

Berlinale Classics 2023

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Show caption

'Mapantsula', ZA/AUS/UK, 1988, directed by Oliver Schmitz
© Oliver Schmitz – Courtesy of What The Hero Wants (WTHW)

Berlinale Classics

16 Feb 23–26 Feb 23

Restored cinema classics and revivals back on the big screen!

The films of the Berlinale Classics



Show caption

Katharine Hepburn, Spencer Tracy, Katharine Houghton and Sidney Poitier in 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner', USA, 1967, directed by Stanley Kramer

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Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

USA, 1967, directed by Stanley Kramer

A young white woman brings her Black fiancé home to meet her parents. The 1967 film helped cement Sidney Poitier's status as Hollywood's premiere Black actor. Grover Crisp supervised the restoration in 4K from the 35mm original camera negative and magnetic tapes. New York's Cineric Inc did the film clean-up and repair, and 4K scanning. Motion Picture Imaging in Burbank, California handled the conforming, colour correction, and additional image restoration, as well as creating the DCP, and digital archive files. Supervising colourist was Sheri Eisenberg. Restoration of the original mono tapes, and a 5.1 stereo re-mix using the original stereo music score was done by Deluxe audio services. World premiere of the digitally restored version.



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'Mapantsula', ZA/AUS/UK, 1988, directed by Oliver Schmitz
© Oliver Schmitz – Courtesy of What The Hero Wants (WTHW)

Mapantsula

ZA/AUS/UK, 1988, directed by Oliver Schmitz

Directed by Oliver Schmitz, 1988's 'Mapantsula' is widely considered the first true anti-apartheid film to come out of South Africa. Schmitz wrote the screenplay in tandem with his lead actor, Thomas Mogotlane. Within the framework of the story about a small-time gangster, it examines racial discrimination and day-to-day acts of resistance to the regime. The restoration, supervised by Schmitz and Aaryan Trivedi, was produced by London-based What The Hero Wants (WTHW). The original 35mm negative was used by R3store Studios in London for the 4K scan. The colour correction, and picture and sound processing were conducted at Purple Dog Post in Canada with picture and logistic support by Studio Mitte in Berlin. The original analogue audio tracks were enhanced and re-mastered to do justice to the vibrant soundtrack. The world premiere of the digitally restored 4K version marks the 35th anniversary of the original release and honours Black History Month.



Show caption

Peter Weller in 'Naked Lunch', UK/CA, 1991, directed by David Cronenberg
© Recorded Picture Company

Naked Lunch

UK/CA, 1991, directed by David Cronenberg

A writer takes refuge in a bizarre fantasy world full of monsters and mutations after he accidentally kills his wife. The 4K digitally restored version of the surrealist film version of William S. Burrough's eponymous book will be shown as a world premiere. Produced in 1991 by Jeremy Thomas at Recorded Picture Company, 'Naked' Lunch was restored by Turbine in partnership with Arrow Films. The original 35mm camera negative was scanned in 4K resolution at Difuze in Toronto. The film was conformed, graded, and restored in 4K with Dolby Vision HDR and SDR at LSP Medien, Uelzen, Germany. More than 165,000 individual frames were cleaned and restored by hand. The film will be shown in its original aspect ratio of 1.85:1. The restoration process was supervised by director of photography Peter Suschitzky at Silver Salt Restoration in London, and approved by David Cronenberg.



Show caption

Erwin Kohlund and Margrit Winter in 'Romeo und Julia auf dem Dorfe', CH, 1941, directed Valerien Schmidely and Hans Trommer

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Romeo und Julia auf dem Dorfe

('Rome and Juliet in the Village'), CH, 1941, directed by Valerien Schmidely and Hans Trommer

'Romeo and Juliet in the Village', directed by Valerien Schmidely and Hans Trommer, is a poetic version of a novella by Gottfried Keller that sets the Shakesperean tale in a small Swiss village. The restoration was a collaboration between the Cinémathèque suisse and Swiss Radio and Television (SRF), and took five years to complete. The original negative had been edited down to 83 minutes and subsequently destroyed in the 1970s and the original sound mix was lost. So the reconstruction process used four incomplete and damaged nitrate prints and a later sound mix to restore the film as closely as possible to its original length. The 4K restoration was done at L'Immagine Ritrovata laboratory in Bologna. The "Berlinale Classics" screening will be a world premiere of the restored version.



Show caption

Claudio Spadaro, Nanni Moretti and Nicola Di Pinto in 'Sogni d'oro', IT, 1981, directed by Nanni Moretti

Sogni d'oro

('Sweet Dreams'), IT, 1981, directed by Nanni Moretti

Italian director Nanni Moretti takes on the film industry in his turbulent 1981 satire 'Sogni

d'oro', in which a director is faced with a host of problems while making his new film, all caused by his neurotic personality. The restored 4K version was done from the original 35mm picture and optical sound negative, provided by Sacher Film. The work was done at the CSC Cineteca Nazionale, Italy's national film library. Moretti himself supervised the restoration. World premiere of the digitally restored version.



Show caption

'Szürkület', HU, 1990, directed by György Fehér
Quelle: NFI – Film Archive © Inkey Alice

Szürkület

('Twilight'), HU, 1990, directed by György Fehér

Director György Fehér made the black-and-white film 'Szürkület' at the end of the 1980s, based on the crime novella "The Pledge" by Friedrich Dürrenmatt. It is the story of a retired detective who uses a young girl as bait to try to catch a serial killer. Fehér made only two theatrical features in his lifetime. The 4K restoration, using the original 35mm camera negative and magnetic sound tapes, was carried out at the National Film Institute Hungary – Film Archive and Film Lab. The colour grading was supervised by the film's cinematographer Miklós Gurbán. World premiere of the digitally restored version in 4K.



Show caption

Adolphe Menjou and Edna Purviance in 'A Woman of Paris', USA, 1923, directed by Charles Chaplin
© Roy Export SAS

A Woman of Paris

USA, 1923, directed by Charles Chaplin

2023 marks the 100th anniversary of Charles Chaplin's brilliant yet subtle masterpiece 'A Woman of Paris'. Set in glamorous apartments and cabarets in the French capital during the Roaring Twenties, the societal drama about two lovers influenced generations of filmmakers. This new 4K restoration by L'Immagine Ritrovata, with a new soundtrack that includes a reconstruction of Chaplin's original score and hitherto unheard compositions by Chaplin, orchestrated by Timothy Brock, will enjoy its world premiere at the Berlinale.



Show caption

Fujiko Yamamoto in 'Yoru no kawa', J, 1956, directed by Kōzaburō Yoshimura

Yoru no kawa

('Undercurrent'), J, 1956, directed by Kōzaburō Yoshimura

The brilliant melodrama is the first colour film made by Japanese meister Kōzaburō Yoshimura. It is the story of an artistically and commercially successful textile dyeing designer who begins an affair with a married man. The film was restored in 4K by Kadokawa Corporation at Imagica EMS using the original 35mm Eastman colour negative. The colour grading was supervised by Masahiro Miyajima, for many years the chief assistant to the film's cinematographer Kazuo Miyagawa. Imagica EMS used a special measuring and analysing technique to ensure that the colours were as faithful as possible to the original. International premiere of the digitally restored version in 4K.