host the Cinematik International Film Festival in September. Fans of quality domestic and foreign cinema can once again look forward to a rich and varied selection of feature and documentary films, several hot new releases, and premieres. The festival organizers present a small taste of this year's programme today.

The 19th Cinematik IFF will take place this year from 10 to 15 September. The six-day programme will traditionally be packed with the best new films that have been acclaimed and won awards at the prestigious international festivals in Cannes, Sundance, Toronto, Venice, and Berlin in recent months. However, there will also be exclusive premieres of new films by local filmmakers, retrospectives, and curated film shows or film competitions.

Screenings that visitors should not miss this year include **Emilia Perez** (2024) - a musical crime comedy by Jacques Audiard (*Rust and Bone*, *A Prophet*), starring both Zoe Saldana and Selena Gomez. Audiences are treated to the story of a lawyer who helps the boss of a Mexican drug cartel back out of his career in an unusual way. It boasts two awards from the Cannes IFF (Jury Prize, Female Ensemble Award). Highlights of the programme will include **Parthenope** (2024), a new film by Oscar-winning Paolo Sorrentino (*The Great Beauty*, *The Hand of God*), which is a haunting love letter to the director's native Naples. The protagonist is a mystical young woman searching for happiness and love in the port city. Gary Oldman also stars in the film, which also premiered in the main competition at Cannes.

Love Lies Bleeding, 2024 is an original thriller by British filmmaker Rose Glass (*Saint Maud*), which comes to Cinematik after successful screenings at Sundance and Berlinale. Here, Kristen Stewart and Katy O'Brian portray a loving couple in the throes of both professional bodybuilding and blood feud. New releases with plenty of star-studded casting at the festival will include Viggo Mortensen's second directorial effort, **The Dead Don't Hurt**, 2024. In this unconventional Western, the American actor portrays a man who must leave his ill-fated love (Vicky Krieps) for the Civil War. The film premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Thriller lovers and lovers of genre fusion will also be satisfied at Cinematik, just like every year. This time, the horror-drama genre will be represented in its programme by the title **Substance** (2024) - winner of the Best Screenplay Award at the Cannes Film Festival. French filmmaker Coralie Fargeat has cast Demi Moore as a TV star who fights aging with an experimental substance with problematic side effects. And this year's Cannes Grand Prix winner, **All We Imagine as Light** (2024) by Indian director Payal Kapadia, will not be absent either. The film is a portrait of a couple of women struggling with relationship difficulties in traditional Indian society.

Visitors to the 19th edition of Cinematik will be able to see these and many other quality new films from filmmakers from all over the world in the sections **Paths of Glory**, **Meeting Point Europe**, and **Artistic Director's Choice**. More great cinematic experiences will await them in the **Magnified** section, which this year will focus on new Romanian cinema. It will bring, for example, the adventure road movie **Horia** (2023) by Ana-Marie Comanescu, the fantasy drama **Mammalia** (2023) by Sebastian Mihallesc, or the documentary **Mrs. Buica** (2023), which Egene Buica made about his own family. Another insight into contemporary Romanian cinema will be offered by a **retrospective** of one of the best contemporary European filmmakers, **Radu Jude**.

Cinematik visitors can also expect exceptional films in the traditional midnight section **Cult & Beyond**, the **Cinematik.doc** competition of domestic documentaries, and several other sections. The detailed programme of the festival, which inherently includes workshops, discussions, and lectures, will be gradually presented by the organizers in the coming weeks.

You can purchase your accreditations for the 19th edition of the International Cinematik film festival at the festival's official website www.cinematik.sk.

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