

# RIVERSIDESTUDIOS



Life Through Cinema

კინოში ასახული ცხოვრება

23-26 September 2010

2nd London BGS Georgian Film Festival



BRITISH GEORGIAN SOCIETY  
საბრიტანეთო ქართველთა საზოგადოება



Embassy of Georgia

**Thursday 23 September**

**Journey of a Georgian Poet Akaki Tsereteli in Racha-Lechkhumi**

(Qartveli mgosnis akaki ceretlis mogzauroba racha lechkhumshi) 6.30pm (U)  
*Vasil Amashukeli, Georgia, 1912, 33m, documentary, restored 2009*

The journey of one of Georgia's most famous poets, Akaki Tsereteli, to the mountainous region of Racha-Lechkhumi became a nationwide event and was filmed by cameraman Vasil Amashukeli in what is recognized as one of Europe's earliest documentaries. It marked the beginning of Georgian cinema.



**Street Days**

(Quchis dgeebi) (15)  
*Levan Koguashvili, Georgia, 2009, 86m, subtitles*  
*Guga Kotetishvili, Temo Gogidze, Levan Jividze*

From the back streets of Tbilisi comes a tough but tender tale of friendship and betrayal, redemption and forgiveness, love and bullets. "Georgian cinema has a new star in director Levan Koguashvili...this superb neorealist drama is just the calling card the beleaguered country needs." –Jay Weissberg, Variety.



**Film Festival Gala Reception**

9.00pm

A Khinkali and Mtsvadi buffet supper with Georgian wine and song on the Terrace of Riverside Studios overlooking the Thames (weather permitting). Food provided by Tamada Restaurant.



## Friday 24 September

### The Other Bank

(Gagma napiri) 6.30pm (15) UK premiere  
*Giorgi Ovashvili, Georgia/Kazakhstan, 2009, 90m, Georgian/Abkhazian/Russian, subtitles*  
*Tedo Bekauri, Galoba Gambaria, Nika Alajaev*

12-year-old Tedo, a refugee, journeys from Tbilisi to Abkhazia in search of his father in a moving tale about the internal drama of a boy, his thoughts, feelings and passions, and the grim reality of having to survive in a divided country by pretending to be dumb and focusing on stories he has heard from his glue sniffing friends back in Tbilisi. The film has won prizes at 24 international film festivals.



### Something About Georgia

8.30pm  
*Nino Kirtadze, Georgia/France, 2009, 98m, subtitles, documentary*  
Sponsored by George Lezhava

Having won best director for a documentary prize at the Sundance International Film Festival 2008, Nino Kirtadze was shooting a film on Georgia and President Saakashvili when the war with Russia broke out. The film raises questions about political responsibility and the morality of international affairs. There will be a Q & A with the director after the screening.



## Saturday 25 September

### Short Films

12.30pm (12A)  
Sponsored by George Kesidy

Recent short films by young Georgian directors. Details to follow.

### Susa

(Susa) 2.20pm (12A) UK premiere  
*Rusudan Pirveli, Georgia, 2010, 85m,*  
*subtitles*

*Avtandil Tetradze, Ekaterine Kobakhidze,*  
*Giorgi Gogishvili*

A dreamy 12-year-old boy is running errands for an illegal vodka distillery where his mother works, delivering bottles to small cafes, little booths, prostitutes and the odd drunk. One day his mother tells him that his father will return soon and all will change. First prize Jeonju International Festival, Seoul.



### The Wishing Tree

(Natvris khe) 4.20pm (U)  
*Tengiz Abuladze, Georgia, 1976, 107m,*  
*subtitles*

*Lika Kavjaradze, Sophico Chiaureli, Ramaz*  
*Chkhikvadze*

Along with Sergo Paradjanov and Otar Iosseliani, Tengiz Abuladze is one of Georgia's most important filmmakers. The Wishing Tree is the second film in his renowned trilogy made over three decades. A beautifully shot love story based on the writings of Giorgi Leonidze, the film is a spectacular mosaic of village life in pre-revolutionary Georgia.



### Three Houses

(Sami saxli) 6.30pm (U) UK premiere  
*Zaza Urushadze, Georgia, 2008, 96m,*  
*subtitles*

*Zhanri Lolashvili, Zurab Kipshidze, Murman*  
*Jinoria*

Three separate short stories about love, death and family are set in three different centuries, but all linked by the same painting. The first takes place at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the second during the Second World War, and the third at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



## Songs of Georgia

8.30pm

Jason Osborn, Georgia/France/UK, 2009,  
56m, documentary

Robert Parsons first went to Georgia in the 1980s and was amazed that nearly every family he visited could sing traditional songs in complex harmonies. The film is a unique journey capturing a cultural tradition thousands of years old and still flourishing. All the music is recorded on location by the BBC World Routes team.



## Tabuni Live performance

The young Georgian singer Tamta Turmanidze leads the authentic London based women's choir in a set of Georgian songs. "...what violence has destroyed, love will rebuild again..." *Mravalzhamier* (Long Life) – Georgian folk song.



## Sunday 26 September

### The Short films of Mikhail Kobakhidze

12.00pm (U)

Mikhail Kobakhidze, Georgia/France, 1961-2002  
*Young Love* (61), *Carrousel* (62), *Umbrella* (66), *Musicians* (67), *On The Road* (2002)

The visionary director leads a lunchtime workshop and introduces his catalogue of short films banned in Soviet times not for any overt political content but, as the NY Times wrote, for an anti-Soviet mode 'in their lightness, sly humor and tragic-comic refusal to accept the conventions of heroism or social obligation.'



### **My Grandmother**

(Chemi bebia) 2.30pm (U)

*Kote Mikaberidze, Georgia, 1929, 65m*

*Aleksandre Tqaishvili, Bela Chernova, Akaki Khorava*

A Georgian tour-de-force from the Soviet Eccentric Cinema movement. This satirical masterpiece, banned by the Soviet regime for 40 years and noted for its anarchic styles, unspools the foibles and follies that abound when the hero, based on American silent comic Harold Lloyd, loses his job as a paper pusher.



### **Gun-shy**

(Schussangst) 4.00pm (18)

*Dito Tsintsadze, Germany, 2003, 105m, subtitles*

*Fabian Hinrichs, Lavinia Wilson, Lasha Bakradze*

One of Georgia's leading directors who lives and works in Germany. Tsintsadze's *Lost Killers* (2000) was one of the hits of the 1<sup>st</sup> BGS Georgian Film Festival in 2005. *Gun-shy* is a black comic thriller, winner of the 'Golden Seashell' at the San Sebastian International Film Festival 2003.



### **Pirosmani**

6.10pm (U)

*Giorgi Shengelaya, Georgia, 1969, 85m, subtitles*

*Avtandil Varazi, Dodo Abashidze, Aleksandre Rekhviashvili*

*Pirosmani* is not only one of Georgia's most well known films but one of the best films made about an artist. It tells the story of Niko Pirosmani, Georgia's most celebrated painter who died homeless in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. His 'naïve' style is visually interpreted as the story unfolds in the basement taverns of old Tbilisi and in front of village landscapes in wonderfully faded colour. This is a newly restored print supervised by the Georgian National Film Centre.



### **Otar Iosseliani interviewed by Maryam d'Abo**

8.00pm

We are delighted to welcome the great Georgian director who will be interviewed by the actress Maryam d'Abo, whose mother is Georgian, about his life and work. This will be followed by a screening of one of Iosseliani's films.



Since 1912, when the journey of a famous poet into the high Caucasus Mountains was filmed as a documentary, cinema has been at the centre of Georgian culture. The 2nd British Georgian Society film festival will showcase some of the best old and new films from Georgia at London's Riverside Studios. Our collaborators the Georgian National Film Centre will be bringing newly restored prints of such classics as My Grandmother (1929), Pirosmani (1969) and the original 1912 documentary Journey of a Georgian Poet Akaki Tsereteli in Racha-Lechkhumi.

The festival has 3 UK premieres of recent films by a new generation of Georgian directors, all of which have done well on the international festival circuit. Life Through Cinema will also feature more established directors now working abroad, who will be at Riverside Studios to present their films. Nino Kirtadze, who won the best director of a documentary prize at Sundance 2008, will bring Something About Georgia (2009) and Dito Tsintsadze who works in Germany will bring Gun-shy (2003). The great Georgian director Otar Iosseliani will be interviewed by Maryam d'Abo about his life and work before a screening of one of his films.

Most of the directors will be at Riverside Studios to present their films, and there will also be video work by Georgian artists living in the UK. With Georgian food, wine and live singing, Life Through Cinema should become a truly living experience.

**Life Through Cinema**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> British Georgian Society Film Festival**  
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**RIVERSIDESTUDIOS**

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