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INDEPENDENT FILMS IN ISTANBUL: BAŞKA SINEMA

Istanbul's film calendar certainly has no shortage of festivals bringing us the latest and most eclectic independent productions, but let's be honest: A few weeks a year are not enough to satisfy our appetite for fine filmmaking and the occasional oddball production.

Başka Sinema set out to fill that gap between festivals with a year-long program of independent films from Turkey and abroad. Their selection changes monthly, with each film being shown at least once in selected theaters across Istanbul (and other cities in Turkey). Although the website is a bit difficult to navigate, it pays to keep an eye on their calendar to be in the know about upcoming screenings and new films. Tickets can usually be bought on location.

Our favorite this season: *Tracks* with the luminous Mia Wasikowska (catch her on-screen with Jesse Eisenberg in *The Double*, too!). A film set in the scorching hot Australian desert is best enjoyed in a dark, air-conditioned cinema, which incidentally is also a great place to get away from Istanbul's hot and humid weather, if only for an hour or two...