

Code: **BMI-FLMD-211E.07**
BMI-FLMD-213E.07
BMI-FLMD-311E.04

Course title: **Concise History of Hungarian Cinema till 1989**

Course convener: Györgyi Vajdovich

Class time and place: Monday 14:15-15.45, Múzeum krt. 6-8, lower level, room -137

Course type: Lecture

Course content: The course presents the history of Hungarian cinema providing a historical and cultural overview of certain trends and periods. Lectures will focus on different questions like European and Hungarian identity, the coexistence of author cinema and popular genre films, the influence of literature and other arts on films, and the importance of documentary and animated films in Hungarian cinema. The course will also present certain films or artists who became influential in European or world cinema.

12. 02. Introduction

19. 02. István Szabó: Hungarian and European identity
obligatory films: **Father, Mephisto**
recommended films: Lovefilm, Sunshine

26. 02. The representation of the young generation in the films of the Hungarian New Wave
obligatory films: **Current, The Thrown up Stone**
recommended films: Cantata, Age of Daydreaming

05. 03. Formal innovations in the Hungarian New Wave, the role of short films
obligatory films: **Round up, Concert, Elegy**
recommended films: The Red and the White

12. 03. The duality of author films and popular films in Hungarian cinema
obligatory films: **The Corporal and the Others**
recommended films: Matt, the Gooseboy (feature film, 1949)

19. 03. The representation of history in Hungarian films 1.
obligatory films: **Somewhere in Europe, Cold days**
recommended film: The Corporal and the Others

26. 03. The representation of history in Hungarian films 2.
obligatory films: **The Witness, Time Stands Still**
recommended film: The Unburied Man

02. 04. Spring break

09. 04. The relationship of Hungarian literature and cinema
obligatory films: **Merry-Go-Round, Love**
recommended film: Another Way

16. 04. Experimentation and lyrical subjectivism
obligatory film: **My 20th Century**
recommended film: Sindbad

23. 04. The Hungarian school of cinematographers
obligatory films: **Close Encounters of the Third Kind**
recommended films: Easy Rider, The Legend of 1900

30. 04. Holiday

07. 05. Hungarian immigrants in European and American film industries
obligatory film: **Casablanca**
recommended film: The Private Life of Henry VIII

14. 05. Trends and important figures of Hungarian animation film 1.
obligatory films: **Matt, the Gooseboy** (animation, 1979), **The Fly, Maestro**
recommended film: Cat City

Requirements: Students must watch the obligatory films for each lesson, and they have to write a short test of a few questions about that given film during the class (they cannot miss more than three occasions). The semester closes with a written examination.

List of obligatory films to be seen:

Michael Curtiz: Casablanca, 1942
Géza Radványi: Somewhere in Europe (Valahol Európában), 1947
Zoltán Fábri: Merry-Go-Round (Körhinta), 1956
István Szabó: Concert (Koncert), 1961
István Gaál: Current (Sodrásban), 1963
Zoltán Huszárik: Elegy (Elégia) 1965
Miklós Jancsó: Round up (Szegénylegények), 1965
Márton Keleti: The Corporal and the Others (A tizedes meg a többiek), 1965
István Szabó: Father (Apa), 1966
András Kovács: Cold Days (Hideg napok), 1966
Sándor Sára: The Thrown up Stone (Feldobott kő), 1968
Péter Bacsó: The Witness (A tanú), 1969
Károly Makk: Love (Szerelem), 1971
Steven Spielberg: Close Encounters of the Third Kind, 1977
Péter Gothár: Time Stands Still (Megáll az idő), 1981
István Szabó: Mephisto, 1981
Ildikó Enyedi: My 20th Century (Az én XX. századom), 1988

Animation films:

Attila Dargay: Matt, the Gooseboy (Lúdas Matyi), 1979
Ferenc Rofusz: The Fly (A légy) 1980
Geza M. Toth: Maestro, 2005.

List of recommended films:

Alexander Korda: The Private Life of Henry VIII, 1933
László Ranódy - Kálmán Nádasdy: Matt, the Gooseboy (Lúdas Matyi) – feature film, 1949
Miklós Jancsó: Cantata (Oldás és kötés), 1963
István Szabó: The Age of Daydreaming (Álmodozások kora), 1965
Dennis Hopper: Easy Rider, 1965
Miklós Jancsó: The Red and the White (Csillagosok, katonák), 1967
István Szabó: Lovefilm (Szerelmesfilm), 1970
Zoltán Huszárik: Sindbad (Szindbád), 1970
Károly Makk: Another Way (Egymásra nézve), 1982
Giuseppe Tornatore: The legend of 1900 (La leggenda del pianista sull'oceano), 1998
István Szabó: Sunshine (A napfény íze), 1999
Márta Mészáros: The Unburied Man (A temetetlen halott), 2005

Animation films:

Béla Ternovszky: Cat City (Macskafogó), 1986

Learning outcomes and methods: The course gives an introduction to the history of Hungarian cinema emphasizing its national features but contextualizing its different periods and trends in European and world cinema. The course will initiate students to such questions of film studies as the concept of national cinema, art cinema vs. genre cinema, cultural memory, and to formal questions arising from the discussion of short films, experimental

cinema and animation films.

Indicative Reading: Bryan Burns: *World Cinema: Hungary*. Trowbridge: Flicks Books, 1996.
John Cunningham: *Hungarian Cinema: From Coffee House to Multiplex*. Wallflower Press, 2004.
Jean-Pierre Jeancolas: *L'oeil hongrois. Quatre décennies de cinéma a Budapest 1963-2000*. Budapest, Magyar Filmunió, 2001.
