

20 years after Soviete Union Collapse

Documentary programme



Is It Easy To Be Young?, dir. Juris Podnieks, 80', Digi Beta, 1986

Several young fellows wind up on trial after smashing a train carriage as they are returning from the rock concert, others become examples of "punks" who view Soviet reality as "upside down". A sixteen-year-old girl accused of stealing tries to commit suicide by jumping out a window in a police station. A young man becomes an amateur filmmaker making a Kafkaesque avant-garde film, while another youth becomes a follower of the Hare Krishnas.



Is It Easy to Be...After 10 Years, dir. Antra Cilinska, 64', Digi Beta, 1998

It is extremely interesting to find out how the new economic system after the fall of the Soviet regime in Latvia has changed the lives of the persons filmed 10 years ago. All these young people all of a sudden found themselves in a completely different world, which just started to explore the first moments of independence



Is It Easy...? After 20 Years, dir. Antra Cilinska, 80', Digi Beta, 2010

Blue stands for hope.
And we're all steeped in blue.
We're standing in a sea of hope, that's the unknown...
Each must find his own.



In the Shade of the Oak Tree, dir. Ivars Seleckis, 97', 35mm, 2008

Contemplation on the present situation of peasants' life, a story of rural Latvia at the time of entering the European Union, told by six locals. These people – biological farmers, a newcomer German peasant, soy bean enthusiasts, the head of a rural parish – represent different attitudes towards life.



Barricades for Freedom, dir. Antra Cilinska, Raits Valters, 34', Digi Beta, 2001

Freedom for barricades- today it is a myth, but in 1991 it was a reality of national revival. The will of all Baltic countries- Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, showed that there was three civilized nations, who ask to accept their rights. What was this phenomenon? Was it romantic ardency, destiny, conjunction or God's present? Politician, journalist and guardians of barricades discuss this topic in the film.



Us and Them, dir. Antra Cilinska, 60', Digi Beta, 2006

After the establishment of an independent Latvian Republic in 1991, the Russian speaking community began to see themselves as a threatened minority and to depict themselves as oppressed. Where does truth lie? Are there victims? Or is it simply that the idea of integration, for both sides, does not work properly?

