



## Programming Highlights April 2011

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# Ivan Nichev

## Bulgaria



### *Some of the best films by Bulgaria's greatest director.*

Ivan Nichev has made his name as the most prolific director out of Bulgaria. His films are full of raw human emotion told through the eyes of some unusual yet captivating characters.

Bulgarian films are not easy to come by, but the few films that do emerge are for a select audience that usually sees them in film festivals. Ivan Nichev however, has become a name associated with great Bulgarian filmmaking since the 1970s. They have withstood the test of time thanks to their unique qualities that are enjoyable by everyone and are still admired to this day.

Ivan Nichev was born in 1940 in the town of Kazanlak, Bulgaria. He went on to study film at the film academy in Lodz, Poland. He graduated in 1967 and made his first film, *A Human Heart*, in 1972. During the making of the film, he was forced to contain his creativity so as to not offend anyone due to the strong communist presence in the country at the time. Even though his films deal with a variety of topics including politics, war, and the struggle for perfection, they all go back to one thing: human emotion.

Even with a bleak backdrop in most of his films, Nichev manages to create characters that radiate positivity in one way or another. They are survivors of an era riddled with terrible moments in European history such as the two World Wars, the Holocaust, and a dark period of communism. He went on to direct 16 films in over 30 years. These are some of his finest works.

### **Stars in Her Hair, Tears in Her Eyes** Premiere April 1<sup>st</sup> 9:00 PM ET/ PT

**Starring:** Peter Slabakov, Katya Paskaleva, Tatyana Lolova, Nikolai Binev  
**Directed by:** Ivan Nichev  
**Year:** 1977  
**Original title:** Zvezdi v kosite, salzi v ochite  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Runtime:** 110 minutes



*Shining in the spotlight has its ups and downs for a woman in love with theater: Stars in Her Hair, Tears in Her Eyes - with an introduction by the director, Ivan Nichev*

### Synopsis

A traveling theatrical group at the beginning of 20th century arrives in a small town, comprised of several families, an eccentric student, and an anarchist all united by their love for theatre. The troupe decides to present a performance of Shakespeare's Othello when all of a sudden, Desdemonda, one of the performers, falls ill. A local teacher fills in for her role instead. She is successful and joins the troupe. The young woman travels with them along the dusty country roads and never gives up. Step by step, she becomes an exceptional actress and assumes the role of leader through the troupe's complex life. United by their common fate, the actors go through the joys and disappointments of their pioneering educative mission together.

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## About "Stars in the Hair, Tears in the Eyes" and the theatre in your films

Part of the answer is connected with the beginning of my career. Since childhood I have been with the actors and their destiny. The second reason to enter into the world of theatre and art was my way to escape from contemporary subjects during socialism. I have done my best to be as far as possible from the society at the time. Having in mind that we were "inspired" to participate in the political processes.

I escaped to a territory where there were no party secretaries, no party meetings, nothing from the politics I didn't care about...That is why the territory of the theatre, of the ballet, of art I was more self-assured and it was closer to what I wanted to tell. It was a salvation from the didactic cinema, which was ruling at that time. Being part of the propaganda institution of the government and obliged to fulfill certain tasks.

I found my rescue island in such subjects on this territory and it became part of me and I still keep on living there until now.

## Black Swans

Premiere April 8<sup>th</sup> 9:00 PM ET/ PT

**Starring:** Diana Raynova, Zornitza Mladenova and Dorotea Toncheva  
**Directed by:** Ivan Nichev  
**Year:** 1984  
**Original title:** Chernite lebedi  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Runtime:** 102 minutes

*A ballerina's quest for perfection becomes an obsession that takes over her life: Black Swans - with an introduction by the director, Ivan Nichev*

## Synopsis

A ballet dancer tries as hard as she can but no matter how much effort she puts into it, finds out that she will never be able to play the part of the White Swan - Odeta - in Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* and she will never be the prima ballerina in the ballet company. No matter how discouraged she gets, she becomes obsessed with perfecting her talent with even more persistence.

I have a very special feeling for all the characters and the protagonist, Violeta, of *The Black Swans*. It is much more interesting to tell about them than the stars the leads the ballet play who are always in the focus of journalists and critics. What we were going to do in an orchestra of a ballet without the corps de ballet. Without the small swans in the background of the main character, but the efforts of all those people have to be respected. Still I have in mind how hard it is to bare all the failures they have to undergo physiologically in order to continue to be second-third, even fourth plan. I understand it perfectly being in a similar position too.

If I need to tell about the darkest parts of life, for example the life of a murderer for example. I always said I am ready to cry for him not only accuse, to make efforts to understand him, why he reached that point, than to judge easily or to help in hanging him.

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## Ivan and Alexandra Premiere April 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00 PM ET/ PT

**Starring:** Kliment Corbadziev, Simeon Savov and  
Monika Budjonova  
**Directed by:** Ivan Nichev  
**Year:** 1989  
**Original title:** Ivan i Aleksandra  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Runtime:** 80 minutes



*A young boy and girl become closer after false accusations tear the girl's family apart: Ivan and Alexandra - with an introduction by the director, Ivan Nichev*

### Synopsis

Set in 1952, a year before Stalin's death and a time when even children were being corrupted, young Ivan was a member of the children's communist organization. In order to look good in front of the organization and possibly win his classmate Alexandra's heart, he invents a story about guns and bombs found in a cave and a possible terrorist plot. They believe that Alexandra's father was behind the plot and he is sent to a labor camp. When Alexandra is ostracized by society, Ivan is the only one who openly stands by her side.

It is a film about my generation. Part of my biography.

It is a film about my generation. About the fate of those boys and girls born during the war that happened to be living in the so called socialism. Difficult years it is easy to make countdowns now but when I made the film no one could imagine the wall I have behind me will ever fall and we can now re-enter in a free civilized world.

It was in competition in Berlin in 1988 and when I was interviewed by the Finnish television, I said we have some hope that the wall between the west and East Berlin will fall. A colleague warned me that these words could have bad consequence for me. Thank God it didn't because it turned out that the wall we all thought could never disappear collapsed. Freedom came with lots of other problems but still we have entered a civilized society as members of the EU.

Dear viewers of Eurochannel, you are going to see a film about the fifties and the young people living in a so called "socialist camp".

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## After The End of The World Premiere April 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 PM ET/ PT

**Starring:** Stefan Danailov, Katerina Didaskalou and Vassil Mihajlov  
**Directed by:** Ivan Nichev  
**Year:** 1999  
**Original title:** Sled kraja na sveta  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Runtime:** 109 minutes



*Forty years after they first fell in love, a Jewish man and Armenian woman reflect on their past, present, and future together*

### Synopsis

It's been forty years since Albert Cohen-Berto last visited his home city of Plovdiv. When he returns, he reconnects with the love of his life, Araxi. They revisit their childhood after so many years of communist rule. The political and family struggles, he being Jewish and she Armenian, shaped their youth and now must figure out how to make their future work.

## Journey to Jerusalem Premiere April 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00 PM ET/ PT

**Starring:** Elena Petrova, Aleksandr Morfov and Vasil Vasilev-Zueka  
**Directed by:** Ivan Nichev  
**Year:** 2003  
**Original title:** Patuvane kam Yerusalim  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Runtime:** 112 minutes



*Escaping the Nazis takes an unexpected turn for two children alone in the middle of WWII:  
Journey to Jerusalem - with an introduction by the director, Ivan Nichev*

### Synopsis

Two German-Jewish children escaping the Nazis during World War Two face an unprecedented tragedy when their uncle dies during the journey. Luckily, they come across a traveling theatrical troupe who takes them in and helps them reach their relatives in Palestine.

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In "Journey to Jerusalem" I'm telling the story of two kids. It's a true story told by a man working in the railways he couldn't tell what exactly happened to the kids after they were found at a Sofia railway station. Fleeing from Germany escaping from the Nazis... I gathered all the possible materials for the ships sailing from the Black Sea ports to the promised land saving Jews from West Europe. Of course, I have used my imagination as it is inevitable in a feature film.

The whole time I did my best to navigate towards the end of the film wishing that the two kids were saved and to be living a new life after the war... The bitter truth is that very few survived the ship was bombed... I believe in art which is giving hope.

Dear viewers, if someone of you finds in the fates of these children something from his own memories, I'll be glad if the film touches your souls. About the salvation from the most horrible act in our world of the last century, Nazism; what we call today a Holocaust and genocide hoping it will never happen again.

**Ivan Nichev - An interview**  
**Premiere April 15<sup>th</sup> 10:30 PM ET/ PT**

### Synopsis

Eurochannel flew to Bulgaria to meet with director Ivan Nichev. From Sofia to Plovdiv, we revisited the locations of his most famous films with him. In this 30 minute special program, the acclaimed director ] discusses everything about his career, his movies, and cinema. The program is a fascinating talk with one of the greatest directors alive, a must see for movie lovers.

## French Tales & Novels from the 19th century

France



*Great pieces of 19<sup>th</sup> century literature come to life in these film adaptations.*

What better to inspire films than stories by some of history's greatest writers? This program marries literary masterpieces with the magic of the 7th art.

Eurochannel offers a journey through time in search of treasured French literature of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The most illustrious writers are present: Victor Hugo, Honoré de Balzac, Emile Zola, etc..., adapted, in costume, with the set and the music of that era by one of the best French directors and portrayed by the greatest French actors such as Marie-Anne Chazel, Didier Bourdon, Samuel Le Bihan, and Régis Laspalès.

Enjoy classic humor in the French 19<sup>th</sup> century spirit! When the greatest French authors of the 19<sup>th</sup> century meet the best French actors of today, it creates a stunning production you will not want to miss.

### Chapter 5 - The Little Old Men of Batignolles Premiere April 6<sup>th</sup> 7PM ET / 9:00 PM PT

Director	Claude Chabrol
Cast	Pierre Arditi, Manuel Le Lièvre, Bernard Blancan
Country	France
Length	60 minutes
Genre	History/Thriller
Adapted from	<i>The Little Old Man of Batignolles</i> by Emile Gaboriau
Original title	Le petit vieux des Batignolles
Year	2009



### Synopsis

In 1876, Godeuil, a young medical apprentice lives in the center of Paris. Mr. Mechinet, his neighbor, is pleasant but mysterious. The latter lives with his wife, Caroline, a pretty and clever woman who occasionally wears some weird clothes and seems to have an uncommon lifestyle. One night, Mr. Mechinet knocks at Godeuil's door and asks for some help to heal his wound. Then, he brings him to a crime scene: a little old man has been murdered in the Batignolles neighborhood!



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## Trivia

- One of the most famous French directors, **Claude Chabrol**, is the director of this episode. He was a self proclaimed Alfred Hitchcock fanatic and specialized in themes such as assassination, obsession, adultery, and cheating in relationships. His career spanned over fifty years before his death in 2010. His films are prominently featured on Eurochannel.

## Chapter 6 - For a Night of love Premiere April 13<sup>th</sup> 7PM ET / 9:00 PM PT

Director	Gérard Jourd'hui
Cast	Mathilda May, Thierry Frémont, Philippe Bas
Country	France
Length	60 minutes
Genre	Drama
Adapted from	<i>For a Night of Love</i> by <i>Emile Zola</i>
Original title	<i>Pour une nuit d'amour</i>
Year	2009



## Synopsis

A shy young postal worker, Julien, likes playing the flute during the night. One night, Thérèse de Marsanne - his beautiful, rich, and haughty neighbor- turns on the light from her room and stays listening to the young boy from her window. Julien falls in love with her but she ignores him until one night when she needs his help. The story tells how far he will go for a night of love.

## Biography

### Emile Zola (1840 - 1902)

Emile Zola is one of the most popular French novelists in France and abroad, whose stories are one of the most adapted in films. He is considered the literary head of the school of naturalism. His largest work, *Les Rougon-Macquart*, is a twenty novel cycle, which describes the life of a French family over five generations under the Second Empire (1851-1870).

Zola was inspired by the work of Balzac (1799 - 1850), a French writer whose works were adapted in another episode of *French Tales & Novels from the XIX Century*. Balzac wrote *La Comédie Humaine*, a romantic cycle providing a comprehensive picture of society at the time through various characters reappearing throughout the novel. The links between the characters are more professional relationships. Zola inspired himself by this project modifying it.

*Les Rougon-Macquart* tells the story of a French family over five generations. The links between the characters, and therefore the theme of the novel cycle, are not professional relationships anymore, but family links: hereditary links. The cycle presents relationships that are not accidental (work relations are basically relationships of circumstance), but deeper (family, heredity).

Indeed, heredity was one of the major scientific themes of the time. Zola wanted to produce a work that was "more scientific than social" as opposed to the work of Balzac. "Heredity has its laws, like gravity" he said, "I want to explain how a family behaves in a society, flourishing to give birth from ten to twenty persons



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who appear at first glance, profoundly different, but that the analysis shows them intimately interrelated to each others."

For this major science project, Zola imagined new ways of working that would create a new literary movement which became naturalism. Zola is indeed the one who implemented the methods of science into literature. He rejected the style full of effects and "superfluous words" of romantic literature. He wants a clear language, simple, precise, describing reality as accurately as possible. Having begun his career in journalism, he recommended all young writers to do the same if they want to acquire a concise and effective writing style.

He invented work methods that were not far from contemporary American writers, including TV series. First, Zola documented widely, making trips, talking with people, taking notes. On the other hand, he worked upstream of his work, establishing each novel before actually writing it with a narrative line, detailed files on each character, architectural plans of where he wanted to install the action, and considerations about the intensity that he intended to give each chapter. Critics laughed at those methods, new at the time. They are now the basis of contemporary world literature.

Zola did not lack understanding for the value of money. As a student, he experienced years of abject poverty. Later, working in publishing, he understood the interest for the publisher as well as the writer. Writing in serials is better.

His novel *L'Assommoir* (1877) was the book that brought him success. Success which must be nuanced as his naturalist writing was considered shocking at the time, especially for the detailed and documented focus on alcoholism, which is the main hereditary disease that affects the Macquart family. During his lifetime, Zola experienced immense popularity abroad while being strongly criticized in his own country.

### Chapter 7 - Boubouroche Premiere April 20<sup>th</sup> 7PM ET / 9:00 PM PT

Cast	Julie Depardieu, Bruno Putzulu, Eric Berger
Director	Laurent Heynemann
Country	France
Length	60 minutes
Genre	Drama
Adapted from	<i>Boubouroche</i> by Georges Courtelines
Original title	Boubouroche
Year	2009



### Synopsis

In 1882 Paris, you can find Eugene Boubouroche every day at 6 PM in the "Les trois fiacres café", playing cards with the café's other regulars. They take advantage of his kindness and generosity. They dub him "mug", but they are not the only ones to make a fool of him. Adele, a young widow, is a close friend of Boubouroche, but she also keeps deciding the way he has to live.

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### Chapter 8 - The Three Low Masses Premiere April 27<sup>th</sup> 7PM ET / 9:00 PM PT

Director	Jacques Santamaria
Cast	Patrick Bosso, Guillaume Carcaud, Christian Bujeau
Country	France
Length	60 minutes
Genre	Drama
Adapted from	<i>The Three Low Masses</i> by Alphonse Daudet
Original title	Les Trois Messes Basses
Year	2009



### Synopsis

In 1864 in the French Alps, Timoleon tells Alphonse Daudet an unbelievable but truly Provencal story... In Christmas 1763, the Marquis de Trinquelage is composing an ode. In the meantime, the Castle Kitchen is in the turmoil. Master Bugasse keeps an eye on the truffled turkeys. Don Balagère is running everywhere, he has to finish the living crèche and not be disturbed by the New Years Eve's preparations, since he's fond of food.

## KDD -Season 2

Germany



*Eurochannel brings back the cops of Berlin in the second season of  
KDD: Berlin Crime Squad*

The success of **KDD - Berlin Crime Squad** (2007), the second season of this thrilling German crime drama is on Eurochannel. Five new episodes of the series promise to leave you at the edge of your seat.

This crime drama, a staple of the genre, details the tireless efforts of the city's most dedicated and hardworking squad of officers and peacekeepers. Not only does it explore the complex, tumultuous cases that keep these cops working around the clock, the series digs deeper, exploring the relationships, psychology, and personal traumas of the two leading team members. The inner dilemmas and personal drama of these two cops are often just as intense as the crimes themselves, and they struggle to battle both the injustice that surrounds them in the city, as well as their own fears and limitations. Theirs is a battle against crime, but also failure and capitulation.

Led by Helmut Enders (Götz Schubert), the team is formed by recovering alcoholic Jan Haroska (Manfred Zapatka), rich boy Leo Falckenstein (Barnaby Metschurat), Turkish Mehmet Kilic (Billey Demirtas), thoughtful María Hernández (Jödis Triebel), experimenter Sylvia Henke (Melika Foroutan) and the coordinator -and girlfriend of Enders-, Cristina Bender (Saskia Vester).

Acclaimed by critics and the public for its realism, the rhythm and the complex human relations it showcases, the series has taken home awards at the Bavarian Television Award and the German Television Awards.

Cast	Götz Schubert, Manfred Zapatka, Melika Foroutan, Saskia Vester
Seasons	3
Episodes	28
Created by	Kathrin Breininger, Orkun Ertener
Country	Germany
Duration	60'
Genre	Thriller, Drama
Year	2008
Original title	KDD - Kriminaldauerdienst



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### KDD: Berlin Crime Squad - Season 2 - Episode 7 Premiere April 6<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM ET/PT

#### Synopsis

Haroska returns to service. His first case leads Leo and him to a retirement home, where there have been a number of mysterious deaths. The truth they discovered is sadder than they could imagine. Kristin is about to get guardianship of Enes. When the team is called to investigate a burglary at a secondary school and one of the culprits is brought to the police station, Kristin experiences bitter disappointment. Helmut Enders cannot believe it: The people behind the betting mafia of Igor Stosic did not show up to the manipulated game.

### KDD: Berlin Crime Squad - Season 2 Episode 8 Premiere April 13<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM ET/PT

#### Synopsis

Armin Ponew is desperate. Because of Bob Kwahne's suicide, he has lost all of his money and now has immense debts with Igor Stoschek. He desperately seeks help from his old friend Wolfgang Jacobi and blackmails him. Jacobi, the big winner of the election to the House of Representatives does not need these kinds of troubles. He is the most promising candidate for the post of Minister of the Interior and consoles Ponew. Enders has learned the truth of Stieglitz and is now stunned: In the belief that he was doing the right thing, he played into Jacobi's hands, the mastermind behind the incidents at the Gendarmenmarkt?

### KDD: Berlin Crime Squad - Season 2 Episode 9 Premiere April 20<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM ET/PT

#### Synopsis

Igor sits in custody. Enders' part of the deal is therefore fulfilled. Now he is waiting for Ponew, who in return will help to convict Jacobi. Enders has no idea that Ponew is already in Jacobi's pocket. Haroska takes care of Rüya Deniz, a cheerful woman who runs a center that supports the integration of migrants. For a group of women who she has taught to ride bikes she demands police protection and the facilitation of a bicycle test, something Keitel accepts to do. Maria found out that she's pregnant. As if this wasn't hard enough to bear, she must still find out who the father is. When a woman appears at the police station and files a charge of rape, she identifies the rapist as Mehmet.

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**KDD: Berlin Crime Squad - Season 2 Episode 10**  
**Premiere April 27<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM ET/PT**

### Synopsis

The big day of Jacobi's appointment as Minister of the Interior in Berlin is here. Enders is forced to improvise together with Stieglitz, Haroska and Leo how to confront the corrupt and dangerous politician. They receive unexpected help from the Land Office of Criminal Investigation-official Carla Wagner, who in the past had spied upon Ponew and Enders. For Kristin the day begins with a shock: Behrens stands with Enes' birth mother in front of the door and wants to take her son with her. Kristin loses ground when she recognizes Behrens' true face. A bombing at the Employment Agency demand Mehmeds and Sylvias full action, especially since a lot of job seekers have said to have committed the attack.

# Greatest Battles of the Spanish Civil War

Spain



Premiere April 8<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM ET/ PT

*A documentary series on one of the most horrific conflicts in European history.*

Occurring between the two World Wars, the Spanish Civil War is sometimes forgotten. This series of documentaries will take you deep inside some of the battles that made this war so impactful on European history.

The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) is remarkable in many aspects. It was an opportunity for anarchists to show their bravery and for the Spanish people to choose their destiny by experimenting with utopian socialist organizations. Considered by many to be first modern war, the war marked the invention of tactics and techniques that were used during World War Two. For the first time, the two major worldviews, fascism and communism, clashed. Sometimes dramatic, but usually epic and sublime, the Spanish Civil War remains an important moment in military history.

### The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939)

In 1936, Spain was politically divided into two camps: the National Front and the Popular Front. The Front National was a conservative party, with nationalist and fascist ideas, while the Popular Front was a Republican party, with socialists, communists, and anarchists' ideas. Because of the opposition of those two camps, a huge conflict led to the bloodshed of thousands of Spaniards and became the forerunner of World War II.

The conflict began in 1936 with the elections won by the Popular Front ("Frente Popular" in Spanish). The National Front believed the Popular Front was attempting to bring about a communist revolution. The Popular Front feared a *coup d'État* of the National Front. The fears of the National Front were doubled due to the participation in the Popular Front's anarchists. They usually refrained from these things but this time, they decided to support the Popular Front because the party promised to release all their political prisoners.

The Popular Front took power of the new government, but their actions were uncertain. Because of dissension within the majority that included different ideologies: republicanism, socialism, communism and anarchism, the promised reforms were slow in coming. Suddenly, people began to implement reforms themselves: collectivization of land and factories sometimes through violence. Community leaders and industrialists, who have no confidence in the Popular Front maintaining order, were scared. Workers' militias and nationalists competed. The country was falling into chaos.

The assassination by Republican militias of the Deputy and Head of the monarchist right, José Calvo Sotelo, triggered the civil war on July 13th, 1936. The *coup d'État* began July 17th, 1936 when Franco, a general in the army, took control of the Spanish army in Morocco. The government was attempting reconciliation by proposing a compromise but it failed because neither the Republican side nor the Nationalist side wanted to compromise.



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Some regions fell quickly into the hands of nationalists lead by Franco: Navarre, Castile, Galicia, a part of Andalucía and Aragon. Madrid, Valencia and Barcelona were able to remain in the hands of Republicans. After one week, Spain was divided into two equal areas: one in the hands of the nationalists, the other at the hands of the Republicans that kept the richest and most industrious regions.

The civil war became the first fruits of World War II: the Nationalist army was supported by two powerful countries, Germany and Italy; they supplied the Nationalists with arms while the Republican army had the support of Soviet Russia. Help from Germany and Italy allowed Franco's troops to pass the Strait of Gibraltar on August 5th to join the rest of the army. They progressed to the north. Republicans counter attacked by forming columns that they used to launch an attack on Nationalists territories: the most famous of these was the "Durruti Column", composed of fighters and anarchists lead by General Durruti (**Episode 1: The Battle of Badajoz**).

Franco arrived at the gates of Madrid but preferred diverting his troops to the south to lend a hand to Alcazar's insurgents (**Episode 2: The Battle of Toledo**). When he returned to the gates of Madrid in November 1936, Republicans had time to organize their defense (**Episode 3 and 4: The Battle of Madrid**). The fight was hard but the city was good and in March 1937, Franco had to acknowledge that he has failed.

He could not stand the failure so he decided to tackle the Republican resistance in the Basque Country and Asturias. The fight progressed into the Santander region which fell on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Asturias capitulated on October 17<sup>th</sup> making Nationalists forces the masters of the entire Atlantic coast (**Episodes 5-9**).

Among the Republican troops' counter-offensives, two were remarkable. The first was in the city of Teruel which led to one of the fiercest fights of the Civil War. In it, the Republicans took the town from the hands of Nationalists in the early days of 1937 but lost control after less than a month (**Episode 10: The Battle of Teruel**). Another was the battle of Ebro, which began July 25th 1938 but was also a failure (**Episodes 11 and 12: the Battle of Ebro**).

Therefore, Catalonia was easily conquered by the Nationalists in February 1939 (**Episode 13: The Battle of Cataluna**). Shortly after, Madrid too was conquered by the Nationalists (**Episode 14: The Fall of Madrid**). On April 1st 1939, Franco declared the war to be over.

<b>Director</b>	Sofia Velilla
<b>Country</b>	Spain
<b>Length</b>	15 x 30'
<b>Genre</b>	Historical



**The Battle of Badajoz - Episode 1**  
**Premiere April 8<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM ET/ PT**

### Synopsis

The first major battle of the Spanish Civil War, the Battle of Badajoz is well-known because of the repression that came after the victory of the Nationalist troops. The massacre at Badajoz is still one of the most controversial and most sensitive events of the Spanish Civil War.

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### **The Battle of Toledo - Episode 2** **Premiere April 15<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM ET/ PT**

#### **Synopsis**

Franco abandons Madrid to come to the aid of the insurgents in the city of Toledo. The siege of Alcazar takes two months. When they are released, what remains of the city looks like a field of ruins.

### **The Battle of Madrid I - Episode 3** **Premiere April 22<sup>nd</sup> 8:00 PM ET/ PT**

#### **Synopsis**

The Battle of Madrid is the most violent episode of the siege in Madrid, during which Franco attempted to conquer the capital. Supported by the Italian expeditionary force and German panzer tanks, he launched his troops towards the city. The battle lasted from October 1936 to March 1939.

### **The Battle of Madrid II - Episode 4** **Premiere April 29<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM ET/ PT**

#### **Synopsis**

Having failed to take Madrid, Franco ordered the bombing of the city, ready to do anything rather than "leave the city at the hands of Marxists." This bombardment on the civilian population - one of the first in history - was strongly criticized by the international press.

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**Michel Sardou**

Premiere April 10<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM ET/PT

France



*The French star Michel Sardou is on Eurochannel*

Eurochannel offers you a retrospective of the singer with live performances of his concerts in Paris Bercy. You will listen to *La Maladie d'Amour*, *Je vais t'aimer*, *Comme d'habitude* or *Le Chanteur de Jazz*. In our special Michel Sardou, you will also discover his last song *Être une femme* and an interview with the singer.

**Genre**

Rock

**Famous Songs**

*La Maladie d'Amour*, *Je vais t'aimer*,  
*Comme d'habitude*

**Country**

France



**Michel Sardou**

Premiere April 10<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM ET/PT

### Biography

True star of the French music since the '70s, Michel Sardou has released 23 albums and 300 songs. He has sold over 320 million records. His most famous songs are *La Maladie d'amour* and *Les Lacs du Connemara*. In France, Michel Sardou has continued to create controversy throughout his career. It all began in 1967. The United States was in the middle of the Vietnam War. Following the departure of France from NATO, the relation between the two countries froze. France experienced an anti-Americanism wave. Michel Sardou chose that time to openly proclaim his support and love to the United States with his song *Les Ricains* (the Yankees). He felt that without the help of the U.S., France would all be German: "You would all be in Germany / To speak about I do not know what / To welcome whomever."

His reference to the German occupation period, still recent in 1967, created a controversy. The song *Les Ricains* irritated France. General Charles de Gaulle, President of the French Republic, formally advised radio to not broadcast the song. The radios were all controlled by the state. Michel Sardou was to be immediately censored from the air. Either way, he managed a conspicuous entrance.

In the 1970s, he showed his stance against the feminist movement in his song *Villes de Solitude*: "I want to rape women / To force them to admire me / Want to drink all their tears / And go up in smoke." With the song *Le Temps des Colonies*, he created controversy once again. He was accused of representing colonial France as a great period for the colonies.

The most sensational controversy came in 1976 with the song *Je suis pour* (I am for). He took an official position on the death penalty which had been abolished a few years ago in France. Then, the entire French press turned against him. He was now considered a populist and conservative singer. Michel Sardou always denied any ideological or political connotations in his songs: "To me, they were only songs. No professions of faith or politics."

## Eurochannel Programming Highlights April 2011

Michel Sardou had a tumultuous private life. He was married three times. Since 1998, he has been married to the former editor-in-chief of *Elle* magazine, Anne-Marie Perier.

The biggest tragedy of his life was the 1999 gang rape of his youngest daughter Cynthia: "It's very difficult to have a child with all she has suffered and what she saw. The depression that followed, the damage that ensued, the treatment she received that was heavy, I was not able to handle this. I'm very clumsy." His relationship with his daughter will be forever changed by this tragedy. In her book *Appelez-moi Li Lou*, Cynthia Sardou publicly criticized her father's absence after the tragedy. He dealt more with his career than with his family. The two of them no longer speak to each other.

Despite the drama and controversies, Michel Sardou has always had popular success in France. He is now part of the French music heritage with Charles Aznavour, Johnny Halliday and Mireille Mathieu.

## Eurochannel Programming Highlights April 2011

# U2

Premiere April 17<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM ET/  
PT

Ireland



*The Irish band that changed the world is touring the world on their 360 Tour and finally coming to Eurochannel*

U2's impact on music and society is unprecedented for a music group but they have become the most influential rock band of our time. Coming from humble beginnings, they became one of the most well-known and respected bands during the '80s. They decided to put their fame to good use and became active in many causes relating to poverty, disease, and social injustice.

Eurochannel's exclusive program presents a retrospective of the band's success through their greatest hits. A combination of music videos and live performances of such hits as *Sunday Bloody Sunday*, *I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For*, and *Beautiful Day* will remind you why the band is one of the greatest in the world.

<b>Members</b>	Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton, Larry Mullen, Jr.
<b>Genre</b>	Rock
<b>Famous Songs</b>	<i>Sunday Bloody Sunday</i> , <i>Beautiful Day</i> , <i>One</i>
<b>Country</b>	Ireland



# U2

Premiere April 17<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM ET/ PT

### Biography:

Formed in 1976 by schoolmates Larry Mullen Jr, Paul Hewson (Bono), and David Evans (The Edge), U2 had a rocky start. They changed their name a few times and lost and gained band members just as quickly. Eventually they settled on a final line up and began playing local gigs. They won a contest in Limerick, Ireland with a prize of £500 to record a demo. The demo was eventually heard by CBS Ireland and the band took off.

After two well received but pretty unknown albums, U2 released *War* in 1983 with the hit songs *New Years Day* and *Sunday Bloody Sunday*. The album catapulted them to superstardom and *New Years Day* was an international hit, their first outside of the UK and Ireland. Throughout the '80s, U2 continued to create influential music that led Rolling Stone to call them "The Band of The '80s" in 1985. They stayed under the radar for most of the 1990s but returned to what made them great with 2000's *All That You Can't Leave Behind*.

U2 is as well known for their music as they are for their social activism. They participated in Band Aid which produced the single *Do They Know It's Christmas?* and led to more charity work. They have performed for Live Aid, Amnesty International, and even Greenpeace. Bono has created various organizations, most famously Product Red, DATA, and the ONE Campaign to make poverty history. The ONE Campaign was named after U2's song, *One*.

## Eurochannel Programming Highlights April 2011

The band continues to shape the landscape of music and charitable giving. Their quest to be the greatest band in the world will continue for many years, as the band shows no signs of ceasing to create music and trying to change the world. In 2011, they are continuing their 360 tour, named as such because it allows a 360 seating configuration. It is the largest concert stage ever built.

### Trivia:

- *Rolling Stone* ranked U2 at number 22 in its list of the "100 Greatest Artists of All Time"
- U2 are tied with Stevie Wonder in having won the most Grammy Awards of any artist of contemporary music with a total of 22 awards.
- They won a Best Original Song Golden Globe for *The Hands That Built America*, a song they wrote for the Martin Scorsese film *Gangs of New York*. The song was also nominated for an Oscar but lost to Eminem's *Lose Yourself*.
- Their Super Bowl halftime performance in 2002 has been called the greatest Super Bowl halftime show of all time by Sports Illustrated.
- U2's tour had to be postponed in 2010 after Bono was injured. They rescheduled the dates for 2011.
- US Tour Dates: May 21 - Denver, CO; May 24 - Salt Lake City, UT; June 4 - Seattle, WA; June 17 and 18 - Anaheim, CA; June 22 - Baltimore, MD; June 26 - East Lansing, MI; June 29 - Miami, FL; July 2 - Nashville, TN; July 5 - Chicago, IL
- March 25th in Santiago de Chile, Chile; March 30th, April 2nd and April 3rd in Buenos Aires, Argentina; April 9th, April 10th and April 13th in Sao Paulo, Brazil; May 11th, May 14th, May 15th in Mexico City, Mexico



## Eurochannel Programming Highlights April 2011

### Anna Pihl

Premiere April 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 PM ET/ PT

Denmark



*Meet Anna Pihl, the mother who starts her life over by becoming a tough cop.*

In the new series **Anna Pihl**, we follow the life of a single mom who is doing what's best for her family in an untraditional way: by joining the police force. The series gives audiences the unusual story of a 21<sup>st</sup> century woman who fights crime every day while still being there for her son.

Anna Pihl (Charlotte Munck) is 31 and has reached a point in her life where things needed to change. After going through a tough divorce and trying to raise a son, Anna really needed to start over. She wanted what was best for herself and Mikkel, her four year old son. Most women would have gotten a job at a store or an office but Anna is not like most women. To her, the right decisions were to move in with her gay best friend, Jan, and join the most dangerous police department in Denmark.

When Anna puts on her uniform, she is not to be messed with. As a rookie cop with Copenhagen's Bellahøj Police Department, she deals with everything from robberies to gang violence on an everyday basis. She and the other police officers on her team are always there to enforce the law. They are all hardworking heroes who dedicate their lives to bettering society. Once she takes that uniform off, Anna goes home and dedicates her life to the other love in her life, her son.

Anna is a new type of heroine. She puts all her energy into keeping her city and her family safe. No other actress could have pulled off the role of Anna other than Charlotte Munck, whose portrayal of the tough, crime fighting mother is believable and inspiring.

Starring	Charlotte Munck, Paw
Seasons	Henriksen
Episodes	3
Written by	30
Genre	Adam Price
Country	Crime, Drama
Year	Denmark
Original Title	2006
	Anna Pihl



### Anna Pihl - Episode 1

Premiere April 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 PM ET/ PT

#### Synopsis

Anna Pihl is a new police officer at Bellahøj Police Station. Here, in one of the most populated and busy police districts in the country, she spends her first day of work - and it turns out to be anything but a boring Monday. Out on her first patrol, Anna gets involved in a case about a restraining order among spouses - and Anna gets into a fight, that sends two men to the ER. Was it Anna's fault? Did she overreact or was it unavoidable? The case doesn't stop there, and soon the new big city cop is involved in than she ever dreamt of, and the consequences are dire.

## Eurochannel Programming Highlights April 2011

**Anna Pihl - Episode 2**  
**Premiere April 27<sup>th</sup> 10:00 PM ET/ PT**

### Synopsis

Anna Pihl's regular partner, Mikala, is still in the hospital after the knife attack so Anna is given a new partner at Bellahøj Police Station, a rule-bound and rigid officer named Kim - known among colleagues as KGB. The two are very different, and Anna and Kim's different world views are put to a test, when they are called to an immigrant family, where the daughter has been beaten up.

# Eurochannel Programming Highlights April 2011

**Puggy**

Premiere April 24<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM ET/ PT

**Belgium**



*Belgium's freshest band, Puggy, enters the world stage on Eurochannel*

They have a strange name but not a strange sound. Puggy is the newest group out of Belgium. Their sound is a combination of two well known French groups: Phoenix and Air. Their infectious songs will have you singing along and wishing for more. Eurochannel invites you to discover music videos from their latest album: *When You Know* and *I Do*.

The three members of the band were recently invited to *Taratata*, a famous TV music show on French television to promote their latest album. In 2011, the band was featured on the soundtrack for the French movie *Largo Winch II (The Burma Conspiracy)* starring Sharon Stone, with the song *Father and Son*. This is only the beginning for Puggy, the band you can expect to hear everywhere pretty soon as their popularity continues to grow.

<b>Members</b>	Matthew Irons, Descamps Romain and Egil Franzen
<b>Genre</b>	Pop, Indie, Acoustic
<b>Famous songs</b>	<i>When You Know</i> , <i>I Do</i>
<b>Country</b>	Belgium



## Biography:

Matthew Irons, Descamps Romain and Egil Franzen (known as Ziggy) met each other when they were music students in Antwerp, Belgium. Although all 3 have different nationalities (Matthew is English, Romain is French and Ziggy is Swedish) the band considers itself as Belgian because the group was formed in Brussels in 2005.

They participated in the Reading and the Leeds Festival in England, two of the biggest music festivals in the world. In May 2007, they released their first album, *Dubois Died Today*, on an independent label. From 2007 to 2008, they were the opening act for the band Incubus during their tours in Europe and worldwide.

In 2008, they are honored during the famous *Printemps de Bourges* in France, a music festival that showcases new talent. In 2010, they returned with a new album titled *Something You Might Like*. The single *When You Know* was released off this album.

## Trivia:

- The reason Puggy became Incubus's opening act came from a technical problem in Belgium at the Couleur Café Festival they participated in. They performed in the first half, but the festival organizers were forced to cancel the rest of festival due to a fire. On television, only their part of the performance is broadcast. Incubus saw them on television at the time and fell under their spell.