

# THE VICE GUIDE TO FILM

AN IFC CANADA ORIGINAL SERIES

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*In The Vice Guide to Film, the co-founder of Vice Magazine, Shane Smith, explores some of the less-known film movements and national cinemas of the world. Smith gives the audience a chance to peek behind the closed doors of the film industries in countries such as Iran and North Korea, hangs out with maverick filmmakers like Gaspar Noé and throws himself in at the deep*

*end by acting in a Mexican narco cinema film. The Vice Guide to Film not only discusses films, culture and politics, but it also seeks to give a voice to people without one. This is all done in true VICE fashion; taboo subjects and raw aesthetics make the show shocking and mind provoking, all from a refreshingly honest perspective.*

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## **NORTH KOREA**

*Oct. 1st, 8:30pm - Ep.1 North Korea*

Shane Smith visits North Korea to try and penetrate the Korean Feature Film Studio, the state-run film production facility west of Pyongyang: a sprawling lot that at its height produced around 40 films a year. Today, no one is quite sure how many films are made there. Posing as a fan of Arirang – the famous North Korean mass gymnastic games and national pastime – Shane is going to try and get into North Korea and get himself invited to the Pyongyang production studio. The studio consists of a series of huge back lots waiting for the Dear Leader’s scripts to be delivered.

## **MEXICO**

*Oct. 8th, 8:30pm - Ep.2 Mexico*

Shane Smith goes to Mexico City to hang out with Mario Almada and other actors, directors and producers that play key roles in what is called in Mexico the “Video-Home” industry. He visits some sets both in Mexico City and in Sinaloa, in northern Mexico, where the drug trade is both very real and also reaches mythological proportions. The coverage will also touch upon cultural elements of northwest Mexico such as Malverde, the pagan patron saint of drug dealers and the narco-corridos, a music genre that sings about the perils and adventures of those involved in the drug trafficking both in Mexico and the US.

## **RUSSIA**

*Oct. 15th, 8:30pm - Ep.3 Russia*

The Parallel Cinema movement that emerged in the then Soviet Union in the mid 1980’s was a fascinating mixture of old Soviet avant-garde agitprop filmmaking and something called “Necro-realism” which was a movement spearheaded by Yvegny Yufit and consisted of very weird gay male zombie movies, fat bald men having sex and eating each other’s brains. It was supposed to be a comment on the impending fall of the Soviet system and the decadence of the apparatchiks that were in charge. Shane will find the surviving members of these movements in Moscow and St. Petersburg and document a new Parallel film in production.

## **BEIRUT**

*Oct. 22nd, 8:30pm - Ep.4 Beirut*

Shane Smith heads out to Bouj al Barajneh, one of the biggest and most famous Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, to meet Ahmed Iskander. In the summer of 2007 Ahmed was given a camera and with it he and his friend Damouni are finally going to shoot an idea they’ve had for a long time: a comedy about a young Palestinian who is trying to find a job in the camp. Shane follows the guys as they make their film in the harsh surroundings of Bouj al Barajneh where the basics of life are a challenge and people are officially homeless.

## **IRAN**

*Oct. 29th, 8:30pm - Ep.5 Iran*

In this episode of The Vice Guide to Film, Shane Smith and Eddy Moretti are invited through an associate, as guests of the 3rd International Urban Film Festival. Working alongside with the KHANEH production company, and their producers, as well as directors and contacts, Shane and Eddy are able to meet with some of the countries most predominant actors and directors, as well as attend the closing ceremony and events of the festival.

## **JAPAN**

*Nov. 5th, 8:30pm - Ep.6 Japan*

Shane Smith takes a leap into the dark underworld of Tokyo to find the legendary filmmaker Gaspar Noé who is shooting his newest film “Enter the Void” in the sex clubs and offlimits districts of the Japanese capital.