

**SCHOOL OF LIFE-expanded im Filmmuseum Potsdam (03. – 07. Mai 2010)**

**Feature Films:**



**THE RACE (Age Group 10-14)**

Germany/Ireland, 2009, 84 min., Comedy - OV

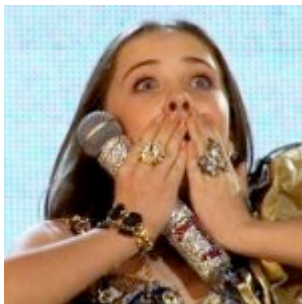
Director: André F. Nebe

Cast: Colm Meaney, Susan Lynch, Niamh McGirr, Jonathan Mason

THE RACE tells about an Irish farming family collapsing while 11 year old daughter Mary is trying to make her dream come true: driving a go-kart and winning a race. Something she can only do with the support of her father, a grumpy farmer with enough problems of his own: agricultural crisis, his wife applying for a divorce and the sudden decline of fatherly authority. The film by André F. Nebe, starring debuting Niamh McGirr and Hollywood star Colm Meaney as her father, is a true European co-production.

**Workshop THE RACE:**

The film maintains a wonderful balance between young Mary's dream to be a racing car driver and the realism of the difficult financial times in which it is set and thereby touches on various provocative and significant topics for young teenagers such as: self-assertion and –realisation, family structures and gendered roles in society, prejudice, social exclusion and bullying, life in the country and conflict resolution. It thus proves an excellent resource for the classroom and the workshop will offer room for debate and discussion with the help of several worksheets concerning the topics. (Duration: 45 min.)



**SOUNDS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT (Age group: 14+)**

UK, 2008, 100 min., Documentary - OV

Director: Jamie Jay Johnson

Jamie Jay Johnson's debut feature documentary SOUNDS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT takes the viewer behind the scenes of Europe's biggest child song-writing contest. This funny and charming behind-the-scenes documentary follows four of the 17 contestants on their way to the finals of the Junior Eurovision Song Contest in Rotterdam 2007, where they perform their self-composed songs in their national language.

Johnson's popumentary does not focus on winners and losers, but rather captures both the excitement of being a contestant and the confusions of being a kid. It is a heart-warming, honest documentary about children's ambitions and aspirations, about their hopes and struggles. Most of the kids come from conflict ridden homelands or families, what they have in common is their passion for music and the happiness it brings. SOUNDS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT shows how music never fails to unite people.

### **Workshop SOUNDS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT:**

The workshop accompanying the film introduces a range of themes to discuss: the current 'cult of celebrity', what is ambition and how do we define and achieve our goals, embracing winning and handling losing, coping with pressure from parents to achieve, the vulnerability of children in the spotlight, the definition of 'success', sexuality and sexualisation and finally, the possibilities for bringing together children from across all of Europe. Given that the film weaves between humour, sympathy, compassion and clear entertainment, it is an extremely useful film to provoke thought and discussion amongst the attending students. (Duration: 45 min.)

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### **THE YOUNG VICTORIA (Age group: 14+)**

UK/USA, 2009, 105 min., Drama – OV or German subtitles

Director: Jean-Marc Vallée

Cast: Emily Blunt, Rupert Friend, Paul Bettany, Miranda Richardson, Jim Broadbent, Thomas Kretschmann, Mark Strong

THE YOUNG VICTORIA, the 2010 Oscar winning film for "Best Costume Design", focuses on the developing relationship between Queen Victoria (Emily Blunt) and the German Prince Albert (Rupert Friend). Despite Victoria's headstrong character and steadfastness, she has to learn whom she can trust within the political snake nest in which she finds herself. Advisers, royal attendants, close friends and even her own family attempt to control Victoria in a manner she resolutely defies. It gradually appears that her relationship with Prince Albert is the one in which she can truly believe, with Prince Albert proving himself to be a worthy confidant, advisor and lover. The development of the feelings between Victoria and Albert play out across the screen with a unusual tenderness, but marriage and conformity are sometimes too constrictive for the spirited young Queen. However, when the Prince is critically wounded by a rogue gun man on the streets, Victoria wakes up to Albert's own talents for helping her reign her country, and indeed her own life, next to her and by her side.

### **Workshop THE YOUNG VICTORIA:**

The accompanying workshop will introduce the themes of English history and culture, the role of the monarchy, developing independence and self-assertion, family relationships and loyalty, meeting expectations and resisting convention, and gendered roles in society. (Duration: 45 min.)

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### **Short film programmes (Duration workshop: 45 min.):**



### **Shorts 1: Changes (Age group 10 – 14)**

UK/Ireland, 2007 – 2009, 45 min. - OV

"Changes" is concerned with the transitions young people often face when growing up and how they cope with them. The students are encouraged to consider the different characters portrayed in the short-films and will have the opportunity to compare the characters' situations to their own experiences throughout the discussion.

**Example: ELA**

UK, 2008, 13 min., drama

Director: Silvana Aguirre Zegarra

We meet 8-year old Ela in a very particular moment of her life: the moment she experiences loss for the first time.

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**Shorts 2: Everyday Heroes (Age group: 14-17)**

UK, 2005-2009, 47 min. - OV

“Everyday Heroes” revolves around the topic of heroes and champions. After the students establish what a hero is for them before watching the films, they then have the chance to compare their ideas with the presentation of the ‘hero’ character in the following short-films. A final discussion will enable the students to consider what makes a hero special

and who, in their life, is an ‘everyday hero’.

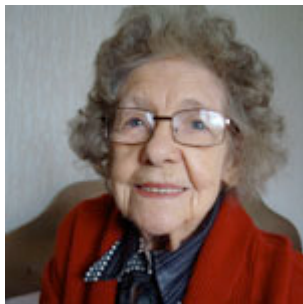
**Example: ANTONIO’S BREAKFAST**

UK, 2005, 16 min., drama

Director: Daniel Mulloy

Unable to dress, eat, move or breathe on his own, Antonio’s father depends upon him. Fourteen floors up and desperate to escape, Antonio won’t let himself leave.

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**Shorts 3: Departures (Age group: 17+)**

UK/IRL, 2007-2009, 45 min. - OV

The third workshop addresses the topic of departures, and the representation of departing or leaving in the different contexts portrayed in each film. In the workshop, students discuss the various ways ‘departures’ can take place in a person’s life. As the workshop is aimed at older students, there is a special focus on English vocabulary and comprehension.

**Example: IRENE**

UK, 2008, 11 min., Documentary

Director: Lindsay Goddall

An engaging story about the filmmaker’s 92-year-old grandmother Irene and the daughter who cares for her. While suffering from Alzheimer’s and decreasing physical ability, Irene’s feisty personality still shines through, often leading to both laughter and heartache.

For more information please visit: [www.school-of-life-expanded.de](http://www.school-of-life-expanded.de)

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