

Gov't plans "emergency fund" for art cinemas

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Hungary's National Film Fund (MNF) has set up an "emergency" line of funding to help ensure the ongoing distribution of art films in the country and keep hard-hit "art cinemas" operating.

In a statement released to the press last week, the state organization said the initiative was in response to the recent closure of more than 10 art cinemas around the country. Nexland.hu A vintage photograph of Budapest's Európa mozi, which closed last year after 110 years in operation. The MNF did not release any details on the amount planned to be disbursed to art cinemas and distributors of high-end movie fare, but said it considered it important that such films reach a local audience. The MNF's announcement comes amid statistics showing that overall movie attendance in Hungary fell 10% last year, to 9.5 million. Ticket sales fell at a lower rate, to HUF 11.5 billion from 12.5 billion because of a 3% rise in ticket prices, mostly for 3D movies. Although attendance has been steadily falling for years, it has not yet reached a critical level, an industry expert commented. [kultura.hu/index.hu](caboodle.hu