



SAMIZDAT

EASTERN EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

CCA Glasgow and Klassiki
12-16th September 2023

WELCOME TO SAMIZDAT

Welcome to the second edition of Samizdat – Scotland's first festival of cinema from Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus!

Thanks to your support last year, we are coming back with a larger, more diverse programme in 2023. Our core mission of bringing you exciting new and classical cinema from the region, however, has not changed. This time round, in addition to our usual collection of artful fictional film and thoughtful, urgent activist documentary, we are also exhibiting short and animated works. 5 short films that we've selected from a number of submissions received over the past year will compete for the first-ever **Samizdat Audience Award**, whose winner will be decided by your votes. Our headliner event this year is a unique **Collection of Surrealist Eastern European Animation (1965-2022)**, which we have co-curated with Manipulate Festival (Puppet Animation Scotland). And, following the success of last year's silent cinema event, we're bringing you a screening of a Soviet Armenian classic **House on the Volcano (1928) with an original new score mixed live** by its composer Juliet Merchant.

This year, we have also co-curated a **special strand of Central Asian cinema** with Anisa Sabiri, a contemporary filmmaker from Tajikistan (and a Samizdat alumna), to be presented on 16 Sep, the last day of the festival.

Our last year's edition was dedicated to expressing solidarity with Ukraine in the face of the ongoing Russian invasion – an appalling war that continues to this day. With this in mind, we have continued screening films from and about Ukraine, hoping to give you a chance to learn more about Ukrainian identity, culture, and life.

NO TO WAR.

Team

Andrew Currie
Natalia Guzevataya
Harriet Eliza-Blue Idle
misha irekleh
Kirill Kartashov
Elizaveta Makarova
Joe McFarlane
Iliia Ryzhenko
Anisa Sabiri
Caireen Stuart



  @SamizdatFilm #samizdatfest
 samizdatfest.co.uk
 samizdatfest@hotmail.com

Website QR-code



Venue

CCA (Centre for Contemporary Arts),
350 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow, G2 3JD
<https://www.cca-glasgow.com/>
0141 352 4900



Tickets

For in-person screenings, book tickets on the CCA website, at the box office, or by calling 0141 352 4900. **Tickets for all screenings except *House on the Volcano* and the *Collection of Surrealist Eastern European Animation (1965-2022)* come on a sliding scale (FREE/£2/£4/£6/£8) + 10% CCA booking fee.** Choose what you'd like to pay depending on your circumstances and preferences - we appreciate your contribution, since ticket sales will allow us to run Samizdat in the future and act on our main goal of inviting and rewarding submissions from filmmakers who cannot present films in their home countries out of fear of persecution.

General information

We provide age recommendations for our films, which you can check on the CCA website. Most films are N/C 15+, while several are 18+. **Content and access notes can be viewed on the websites of Samizdat and CCA.**

Please try to arrive to screenings early; we have a 15-minute latecomers' policy. We don't show advertisements before films, so screenings will begin almost immediately on schedule.

Most of our events will be photographed for documentation and promotion of the festival. If you feel uncomfortable with being featured in our photos, or would prefer that they are not shared online, please mention this to the festival staff.

Subtitles/captions

All our films have English subtitles, and some have descriptive subtitles/captions. This information is listed here and on the websites of CCA and Samizdat. Should there be any changes in terms of captioning, we will try to let you know as soon as we can. There may be subtitled screenings that have non-filmic elements (video-introductions, short speeches) that are not subtitled. **We thank Matchbox Cineclub for creating captions for our films.**

Audience access fund

We have a small fund that we've set up to cover the costs of childcare/commute needed for our attendees. Applications are not formal, but the funds will be distributed on a first-come-first-served basis, so please apply soon if you plan to. For more information about the Audience Access Fund, eligibility, and application process, please visit our website (<https://samizdatfest.co.uk/accessibility>) or email us at samizdatfest@hotmail.com.

Accessibility page QR-code



Online screenings

We have selected several of our films to be shown online on the website of our partner Klassiki (read about them on pages 12-13). These films will be accessible from your personal device as long as you are watching from the UK/US. **Two films (*Bratan*, *And Then There Was Love...*) are Klassiki exclusives.**



Captions (descriptive subtitles)



Available online via Klassiki



Part of the Central Asian strand



Part of the Ukrainian strand

Safe Place*Sigurno mjesto*

Dir. Juraj Lerotić, 2022, CCA Cinema, 18:15-20:02,
15+, Croatia, English subtitles

Told over a 24-hour period, this deeply personal film – based on the writer/director’s own experiences – follows Bruno (played by director Juraj Lerotić) as he attempts to care for his brother Damir following an unexpected suicide attempt. Faced with a cold and uncaring bureaucracy, Bruno and his mother attempt to take matters into their own hands and help Damir find his own safe place.

See content and access notes on our website at samizdatfest.co.uk, or ask a member of staff

**Aurora's Sunrise**

Արշալույսի լուսաբացը

+ Short film (Warmth, dir. Klaudia Fortuniak)

Dir. Inna Sahakyan, 2022, CCA Cinema, 20:15-22:02,
15+, Armenia, English subtitles

Based on true events, *Aurora's Sunrise* tells the story of Aurora Mardiganian, a survivor of the Armenian Genocide who escaped to the US aged 14 and starred in a 1919 Hollywood adaptation of her autobiography called *Ravished Armenia*. Starring as herself, Aurora became a media sensation and the face of one of the largest charity campaigns in American history. *Aurora's Sunrise* brings Aurora’s story back into the limelight through vivid animation, mixed with recently rediscovered fragments of *Ravished Armenia* and documentary footage of Aurora’s later life.

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Colors of Tobi

Tobi szinei

+ Short film (Brick Head, dir. Alexis Manenti)

Dir. Alexa Bakony, 2021, CCA Cinema, 17:10–18:53, 15+, Hungary, English Captions

This timely debut documentary by Alexa Bakony follows transgender teenager Tobi and his family in a small Hungarian village. His mother, Eva, is supportive of her son but battles against her own grief of 'losing the daughter' she had had and the immense transphobia both within their local community and the wider world.

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House on the Volcano

+ Live Score Mix

Дом на Вулкане

Dir. Hamo Beknazarian, 1928, CCA Theatre, 19:00–20:13, 15+, Soviet Armenia, English subtitles

A new restoration of a neglected silent classic by Hamo Beknazarian, the founding father of Armenian cinema. This historical melodrama recounts the brutal suppression of an oil workers' strike in pre-revolutionary Baku. Beknazarian's mastery of the silent screen is on full display here, from the striking use of close-ups and densely-plotted narrative intrigue to the show-stopping devastation of the finale. **Presented with a new score mixed and performed live by composer Juliet Merchant.**

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King Lear: How We Looked For Love During the War

Король Лір: як ми шукали любов під час війни

Dir. Dmytro Hreshko, 2023, CCA **Theatre**, 20:30-22:21,
15+, Ukraine, English subtitles

In the small town of Uzhhorod in western Ukraine, a place of refuge for many escaping the Russian invasion, a theatre director is working on an adaptation of King Lear. In this documentary, the Shakespeare play is reflected through the lens of non-professional actors living in displacement, which turns it into an observational tool that helps to look for love and hope against the background of war. **Followed by a panel discussion.**

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14 SEPTEMBER



Some Interviews on Personal Matters

რამდენიმე ინტერვიუ პირად
საკითხებზე

**+ Short film (Lena River, dirs. Svetlana
Romanova and Chelsea Tuggle)**

Dir. Lana Gogoberidze, 1978, CCA Cinema, 17:30-
19:20, 12+, Soviet Georgia, English subtitles

The protagonist Sofiko (played by legendary Georgian actress Sofiko Chiaureli) is a Georgian journalist who travels around the country interviewing victims of patriarchy and corruption. After she refuses her husband's and editor's wishes for her to take a promotion that would limit her work, her husband cheats on her, yet Sofiko continues reporting, with Chiaureli delivering a remarkable performance full of quiet rage, irreverence, and humor.

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14-15 SEPTEMBER



Collection of Surrealist Eastern European Animation (1965-2022)

CCA Theatre, 19:45-21:35, 15+, English Captions



Samizdat and Manipulate Festival present a unique collection of Eastern European surrealist animation from 1965 to 2022, showcasing an eclectic mix of animation styles, techniques, and themes — the weird, the eerie, the bizarre, and the unbelievable. From a city run by beans to an office building filled with anti-capitalist mice, these films represent not just the technical finesse and playfulness of animation, but also the intricate ways in which it captures the political and social anxieties of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. **Presented with an introduction by specialist in Eastern European animation, Professor Sanja Bahun.**

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15 SEPTEMBER



My Favourite Job + 100% Off

Dir. Sashko Protyah, 2022-2023, CCA Cinema, 18:00-19:32, 15+, Ukraine, English subtitles



My Favourite Job, an experimental short that chronicles the everyday work of volunteer drivers who helped evacuate civilians from Mariupol during the spring of 2022, and *100% Off*, a deep audiovisual reflection on the uncomfortable topic of looting in Mariupol shops, are two of the latest works by Sashko Protyah, activist and volunteer for the IDP and the Ukrainian army. Both films comprise footage from mobile phone videos made by the volunteers, the filmmaker's personal archive, and animated models, serving as evidence of the war's effect on the prohibition of visual documentation of Mariupol. **Followed by a Zoom Q&A with Sashko.**

See content and access notes on our website at samizdatfest.co.uk, or ask a member of staff



Weightless

Невагома

+ Short film (Burial, dir. Jerzy Czachowski)

Dirs. Marta Hryniuk and Nick Thomas, 2023, CCA Cinema, 20:00-21:39, 15+, Poland, Netherlands, Ukraine, English subtitles

Khrystyna Bunii travels solo across remote south-west Ukraine in pursuit of her anthropological research. As she encounters people and digitises their family photo archives, conversations and interconnections emerge.

Conducting visual research into the transnational region of Hutsulshchyna, Bunii pursues a political practice of self-narration from the margins of representation. **Followed by a live panel discussion with Marta Hryniuk and Nick Thomas.**

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16 SEPTEMBER



A Cup of Coffee and New Shoes On

Një filxhan kafe dhe këpucë të reja veshur

Dir. Gentian Koçi, 2022, CCA Cinema, 15:30-17:09, 15+, Albania, Kosovo, Portugal, Greece, English Captions

Based on a true story, *A Cup of Coffee* follows two identical twin brothers, Gezim and Agim, who both have a rare genetic disease which renders them deaf.

Now adults living together in a shared apartment, they discover that this disease means that they will both also slowly and irrevocably lose their sight. This revelation leaves them to confront the terrifying prospect of a dark, silent, isolated future.

See content and access notes on our website at samizdatfest.co.uk, or ask a member of staff





Collection of Central Asian Women's Short Film



Dirs. Assel Aushakimova, Asel Kadyrkhanova, Saodat Ismailova, Mayram Yusupova, Kamila Rustambekova, 1982-2023, CCA Cinema, 17:20-18:46, 15+, **Partial** English Captions

Samizdat presents a collection of short films directed by Central Asian women, featuring works from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, including an animation, a comedy sketch, a queer romance, an ethnographic documentary, and an artwork composed of archival propaganda footage.

See content and access notes on our website at samizdatfest.co.uk, or ask a member of staff



Killer



Киллер

Dir. Darezhan Omirbayev, 1998, CCA Cinema, 18:50-20:11, 15+, Kazakhstan, English Captions

After completing his military service, Marat returns to Kazakhstan and starts working as a chauffeur for a famous scientist. One day, he accidentally crashes into a Mercedes belonging to a local gangster, who demands an immediate payment. To pay back the damages, Marat borrows money from a local oligarch, triggering a never-ending chain of loans and tragic events. **Presented with a recorded introduction by director Darezhan Omirbayev.**

See content and access notes on our website at samizdatfest.co.uk, or ask a member of staff



The Road

Жол

Dir. Darezhan Omirbayev, 2001, CCA Cinema,
20:20-21:45, 15+, Kazakhstan, English Captions

Amir Kobessov is an acclaimed art cinema director and an unfaithful, lying husband who finds out about his mother's illness and drives to visit her in rural Kazakhstan. On the long road, he daydreams about his failures, fears, and longings encountering a set of surreal characters in the blurry space between dream and reality. **Presented with a recorded introduction by director Darezhan Omirbayev.**

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVE SCREENINGS



Brother

Браман

Dir. Bakhtiyar Khudonazarov, 1992, Tajikistan,
English subtitles

A new restoration of a classic film from Tajikistan. Farukh, 17 wants to leave his house. He takes a train with his seven-year-old brother Azamat to visit their father. What Azamat doesn't know, is that Farukh intends to leave Azamat with his father.



And Then There Was Love...

A pak přišla láska...

Dir. Šimon Holý, 2022, Czech Republic, English subtitles

Kristýna, a sixty-year-old woman, is desperate for love and happiness. She decides to go on a trip with her daughter Sara to see a fortune teller. Through card readings and ancestral therapy sessions, more and more problems bubble out.

Available only on Klassiki between 12 September and 5 October 2023

Klassiki is a film adventure eastwards.

Discover new voices and classic gems from
the Baltics to Kazakhstan, from Ukraine to Czechia.

We partner with Samizdat to bring you a selection of thrilling titles online:
from silent masterpiece **House on the Volcano** (1928) to classics of
Eastern European animation and Simon Holy's Karlovy Vary crowd-pleaser
And Then There was Love (2022).

Klassiki is a library of classic films. It is a platform for important new cinema
from the east. From Radu Jude to Agnieszka Holland. From Katya Gornostai
to Sergei Parajanov. You will find award-winning cinema and beloved film
gems, all accompanied by director interviews, subtitles, programme notes,
video essays and much, much more.

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235,000,000
(1967) Uldis Brauns



Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors
(1965) Sergei Parajanov



Spoor
(2017) Agnieszka Holland/Katarzyna Adamik



Step-Zemlia
(2021) Kateryna Gomosta



Salt For Svanetia
(1930) Mikhail Kalozov



I Do Not Care If We Go Down in History as Barbarians
(2018) Radu Jude



Conscience
(1986) Volodymyr Denysenko



Goodbye Soviet Union
(2020) Lauri Randal



My 20th Century
(1989) Idiko Enyedi

Discover the best of contemporary and classic cinema from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Handpicked by curators.

KLASSIKI
START YOUR FILM JOURNEY TO THE EAST

The success of our festival and our ability to grow in the years to come significantly depends on your feedback about our screenings and events.

We'd love to expand Samizdat to present Scottish audiences with more films, continue accepting submissions from young filmmakers, and create new events.

To help us achieve our goals and tell about your experience at the festival, please scan the QR-code below and complete a short survey.

Thank you!



**We thank all our funders, sponsors,
and partners for their support**



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MANIPULATE

CCA: Centre for
Contemporary Arts

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SEE YOU AT THE FESTIVAL



SAMIZDAT
EASTERN EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL
15-18th September 2023
CICA Glasgow and Nisssiki

DESIGN BY FREYA MORAN