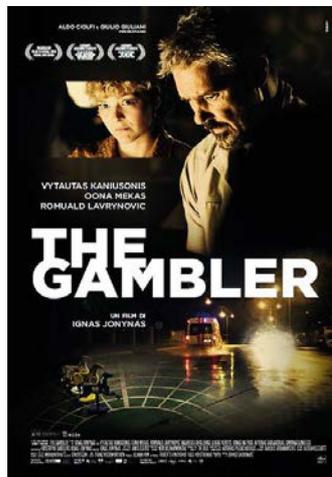




OPEN BALTIC SESSION - Vilnius, November 6, 2015.
Main films being discussed

THE GAMBLER (Lithuania-Latvia, 2014)

by Ignas Jonynas



Latvian National Awards "Great Christopher" 2014: Best full-length feature film cinematographer (Janis Eglitis) & Best minor co-production film Awards.

The Gambler is Lithuania's nomination for the foreign-language category at the 2015 Oscars.

Synopsis

Vincentas is the best employee at the emergency services station, whose passion is gambling in different games. Whenever he faces some difficulties, the medic is forced to make radical decisions to return the debts. An idea strikes Vincentas to create an illegal game related to his profession. Financial matters keep on improving, but Vincentas is going to make a fateful choice. Love, life and death will be at stake.

Director

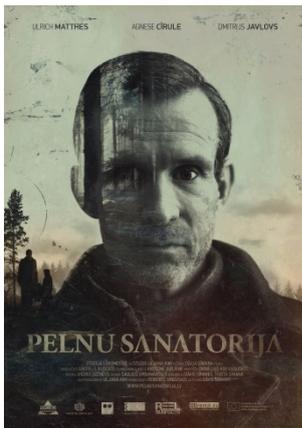
Born in 1971 in Lithuania, Ignas Jonynas has worked in theatre, film and advertising as a director, screenwriter, and actor. After completing a BA in TV Direction at the Vilnius A.Vienožinskis Art School, he went on to earn a Master's Degree in Theatre at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. He has worked as a construction worker, bartender, dock worker, medical orderly at a psychiatric hospital, and radio DJ. Ignas was involved with the music band Bango Collective. He has staged 10 theatre productions and directed one documentary and two short films. *The Gambler* is his debut feature film.

The most important film of 2014 was the *The Gambler (Lošėjas)*, a Lithuanian-Latvian coproduction from director Ignas Jonynas produced by Studio Uljana Kim and Latvia's Locomotive Productions.

The Gambler was the first Baltic feature to have its world premiere at the San Sebastian Film Festival, screening in competition and won a Special Jury Prize at the Warsaw IFF. The film was supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Film Centre, the Latvian Film Centre, Eurimages and the MEDIA programme. *The Gambler* won five national film industry Silver Crane (Sidabrinė gervė) Awards, including the best feature film, best director and best actor for Vytautas Kaniušonis.

SANATORIUM OF ASHES (Latvia-Lithuania, 2015)

By Davis Simanis



Logline

In 1917, the last year of World War I, a retired German military surgeon, Ulrich, is sent to run a mysterious sanatorium with war traumatized mental patients in a distant place in Latvia. Coming from a different culture, he finds this new world where reality reminds a fiction quite challenging and starts to introduce a strict rule.

Moral lessons given by the sanatorium's caretaker Rizaks, love with nurse Emma and, most significantly, healing a lethally ill ferocious boy who lives in the surrounding forests and menaces locals give Ulrich understanding that what his patients really need is safety of their imaginary worlds. Gradually, he changes from a rational war traumatized doctor to an understanding human healer.

A €450,000 period drama set in 1917, starring **Ulrich Matthes**, directed by **Davis Simanis** (*Valkyrie Limited*) and produced by Latvia's Locomotive Productions and Lithuania's Studio Uljana Kim.

SENECA'S DAY (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia - 2015)

by Kristijonas Vildziunas



VILNIUS: Director Kristijonas Vildziūnas is completing work on his fourth feature film *Seneca's Day / Senekos Diena*, a journey into the past as a man tries to change his present.

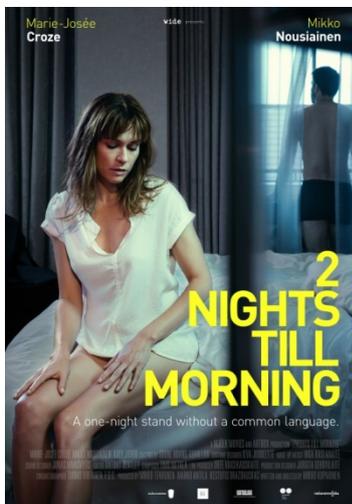
Seneca's Day is set in the year 1989, the final period of the Soviet era in Lithuania. Eighteen-year old buddies establish the Seneca's Fellowship with the motto "Live each day as if it was your last". A love triangle breaks up the fellowship right at the time the nation experiences an exceptional sense of community via Baltic Chain. Twenty-five years later, the main character who at first glance appears to be accompanied by good luck, is disillusioned with himself. He has betrayed the ideals of his youth and become a cold observer of life.

Seneca's Day is the first ever co-production between the three Baltic states, Lithuania-Estonia-Latvia, and is produced by Studio Uljana Kim, Amrion Production and Locomotive Productions.

The budget of the film is 1.38 m EUR. The film was developed with the support of the MEDIA Programme of the European Union and Lithuanian Ministry of Culture. The production is partly funded by the Lithuanian Film Centre, Eurimages, the Estonian Film Institute, the Cultural Endowment of Estonia, and the National Film Centre of Latvia.

2 NIGHTS TILL MORNING (Finland, Lithuania – 2015)

by Mikko Kuparinen



Montreal World Film Festival 2015 - Official World Competition

Synopsis

A one night stand of two strangers without a mutual language in a foreign country takes an unexpected turn, when an ashcloud from a volcano prevents all flights from taking off.

Director

Mikko Kuparinen's (born in 1979) first feature film was the romantic comedy *Body Fat Index of Love*, 2012. Three of his short films (*Homevideo*, *Truth of Dare*, *Sirocco*) have won main prizes at international film festivals; *Sirocco* won the H.C. Andersen Award, the Grand Prix at the Odense Film Festival in Denmark in 2013. *Sirocco* and Mikko were also chosen for the "10 Directors to Watch" DVD, published by four Nordic film magazines. *2 Nights till Morning* is Mikko Kuparinen's first English-language work as a film director.

Production Team

Producers.: Mikko Tenhunen, Marko Antila, Kestutis Drazdauskas,
Mjolk Production, Helsinki (Finland), mikko@mjolk.fi
Artbox, Vilnius (Lithuania), kestas@artbox.lt

Cinematographer : Tuomo Virtanen

Cast : Marie-Josée Croze, Mikko Nousiainen, Arly Jover, Eedit Patrakka, J. Braškys, J. Gaižauskas

Useful link: www.eyeonfilms.org/film/2-nights-till-morning-2/