

Beat: Vips

## **CHRISTOPHER LAMBERT IS A SPECIAL GUEST OF BRIDGE OF ARTS 2017 RUSSIAN FESTIVAL**

**23 to 27 AUGUST IN ROSTOV ON DON**

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**USPA NEWS** - the festival's organizing committee announced that French and American actor, Highlander star, Christopher Lambert will become a special guest of the III International Motivational Film and Sport Festival BRIDGE of ARTS.

Christopher Lambert is French and American actor and producer. In 1986 he received César Award for his role in Subway by Luc Besson. Lamberts' film credits include over 40 movies. Among them are Why Me?, Arlette, psychological and intellectual films The Sicilian, To Kill a Priest and others. But he is best known for Fortress, Mortal Kombat, Mean Guns and others. Highlander became his career climax where the actor starred as immortal Connor McLeod. Co-starring Lambert and Sean Connery, storyline, skillful directing and «Queen» music amazed the world audience.

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The special BRIDGE of ARTS 2017 guest actively participates in multiple TV and film projects. A Claude Lelouch philosophical comedy Chacun sa vie starring the actor premiered this spring. In 2018 Christopher Lambert will appear in Bel Canto based on Ann Patchett's similarly-named book. He also partook in Russian projects such as Mata Hari serial and drama Sobibor by Andrey Malykhov which will be released in May, 2018.

The actor does sports, goes in for tennis and diving. He will join press events, business forum roundtables and autograph sessions of the III International Motivational Film and Sport Festival BRIDGE of ARTS.

- BRIDGE of ARTS this year will host wonderful guests, one of them is Christopher Lambert. It is great honour for us and the marker of BRIDGE of ARTS growing prestige. Christopher Lambert starred in several Russian features, he knows and loves our country that is why he will not only be an invited star but will be engaged as a film industry expert. We are sure that Rostov-on-Don will always stay in Christopher Lambert's memory, - Fyodor Krat, BRIDGE of ARTS general producer said about the world star's participation.

Russian and world film stars' visits were previously announced by the festival programmers. Samy Naceri (France, known for Taxi, Taxi 2, Taxi 3, Indigenes, L'aîné des Ferchaux, La repentie), Kirill Plentnyov, Elena Zaharova, Fyodor Dobronravov, Agnia Kuznetsova, Evklid Kurdzidis, Irina Bezrukova, Dmitry Dibrov and other stars will come to Rostov-on-Don. Main competition program comprises ten films produced in 2017, six of them will be premiered in Russia. Two Russian features entered into the program, the rest are from Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Iran, Spain, Italy, Slovakia, France, Czech Republic and Japan.

Screenings will take place on August, 24-27. Main competition jury foreman is Rodger Christian (Canada). Milcho Manchevski, director, scriptwriter (Macedonia-USA), actress Maria Golubkina (Russia), producers Nick Powell (UK) and Massimo Christaldi (Italy) will join the jury.-----

Along with main competition the III International Motivational Film and Sport Festival BRIDGE of ARTS will feature two more programs: short film competition and tourism and travel film competition. Non-competition screenings are composed of different programs: «World Films», «Documentary Films» (in cooperation with WWF Russia), «Retro», «Family Films», «Short Film Nights». 119 films will be screened during the five-day event.-----

Short film program comprises 20 films. Four pictures are from Russia and the rest were produced in Indonesia, Hungary, Germany, Jordan, China, Egypt, Israel, USA, Japan, Greece, Italy, Korea. 22 more films will be screened in non-competition program.

Russian national Tourism and Travel Film Competition «Russia Inspires!» will choose the best works in «Region», «Landmark», «Event», «Impression», «Location» and «Year of Ecology» nominations. The selective committee reviewed about 180 films from 48 Russian Federation regions and chose 36 finalists out of 28 regions.

Non-competition documentary film program is supported by World Wildlife Fund. Three films produced in 2016-2017 (France,

Russia, Spain-Germany-UK) depicting vital issues of environmental protection will be presented to the audience. So Tigers and Humans by Sergey Yastrzhembsky entered into VII Environmental Film Festival that will be running through 19 to 29 October, 2017 in New York.

Retrospective screening program is tightly connected with two main competition jurors of BRIDGE of ARTS 2017 ““ Milcho Manchevski and Roger Christian. Legendary filmmakers and award-winning directors will not only judge this time. They are ready to tell what hardships they came through to reach the tsars of the world film industry. So, for example, jury foreman Roger Christian will bring a world classic Nostradamus and Micho Manchevsky will present Before the Rain. The New York Times listed the latter as one of 1000 best films ever made, it got Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Film and received numerous awards in Vienna and got a prize at Warsaw IFF.-----

Family films are of special importance for the festival. An array of BRIDGE of ARTS social initiatives will be centered around them. Matinees will offer four films: Tale About a Magical Pencil (Russia), Angel of the Lord (Czech Republic), The Battle of the Drones (China-USA) and My Friend Raffi (Germany).-----

Non-competition program will feature best films of 2016““2017, that for certain reasons did not join the competition are worth presenting at BRIDGE of ARTS, many of them will become event films. «World Films» program unites 20 films from Europe, Asia, North America and Russia. Lumière! by Thierry Frémaux, director of the Institute Lumière and Cannes Film Festival. In his unique project Frémaux united 108 restored short films of Louis and Auguste Lumière. The film about legendary Pele, Berlinale-winner On Body and Soul, new film (2017) The other Side of Hope by famous Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki and many other will be screened.-----

As previously reported the festival will feature 20 various events, 10 film events, 25 unique screenings. Special attention is drawn to business forum where economics and film industry issues will be raised. BRIDGE of ARTS film school and a series of pitching will await their attendees. Hockey match «Healthy nation» and celebrity football game held in Azov are dedicated to sports promotion. The final festival day will feature a big children’s event in Rostov-on-Don and a beautiful performance «Umbrella Morning» celebrating the birthday of legendary actress Faina Ranevskaya in Taganrog.

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