

# FACTSHEET

## BEFORE TWILIGHT

European Cinema for Active Ageing



LIGHTS,  
CAMERA,  
ACTION!

65+



<b>Title</b>	<b>JESZCZE NIE WIECZÓR (<i>Before Twilight</i>)</b>
<b>Release date</b>	September 16, 2008
<b>Running time</b>	96'
<b>Director</b>	Jacek Blawut
<b>Country</b>	Poland
<b>Language</b>	Polish
<b>Producer</b>	Anna Mazurkiewicz
<b>Writers</b>	Jacek Blawut, Jacek Piotr Blawut, Stanislaw Józefowicz
<b>Cast</b>	Jan Nowicki as Jerzy, Lech Gwit as Henryk, Stefan Burczyk as Sodolski, Danuta Szafarska as Barbara, Fabian Kiebicz as Fred, Beata Tyszkiewicz as Róża, Maria Białkowska as Zósia, Robert Jurczyga as Czarek.
<b>Genre</b>	Comedy-drama and romance
<b>Awards</b>	Nominated for the Polish Film Awards, 2010: Best Editing (Jacek Blawut and Jaroslaw Kaminski). Winner of the Polish Film Festival, 2008, in two categories: Best Actor (Jan Nowicki) and Special Jury Prize (Jacek Blawut).

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### Plot

Jerzy is an acclaimed Polish actor who enters a retirement home for artists in order to recover from physical exhaustion. However, Jerzy has too much life in him and soon finds the routine of his old actor friends in the retirement home quite boring. He is an old man with a youthful spirit: we see him go out at night to a nightclub, where he drinks and raps, and he tries to insinuate himself on Zosia, the young and blonde kitchen aid. Due to a weird coincidence – the meeting of a large black poodle who follows him from town into the retirement home – he decides to convince the retired artists to embark on a dramatic project: the re-enactment of Goethe's play Faust, with the poodle playing Mephisto. Thanks to the nursing aid Czarek, who is very friendly and tender with the old people of the home, Jerzy comes to realize the dog collar has four commands that force the dog to "perform".

Barbara and her husband, an advanced Alzheimer's and Parkinson's patient, do not take well to the dog and, eventually, Barbara manages to have the poodle removed from the retirement home and sent to a theatre in Weimar, where he actually belonged and from whence he had escaped. The other residents are sad, since they were beginning to like the Faust project, including an old lady in her nineties and Soldolski, twice victim of a heart-attack and presumably with little time to live. He had accepted to play the title role of Faust, at his own recognizance, just for the joy of being an actor again. On the very first meeting of the Faust project, the living room is filled with music and the old actors engage in joyous dancing. So much so, that they have to be dismissed and sent to bed by the loving caretaker and manager of the retirement home for the artists. Jerzy has definitely brought a new life to the institution.

He also manages to bring back the dog, by convincing Czarek and a young rapper who is to appear in the play to go and kidnap him. The production of Faust is resumed and many of the retired actors take part, with gusto, in the rehearsals. Finally, the day comes for the actual performance, which is to take place in a prison. Among the people who stay behind is Fred, now a widow since Barbara has passed away, and Róża, an old flame of Jerzy, who lives in her in the retirement home, without ever wanting to come out. She passes her days receiving the many attentions bestowed on her by Henryk, one of Jerzy's closest friends from the theatre, and collecting roses, given her by Czarek, as well as cigarette lighters. She is a vamp but thinks of herself as a lady.

Once at the prison house, the group of elderly actors and actresses are met with scorn and vulgarity from the inmates, but little by little the recluses begin to appreciate the poignant performance of the old but extremely talented group of artists. Not even Soldolski's lack of memory can stop the show from going on. On realizing that he doesn't remember the lines from Faust, Soldolski embarks on the monologue "to be or not to be" from Shakespeare's Hamlet in order to keep the momentum going, which he succeeds in doing. Ultimately, the performance is a hit with the inmates, who shower the actors, old and new (the rapper, Czarek and Zosia are also part of the cast), with petal roses. Even Róża, unexpectedly shows up at the end, having finally decided to abandon her quarters at the retirement home. Only Fred, unable to live by the theatre again, especially now that Barbara is gone, is miserable and truly an old man, in spirit as well as in body.

Active ageing  
competencies

All the six competencies

# FACTSHEET

## THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL

European Cinema for Active Ageing

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CAMERA,  
ACTION!

65+



Title	<b>THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL</b>
Release date	November 30, 2011
Running time	124'
Director	John Madden
Country	UK, USA, United Arab Emirates
Language	English
Producer	Graham Broadbent and Peter Czernin
Writers	Oli Parker (Based on novel by Deborah Moggach)
Cast	Judi Dench as Evelyn, Tom Wilkinson as Graham Dashwood, Bill Nighy as Douglas Ainslie, Penelope Wilton as Jean Ainslie, Maggie Smith as Muriel Donnelly, Ronald Pickup as Norman, Madge Hardcastle as Celia Imrie, Sonny Kapoor as Patel and Tena Desae as Sunaina.
Genre	Comedy-drama.
Awards	BAFTA – Outstanding British Film; Best Director, British Film, Golden Globe Best Comedy or Musical Film.

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## THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL

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### Plot

A group of elderly British, who have never met before, decide that they will spend their retirement years in a hotel in India.

Each go on personal journeys in which most find some kind of redemption based upon finding a sense of their true selves.

Evelyn will be most at ease, getting to grips with new technology she starts writing a blog on her experience in India and also starts working for a Call Centre, advising them on how to handle English customers. She and Douglas will establish a relationship and eventually Douglas' wife Jean will decide to return home to India, whilst Douglas decides to stay on with Evelyn.

Graham has come to India to try and find his lost love, an Indian whom he left because both felt that being gay in India in their youth was too dangerous. He will find his lost love, now in an arranged marriage where both partners have mutual respect and liking for each other. Having found peace in finally being open about his sexual orientation Graham dies of a heart attack.

Norman finds a new partner and Madge decides to carry on looking for a husband.

Muriel discovers that she can find true friendship in India and ends up as Assistant Manager working with Patel in the hotel. Patel and Sunaina are able to declare their love for each other and will live happily ever after.

There is no real exploration of engagement with the civic society – the focus is upon emotional development and stability.

All have to engage with learning about living in a new and different society – those who are open to the possibilities find happiness in India; those who are not (only one character) return to England. But all have to find a way of engaging with the new world on their own terms.

### Active ageing competencies

All the six competencies.

# FACTSHEET

## EMPTYIES

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<b>Title</b>	<b>VRATNÉ LAHVE (<i>Empties</i>)</b>
<b>Release date</b>	March 8, 2007
<b>Running time</b>	104'
<b>Director</b>	Jan Sverák
<b>Country</b>	Czech Republic
<b>Language</b>	Czech
<b>Producer</b>	Eric Abraham and Jan Sverák
<b>Writers</b>	Zdenek Sverák
<b>Cast</b>	Zdenek Sverák as Josef Takloun, Tatiana Vihelmová as Helenka, Daniela Kolářová as Tkalounová.
<b>Genre</b>	Comedy-drama
<b>Awards</b>	Special Jury Mention for the screenplay at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2007; Audience Award at 2007 Ljubljana International Film Festival; Gold Dolphin award for Best Film at the Festroia International Film Festival in 2008; Audience Award at Cottbus Film Festival of Young East European Cinema 2007; Best Director: Czech Lions 2008; Best Screenplay: Czech Lions 2008; Audience Award: Czech Lions 2008.

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## EMPTYIES

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### Plot

The opening scene takes us for a bus ride. The main character Josef Takloun is trying "to educate" a young man who does not even dream of giving up his seat to him, the much older Josef. This is an illustration of the cultural generational gap older people belonging to a different culture and being used to different types of relationships.

Josef is getting ever more bored by his teaching job. He is dictating a story about an old man, longing for love and understanding. Students are ridiculing him and joking about the story which does not appeal to them and is not worth in their eyes, so they are having lots of derogatory remarks. Their new values, new perspectives are opposing Josef's values and views.

Students often complain about Josef's teaching. There is a daring and shameless student. His father is rich and contributes financial means to the school which he thinks gives him the right to belittle the teachers. The headmistress asks Josef to write a letter of apology to the boy's parents for having been "rude" to him. This is too much to ask the humiliated Josef!

Josef gets home. He is trying to vacuum clean the curtains under his wife's stern eye. On one side, she considers him as being gawky while he is trying to hang the door on its hinges, and on the other side, he is not satisfied with her ironing and simultaneous watching a TV serial. "How can an educated woman watch such a show?," asks Josef bewildered.

Josef is sitting in a park on a bench and a group of older people pass by inviting him to join them. Josef declines their invitation. He does not feel like going with them. He does not agree with their style of life. He does not feel that he belongs to them and to their pointless way of life.

His wife is constantly reproaching him: "You are 65 years old and you are cycling through Prague! What an idea! You will get hit by a street car!" and "You do not like being at home with me!"

Josef has taken on a job of a speedy courier. He cycles through streets thinking about his past life. He has lived many things, but he still does not know what life is all about! What is right and what is wrong. He works as a courier, fine, but everybody is amazed at seeing him working and they all think he is insane. "Are you still working? keep asking his peers surprised.

Josef falls off his bicycle, ends up in somebody's garden and breaks his leg. His career of a speedy courier is at its end. His wife was right. This was not for him.

New generations do not communicate as he would like them to communicate. They do not greet each other. He goes shopping to a market and somebody wants to help him, thinking that he is handicapped. Older people are often thought about as handicapped. No, he does not need helps and is not handicapped!

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### Plot

Back home, Josef finds his daughter moving in with her parents again, crying because her husband has left her. Josef is trying to calm her down. Helenka his daughter is depressed to the point that she believes that the end of the world is close. His step son is a doctor visiting older patients with mental disturbances, senile and with sight impairments, not being able to read-stereotypes about older people's health deficiencies. He is trying to reconcile his step son and his daughter.

Josef's colleagues want him to come back to school. He refuses. Josef takes on a new job. Now he is responsible for empty bottles customers return to the shop where he works. His wife is ashamed knowing that her husband has this kind of job. Moreover, his wife is grumpy talking to their grandson» You see, your grandfather could take you or a bus ride, but he prefers working! She never stops having derogating remarks.

A grumpy man called »The talkative« is introducing Josef to his new job. He is a retired major and is not talkative at all, he is not voluble, he does not use many words, but on the contrary, Josef likes talking to customers, they trust him and he shows great empathy. Older people are poor so he recommends them to buy this and that at a discount price and he even lends them money.

Josef is being asked about death by his grandson. He knows that he will definitely die someday, but not that soon. He is now »in the autumn of his life and old age is still to come, later«. There's a difference between being 65 and being at an advanced age.

Josef's wife is also retired and she teaches German Mr Wasserbauer, a middle aged man. One afternoon she finally wants to pay a visit to Josef in his shop, but she does not find him there. She gets jealous wanting to protect her marriage.

Josef understands the importance of family, He organises a balloon trip for his wife and himself.

Symbolically, they lift up in the air, towards a new way of living together. What counts are family ties?

### Active ageing competencies

All the six competencies.

# FACTSHEET

## GOOD TO GO

European Cinema for Active Ageing



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<b>Title</b>	<b>SREČEN ZA UMRET (<i>Good to go</i>)</b>
<b>Release date</b>	April 4, 2013
<b>Running time</b>	100'
<b>Director</b>	Matevz Luzar
<b>Country</b>	Slovenia
<b>Language</b>	Slovenian
<b>Producer</b>	Diego Zanco
<b>Writers</b>	Matevz Luzar
<b>Cast</b>	Evgen Car as Ivan, Milena Zupančič as Melita, Vladimir Vlaškalič as Marko, Ivo Ban as Vinko, Janja Majzelj as Polona, Juta Kremžar as Brina, Dare Valič as Jože and Ivo Barišič as Viktor.
<b>Genre</b>	Comedy-drama
<b>Awards</b>	15th Slovene Film Festival: Audience Award for the Best Picture, Award Vesna for best Screenplay, Award Vesna for Best Cinematography, Award Vesna for Best Production Design, Award Vesna for Costume Design, Award Vesna for Best Sound; 15th Mumbai Film Festival: Silver Gateway of India – Second Best Film in Category Harmony Celebrate Age; Nominated for Filmfest Hamburg: NDR Young Talent Award.



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### Plot

Ivan (78-80) the main character is travelling by bus through the town. Surrounded by younger people and a girl who is totally indifferent to him and his generation. There is a sign asking to get up and let older people sit down. The girl does not get up. There is an evident generational gap, the first reason why Ivan is alone or feels lonely in this world.

Ivan is about to move to an older peoples' residence. He is slowly taking leave from his home, putting his mother's emotionally precious china (he later, when he gets more emotionally independent upon meeting Melita and new friends offers it to Vinko, his brother) and his books into boxes (all my life is in these boxes...). He eats up glasses of pickled fruits prepared probably by his late wife, empties his apartment, leaving it to his children who are going to refurbish it completely.

His former life will be gone, forever. He even pushes away a ladder leading to his window. He is ready to go, with all his life in boxes. He is definitely preparing to leave the (active) life. He is even buying a plot in a cemetery for himself.

But his life starts being different when he is institutionally taken care of. Amazingly enough in the older people's residence he starts learning, loving the process of it and loving meeting Melita an active resident, organising leisure and learning activities for her co-residents. With her he returns to normal life. He is surrounded, he goes to concerts, he walks with her through silent streets at night... He opens up to new adventures.

He is less emotionally dependent on his family who do not understand him and who patronise him, except for Brina, his granddaughter who truly loves him and likes learning from him how to play accordion. Ivan is a retired music teacher.

Meeting his family for a celebration and his brother's birthday party old disputes float up again and a fight starts not for Melita as one would think but to settle up old emotional disputes which survive into old age. (competitiveness)

He is no more a prisoner of boredom and inactivity life he used to be when he was "outside".

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## THE ONLY ONE

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<b>Title</b>	<b>VIDANGE PERDUE (<i>The Only One</i>)</b>
<b>Release date</b>	June 14, 2006
<b>Running time</b>	90'
<b>Director</b>	Geoffrey Enthoven
<b>Country</b>	Belgium
<b>Language</b>	Dutch
<b>Producer</b>	Mariano Vanhoof
<b>Writers</b>	Jaak Boon (scenario), Geoffrey Enthoven (scenario)
<b>Cast</b>	Nand Buyl as Lucien Knops; Marijke Pinoy as Sylvia; Viviane de Muynck as Mathil.
<b>Genre</b>	Comedy-drama
<b>Awards</b>	Best Belgian film of 2006 by the Belgian Film Critics Association winning the André Cavens Award, and received two awards at the International Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg.

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### Plot

Lucien Knops is a widower in his eighties, who has lived in his daughter's house since the death of his wife. He loves his young adult granddaughter, who loves him back, but he gets on less well with his nagging daughter, Gerda. The daughter feels she has lost her independence, as when, for instance, Lucien barges in on the bathroom, invading her privacy, and she has zero tolerance for his old man habits, including his heavy drinking.

One day, Lucien can't take it anymore and he moves back to his own apartment, having decided that he is better off alone. Still, he has the frequent visits of Mathilda, an old acquaintance with whom he has been having an affair for years, although he was married and she herself is the wife of his best friend. She cleans the house for him and also provides him with sex. She is so much into him that she makes him promise he will never cheat on her (although she is cheating on her own husband). He complies. However, when a female neighbor comes to live on a house across the street the status quo is altered. By now Lucien had drunk his way into a driving ban and he had almost set the house on fire with a frying pan. So, he decides to accept his daughter's suggestion, which he should go to a retirement home he had previously visited with her and his son-in-law. Everything is set for him to sell his house and provide Gerda with the necessary money to buy a mobile home/caravan, when Sylvia, the neighbor, starts to help him.

When Mathilda took a bad fall and was hospitalized, Lucien got himself a new cleaning lady, but she was as crooked as she was young and beautiful and she vanished one day, robbing him of his monthly pension.

Enters Sylvia, centre stage. She teaches him how to use a computer, how to go shopping for the healthiest food, how to cook Asian dishes, takes him to the theatre and in general takes away his loneliness, providing him with a new will to live and useful skills to be autonomous. Gerda and the dejected Mathilda make a fuss of Lucien's friendship with Sylvia, purely for selfish reasons, and Gerda even threatens to have him committed to an institution.

No such thing comes to pass, but Lucien is voted off as the chairman of his social club, a position he had occupied for 30 years. The much younger successor is respectful but paternalistic, and the attitude is repeated again by his fellow club members when, later on, Lucien is filmed for a television channel, following his angry letter to a newspaper complaining about a politician's theory that senior citizens older than 85 should not be medically taken care of because they were too much of an expense for the Government.

After realizing that Sylvia has spent the night with a man, Lucien decides to avoid her, because he deems her unfaithful, since she is in reality married to an Alzheimer's patient committed to the retirement home he had once thought of entering himself. However, after a few days the two friends make up.

In the end, Sylvia decides to pull her husband out of the retirement home, on Lucien's advice, and he decides to take a trip to Paris, to visit his granddaughter who had relocated there to study. He looks younger and brave about the future, although he has sold his house and given some of the money to Gerda.

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# FACTSHEET

## MID-AUGUST LUNCH

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<b>Title</b>	<b>PRANZO DI FERRAGOSTO (Mid-August Lunch)</b>
<b>Release date</b>	September 2, 2008
<b>Running time</b>	75'
<b>Director</b>	Gianni Di Gregorio
<b>Country</b>	Italy
<b>Language</b>	Italian
<b>Producer</b>	Matteo Garrone
<b>Writers</b>	Gianni Di Gregorio, Simone Riccardini
<b>Cast</b>	Gianni Di Gregorio as Gianni, Valeria De Franciscis as Donna Valeria, Marina Cacciotti as Marina, Alfonso Santagata as Alfonso, Marcello Ottolenghi as Marcello and Grazia Cesarini Sforza as Grazia.
<b>Genre</b>	Comedy-drama
<b>Awards</b>	Grand Prix Award and the Audience Award at the International Film Festival Bratislava; FIPRESCI Award; "Luigi De Laurentiis" Award for a First Feature Film at the 65th Venice Film Festival in 2008; David Di Donatello Awards; Satyajit Ray Award at the London Film Festival; Golden Snail award at the Academy of Food and Film in Bologna.

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## MID-AUGUST LUNCH

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### Plot

Mid-August Lunch chronicles, a food-filled nonagenarian sleepover, catered for by the only cast member under 60: Gianni, is a gummy-eyed bachelor who tends to his mother Valeria in their small Rome flat.

It's the midsummer bank holiday and most families have left the sticky city for the coast. The apartment block caretaker, Luigi, is keen to follow suit, but he, too, has an elderly mamma to care for. In return for some waived utility bills, Gianni agrees to let her stay overnight. Yet when Luigi shows up an hour later with wheezy Marina, an even older sister, Maria, is in tow, too. No matter: a small bundle of euros and Gianni is making up another spare bed.

It's the same story when Gianni phones the doctor about his worsening angina. The doc is unexpectedly on the night shift; his mother will be left home alone – might Gianni mind another mouth to feed? Grazia is, in fact, the easiest of his new charges – at least until she starts smuggling cheese into her bedroom (her son insists she keep to a strict steamed vegetable diet). Maria, likewise, is a sweetie, save for when Gianni puts the wrong kind of pasta in the pot.

Marina – resplendent in frills, pickled in perfume – presents more of a problem when she escapes to the local bar, and again when she's in the mood for romance. But it's Gianna's own mother who's the snippiest. Valeria is an imposing sight: a great, chestnut-coloured hawk, smothered in lipstick topped with towering whips of golden hair, but she has the poise, as well as the looks, of a comtessa: refusing to dine in the kitchen, or to let the others enjoy equal TV rights.

Initially, Gianni copes by necking chablis and sharing his woes with a tramp. But eventually, as the women mellow over asti and palm-reading, he begins to enjoy himself – even later, when soothing them in the small hours or slipping medication into their chamomile tea.

### Active ageing competencies

All the six competencies.