

# Once upon a time in cinema: when Italian film ruled the world

The Days of Italian Cinema section highlights the **the country's rich cinematic heritage** and features an impressive new generation of directors.

**F**ew national cinemas can boast as rich and prodigious a history as Italy. For 30 years, from the last days of the Second World War through to the politically turbulent 70s, Italian film dominated world cinema. The Days of Italian Cinema section at this year's festival will shine a spotlight on the best of these films and the directors who made them.

### Post-War life

The cinematic output from this period helped sculpt the face of post-war Italian society, which transformed itself from a state of impoverishment to a Mecca of fashionable living. They celebrated Italian life, its culture and people, but also acknowledged the country's many problems.

The post-war period was dominated by the Neorealist movement. They focused on the travails facing the Italian working class. Rome, Open City, The Bicycle Thieves, Miracle in Milan and The Earth Trembles, which will screen at the festival, are a few of the films that highlighted the plight of the poor and downtrodden.

As directed by Roberto Rossellini, Vittorio De Sica and Luchino Visconti, these films stunned the world with their uncompromising

honesty and detailed characterisation. Rome, Open City drew particular acclaim for scenes filmed as the Nazis still roamed the Italian capital's streets.

And the heartbreaking relationship between an unemployed father and his son in The Bicycle Thieves has made it a perennial favourite for critics and audiences alike. De Sica followed it with Miracle in Milan, which moved away from the strict confines of Neorealism, embracing a cinema that could transform reality before our eyes. It was a tactic many directors would employ over the next decade.

The 1950s saw the rise of Federico Fellini, Michelangelo Antonioni and Pier Paolo Pasolini. Each director possessed a signature style, but films such as La Dolce Vita, Blow Up and Teorema spoke to a younger generation, critiquing bourgeois society in a way that was fresh and exciting.

### An American Genre

There was even a revolution of sorts in genre filmmaking. Sergio Leone, who had made his name working on a series of sword and sandal epics, rewrote the conventions of a classic American genre with A Fistful of Dollars. It spawned the Spaghetti Western and was followed by For a Few Dollars More



**The Man with No Name** Clint Eastwood is the hero of Sergio Leone's **The Good, the Bad and the Ugly**  
Foto: Profimedia

### FACTS

#### Five of Italy's Best

- The Good, the Bad and the Ugly** (S. Leone, 1966): Wednesday 1 June
- The Day of the Owl** (D. Damiani, 1968): Thursday 2 June
- The Earth Trembles** (L. Visconti, 1947): Friday 3 June
- Into Paradiso** (P. Randi, 2010): Friday 3 June
- Miracle in Milan** (V. De Sica, 1951): Saturday 4 June

and the one of the genre's masterpieces, *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*. These films made an international star out of the then relatively unknown Clint Eastwood and redefined the history of America's brutal frontier. *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* receives a rare cinematic outing this evening and is a must for anyone who has yet to see this excellent film, while Leone's defining statement on the genre, the stunning *Once Upon a Time in the West*, will play on the open air screen tomorrow night.

If the 80s and 90s witnessed a decline in Italian cinema's presence on the international stage, albeit with the exception of Nanni Moretti, Giuseppe Tornatore and Roberto Benigni, the last decade has seen the rise of a new generation of directors. Paola Randi, Guido Chiesa and Edoardo Leo, who are all represented at the festival, aim to continue the tradition of the Italian masters. They offer hope that audiences may once again look to Italy for cinematic inspiration.

Ian Haydn Smith

## Today's programme

From a lovable bear to a great western

### Golden Apple Cinema

10.20

#### Winnie the Pooh (2011)

USA, 70 minutes  
Directed by Stephen J. Anderson & Don Hall  
Disney returns to the beloved character created by A. A. Milne. Mistakenly thinking that Christopher Robin has been kidnapped, Pooh, Eeyore, Tigger and Piglet set out to rescue him. But they soon find themselves in more than a spot of bother. And all Pooh wanted to do that morning was find some honey.

15.40

#### A Brand New Life (2010)

South Korea, 92 minutes  
Directed by Ounie Lecomte  
Little Jinhee isn't wanted by her father. He tries to enrol her at an orphanage, but she keeps running away. Finally, she has no choice but to enrol. However, she soon realises that this is not the end of her family but the start of a new one. She soon discovers the life has many surprises and not all of them are bad.

17.30

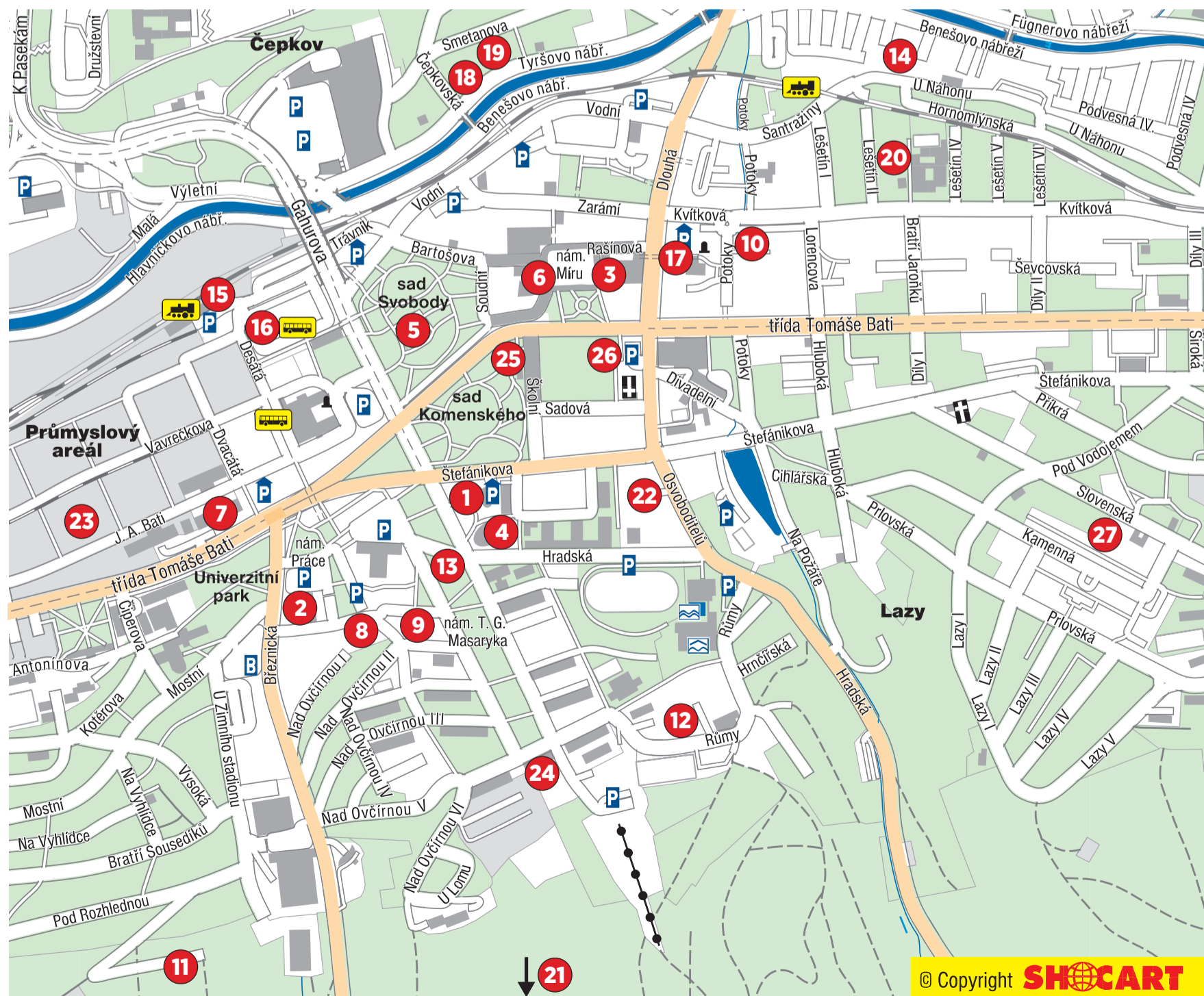
#### The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (1966) (Il buono, il brutto, il cattivo)

Italy, 180 minutes  
Directed by Sergio Leone  
The greatest film ever made? Definitely one of the best westerns. It made Clint Eastwood a star and created an iconic figure in the Man with No Name. Set during the American Civil War, it tells the story of three men who will stop at nothing to find a missing cache of gold. As with many of the Spaghetti westerns, Leone's film was shot in Spain with a mostly European cast. It's an explosive, exciting and brilliant example of cinema at its very best. And it features one of the finest soundtracks ever written, by Ennio Morricone. Beg, borrow or steal, but do not miss this film!

22:10

#### The Taqwacores (2010)

USA, 85 minutes  
Directed by Eyad Zahara  
A fascinating insight into Muslim youth culture in the US as it follows Yusef, a first-generation Pakistani living in New York. He is attracted to the West Coast Taqwacore punk movement, whose outspokenness gradually leads him to question his own faith and values. Filmed in a loose style and featuring a blistering soundtrack, this is one of the most critically acclaimed music documentaries of the last year.



## Zlín Orientační plán města

- 1 Kongresové centrum – akreditace, informace
- 2 Velké kino – prodej vstupenek
- 3 Zlaté jablko – obchodní a zábavní centrum
- 4 Univerzitní centrum
- 5 Zámek Zlín
- 6 Radnice – Magistrát města Zlína – Galerie pod Radnicí
- 7 21. budova – Krajský úřad Zlínského kraje
- 8 Interhotel Moskva
- 9 Hotel Garni
- 10 Hotel Ondráš
- 11 Koliba U Černého medvěda
- 12 Parkhotel Zlín
- 13 Letní kino
- 14 Penzion Baltáci
- 15 Vlakové nádraží Zlín-střed
- 16 Hlavní autobusové nádraží
- 17 Vinotéka Wine Dietrichstein
- 18 Králova vila
- 19 Vinotéka Le Bouchon „U Pešatů“
- 20 Hotel Baltáci Atrium
- 21 Lesní hotel
- 22 Alternativa
- 23 32. budova továrního areálu
- 24 Dům umění
- 25 Krajská knihovna Fr. Bartoše
- 26 Loft 577
- 27 Penzion Villa Slovenská