

When: Tuesday 22 May, 6 p.m.

Where: Edinburgh Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Rd, Edinburgh EH3 9BZ

TSAR

Russia, 2009, 123 mins

Directed by Pavel Lungin

Producers: Pavel Lungin, Olga Vasileva, Igor Tolstunov

Screenplay: Aleksei Ivanov, Pavel Lungin

Cinematography: Tom Stern

Starring: Petr Mamonov, Oleg Yankovsky

Music: Yuri Krasavin

This is a multi award-winning director **Pavel Lungin**'s historical drama, telling the violent but fascinating story of the moral conflict between Ivan the Terrible and Metropolitan Filipp.

"Russia lives by myths - one of them is that brutal tyrants are what's best and necessary for Russia and that progress can only be achieved through the spilling of a great deal of blood. [...] Fortunately in our history for every Ivan the Terrible there chanced to be a Fillipp, representing Russia's spiritual life and allowing it to survive." Pavel Lungin



The film begins in the 1560s, a period when Ivan the Terrible was becoming obsessed with finding enemies and his mind was declining into insanity and brutality. At the same time, the all powerful tsar was becoming feverishly religious and repentant. It is at this point that he persuades his old friend Filipp to become Metropolitan of all Russia, the highest position in the Russian church. Filipp aims to stop bloodshed by entering into disputes about the spiritual responsibilities of earthly power.

Lungin has said that he was trying to draw links between 16th century Russia and that of Stalin, by looking at Russia's darkest and most brutal times and considering the most difficult of themes in Russian history, the relationship between power and the people.

'There's no greater sin than to disobey the tsar's will. As it is written, all power comes from God.'

It is a monumental piece of historic drama, with spectacular cinematography by Tom Stern and powerful music by Yuri Krasavin. However, it is not a Hollywood-style blockbuster. 'I'm not trying to rival Spielberg, I just make Russian films', says Lungin.

Pavel Lungin

Internationally celebrated director, producer and screenplay writer, Pavel Lungin's often provocative work offers remarkable insight on human relations. He has directed a number of critically acclaimed films, including his debut Taxi Blues (1990), The Wedding (2000) and The Island (2006). In 2004 he set up his own studio, which creates art house television dramas and documentaries, as well as feature length films.

Tom Stern

Academy Award nominated, Tom Stern is Clint Eastwood's cinematographer of choice. His most notable works have been Mystic River (2003), Million Dollar Baby (2004), Changeling (2008), Gran Torino (2008) and Invictus (2009).

The screening will be introduced by Dr Andrei Rogatchevski, Russian Programme Director at the University of Glasgow, who will also lead a short discussion after the screening on issues raised by the film.

For more information including a trailer click [here](http://russianfilm.blogspot.co.uk/2009/11/pavel-lungin-tsar-trailer-2009.html) [http://russianfilm.blogspot.co.uk/2009/11/pavel-lungin-tsar-trailer-2009.html]

Box Office: <http://www.filmhousecinema.com/tickets/> or tel. 0131 228 2688