

Off-Beat Films at Moscow's Beat Film Festival

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Writer Orhan Pamuk in Grant Gee's film, "Innocence of Memories," one of the films being shown this week in Moscow.

Over the last seven years, the Beat Film Festival has grown from a series of low-key events to a large festival that lasts more than a week. Originally envisioned as a documentary film festival that focused on music, this year the festival introduces several new programs — "Art" and "Millennials." The former is devoted to documentaries about prominent figures in the arts, including photographer Robert Mapplethorpe and writer John Berger, while the latter deals with diverse themes from African musicians to Georgian skaters. We selected several not-to-miss premieres from the festival for your viewing pleasure.

We'll be in the front row at two screenings that are part of the Future of the World Forum organized by the Strelka Institute and the British Council. Both screenings will be preceded by talks with directors and critics:

"Innocence of Memories," Grant Gee's film devoted to an unusual museum in Istanbul opened by Orhan Pamuk, Turkey's Nobel laureate for Literature. The museum is called "The Museum of Innocence" and is devoted to a fictional doomed love story that took place in the 1970s in Istanbul as described in Pamuk's eponymous novel. The film talks about the museum, the writer and the city.

"Bitter Lake," a film by Adam Curtis about the last 50 years of Afghan history and Western and Soviet efforts to change the country.

And another top pick is "Becoming Zlatan," a biopic about the legendary Swedish soccer player Zlatan Ibrahimovic from his debut with the Malmö FF team up to his most successful years with Juventus.

The films are being shown at a number of venues about the city. For the full schedule and more information, see their [schedule](#).

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