



Israeli writer/director Lior Shamriz is the third super-talented filmmaker to appear on the BUTT Blog in the past 2 weeks. You may have seen his film [Japan Japan](#) when it screened at film festivals around the world in 2008 and marked him as an up-and-coming talent. The film is a unique, semi improvised tale of a 19 year old boy living in Tel Aviv (played by Shamriz's boyfriend Imri Kahn) who dreams of moving to Japan. His latest film is [Saturn Returns](#), a 'punk underground melodrama' about three friends in Berlin. You can watch part of it on his [website](#), along with a slew of his excellent earlier shorts. Lior's very worldly SUPERLIST includes a Russian composer, a Swiss modernist writer, and a famous German filmmaker (you know who). Enjoy.

1. Concerto Grosso No.1 by Alfred Schnittke

This work, by the late Alfred Schnittke from Russia, is a favorite from the so-called 'post-modern' composed-music (it's from 1977), and one of my favorite ironical music pieces of the 20th century. It moves from melancholia to over-expression, from cacophonous strings to a tender tango. Schnittke is very

influenced by Shostakovich, but he takes some of Shostakovich's actions much much further. I recommend the Deutsche Gramophone recording with Gideon Kremer.

2. Yamaguchi Momoe

Flash out-of-date 

Actress and pop-singer Yamaguchi Momoe from Japan, who in 1980 made her farewell from the stage after marrying fellow actor Tomokazu Miura, had a bunch of sweet-sweet-sweet pop songs that I love. My favorites are 'Hitonatsu no Keiken', 'Izu no Odoriko' and 'Ii Hi Tabidachi', though I have no idea what most of the songs are actually about, and maybe that's part of their charm to me. 'Izu no Odoriko' is about a dancer, I was told. I recommend also watching her live-televised farewell concert from 1978, where colleagues cry with her while singing together her songs, as she makes her final performance and steps off the stage.

3. Hayedeh – Shanehayat

Flash out-of-date

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A song by the marvelous diva singer Hayedeh, originally from Iran, has been repeatedly playing on my computer, ever since I found it while researching another singer (Delkash) last year. Following a very successful career in Iran, around the time of the revolution there, she chose living in L.A over stopping to sing or being executed by degenerate men. Her L.A period 80s songs are great. *Shanehayat* is one of them. The first half of the 8 minutes is 'classical', the second 'pop'. The video-clip is also very charming, as she manages to transmit very deep emotions while standing self-consciously in front of a blue screen which is later replaced by a wallpaper composed of her own images.

4. Rainer Werner Fassbinder's *Fox and His Friends* & King Vidor's *Stella Dallas*





Two of my favorite films. The first is one of the best gay films ever, a great portrayal of homosexuals and class immobility. Fassbinder himself as Fox – a low-class fellow who wins a lottery and thinks that this will be his ticket to the upper class. I especially like the part when he's taking the sophisticated gay crowd he started to hang out with, to visit his apartment. 'I bet he's going to apologize for his apartment being a mess' says one of them bitchily to his friend before they go up the stairs. As Fox apologizes, they all burst into laughter.

I also love films about racial or class tensions that are expressed through generation gaps, preferably a mother and a daughter, like *Imitation of Life* by Sirk or Ozu's *Tokyo Story*. *Stella Dallas* is one of these films. A 1937 Barbara Stanwyck melodrama, in which she portrays a nouveau-riche mother who'll do anything to help her daughter end up better off than herself. It's based on a 1920 novel, and there's a 1925 silent film as well. The daughter loves her mother, although the mother, Stella Dallas, is some sort of an ex-bimbo. As my partner Imri put it: You, as the viewer, don't really understand the daughter's unconditional acceptance of her mother, and identify more with the way that Stella Dallas sees herself – as a vulgar tactless irresponsible woman.

5. Robert Walser



I was introduced at 19 to Robert Walser through his brilliant micro-story 'The Maid' and then enthusiastically read his 'Jakob von Gunten', a novel about a young man in a servants school, whose attraction to nothingness and his perverse acceptance of the forced social order has been a great inspiration to me while entering the broken world of grown ups. Walser's short stories are so intuitively experimental and often celebrate their failure to actually bloom into a story, and end up becoming maps of a frustrated creative mind's thinking process.

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1. Ricky PS added on April 10, 2010 :

super superlist!

2. Rene added on April 9, 2010 :

I love interesting Top 5. Thanxxx

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