

CZECHOSLOVAKIA FILM FESTIVAL 2014

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Cerise Howard

Producer

Brendan Black

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Denisa Sehnalová

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Festival Producer, Czech Republic

Martina Vacková

Festival Trailer

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Sound Effects

Rod Cooper

Technical Support

Georgie Pinn

Audio Production

Brendan Black

VÍTEJTE / VITAJTE
WELCOME



Welcome to the second Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia (CaSFFA), taking place not just in Melbourne, but in Sydney too. On which note, welcome also to the team from IKSIMA Films, co-producers for the Sydney leg of our expanding festival.

A theme of "resistance" informs this year's program, as 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the non-violent "Velvet Revolution" in Czechoslovakia. CaSFFA will celebrate these momentous events with Czech and Slovak films of all kinds - features, shorts, documentaries and animations, present day hits as well as 1960s New Wave classics, an extraordinary HBO Europe mini-series (*Burning Bush*) and a retrospective of one of the cinema's great iconoclasts, Jan Švankmajer. Complementary exhibitions will further explore the people and ideas behind resistance, in its many guises across multiple eras, within the Czech and Slovak lands.

Whether it's in Melbourne or in Sydney you attend this year's festival, it is my hope that you will find our many and varied offerings this year thought-provoking, moving, tremendously enjoyable and, in the first instance... irresistible.

[Cerise Howard, Artistic Director](#)

Photo by Nicola Bell

The Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia and IKSIMA Films wish to acknowledge their tremendous appreciation for the support they have received from the Vice-Consul of the Czech Republic in Sydney, Šárka Ponroy Vamberová, and for the patronage of the Slovak Minister of Culture, Marek Maďarič and Czech film director, Jan Hřebejk.

The Embassy of the Slovak Republic is pleased to support the second Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia. We believe that the festival creates a unique opportunity to present part of our culture to a wide Australian and expatriate audience and hence to promote cultural diversity among our nations. We hope that the festival will inspire people to want to visit our beautiful, culturally rich country in the middle of Europe - Slovakia.

Igor Bartho
Ambassador of the Slovak Republic

The second Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia is proudly supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Our consulate in Sydney has been preparing an exhibition and presentations to mark the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, which will also be reflected in the film programming.

There is a strong Czech and Slovak community in both cities, ensuring a solid base of moviegoers. The festival has become the most important cultural event for the community and a showcase of the two republics' film art for the Australian public.

I will be happy to personally open the inaugural Sydney leg of the festival on my return from Europe.

Martin Pohl
Ambassador of the Czech Republic

LETTERS FROM CZECH AND SLOVAK EMBASSIES



POJEDEME K MOŘI TO SEE THE SEA

2014 | Czech Republic | 90 min

The charming directorial debut of Jiří Mádľ (star of *The Confidant*) claims instead to be the work of his film's protagonist, intrepid 12 year old Tomáš (Petr Šimčák). In fact, the whole film is presented as if it really were shot and edited by Tomáš, who dreams of becoming the next Miloš Forman.

Tomáš is making a film about his family. By hiding a camera in his father's home office, Tomáš discovers that he (Ondřej Vetchý) leaves the house on Tuesdays and Thursdays. However, when he's confronted about it, he denies it. Tomáš' best friend Haris (Jan Maršál) also starts using a camera to document his family's goings-on, albeit mostly in self-defence. Courage and friendship will lead the plucky investigative duo to a final great revelation...

To See the Sea is the Opening Night film in Melbourne and the Closing Night film in Sydney.

Director/Screenwriter:
Jiří Mádľ

Producer:
Miloslav Šmídmajer

Main Cast:
Petr Šimčák
Jan Maršál
Ondřej Vetchý
Lucie Trmíková
Jaroslava Pokorná

MEL
Thu 21 Aug 6.30pm
ACMI Cinema 2

SYD
Sun 7 Sep 6.00pm
Dendy Newtown



ROZKOŠ DELIGHT

2013 | Czech Republic | 111 min

In this contemporary and stylish metropolitan drama, Jana Plodková leads an excellent cast as film editor Milena, who is in love with translator Vladimír (Martin Myšička), but who finds their regular communication through SMS to come a poor second, in terms of real intimacy and affection, to good old-fashioned human contact.

Milena is alone, but not alone. Everyone, in fact, in her 30- and 40-something urban professional circles seem to be afflicted by a similar malaise, an existential angst connected to an obsession with love, with art, with success and money, and with issues of identity, originality and authenticity.

Delight was selected for competition in the "East of the West" program strand at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival this year.

Director/Screenwriter:

Jitka Rudolflová

Producer:

Viktor Schwarcz

Main Cast:

Jana Plodková
Martin Myšička
Jan Budař
Václav Neužil
Martin Pechlát
Jaroslav Plesl

MEL

Fri 22 Aug 7.00pm
ACMI Cinema 2

SYD

Sat 6 Sep 9.30pm
Dendy Newtown



PŘÍBĚH KMOTRA THE GODFATHER'S STORY

2013 | Czech Republic | 99 min

Based on Jaroslav Kmenta's bestseller *Kmotr Mrázek* (*Godfather Mrazek*), *The Godfather's Story* relates the rise and fall of real-life mafioso František Mrázek.

Ondřej Vetchý plays František Vedral, a struggling but resourceful young criminal in communist times who seizes the opportunities capitalist reforms offer to ascend to a position of corrupt great eminence in Czech society. His nemesis: incorruptible police investigator Cajthaml (Lukáš Vaculík), who's determined to get his man and see that justice be served but who has the odds stacked against him by a quarry whose criminal tentacles reach into the very fabric of the new political and judicial systems he serves.

Slick and action-packed, *The Godfather's Story* has been both a critical and commercial success.

Director:

Petr Nikolaev

Screenwriters:

Petr Nikolaev
Miroslav Oščátka

Producers:

David Rauch
Petr Nikolaev

Main Cast:

Ondřej Vetchý
Lukáš Vaculík
Jan Vondráček
Vica Kerekes

MEL

Fri 22 Aug 9.30pm
ACMI Cinema 2

SYD

Fri 5 Sep 9.30pm
Dendy Newtown



HOŘÍCÍ KEŘ BURNING BUSH

2013 | Czech Republic & Poland | 206 min

Premiering as a three-part mini-series produced by the Czech branch of HBO and directed by Oscar-nominated Polish director Agnieszka Holland, this extraordinary epic begins with one of the most famous acts of resistance of the 20th century: the self-immolation of Jan Palach on Prague's Wenceslas Square in January 1969.

What follows is a battle for the significance of Palach's sacrificial gesture to be understood, with the lead character the real life attorney-at-law Dagmar Burešová (Táňa Pauhofová), who dared to file a libel suit against Communist MP Vilém Nový (Martin Huba) on behalf of Palach's family.

Presenting a panoramic portrayal of society at the beginning of Normalization, *Burning Bush* won 11 awards at the 2014 Czech Lions.

Director:
Agnieszka Holland
Screenwriter:
Štěpán Hulík
Producers:
Tereza Polachová
Tomáš Hrubý
Pavla Kubečková
Antony Root
Main Cast:
Táňa Pauhofová
Jaroslava Pokorná
Petr Stach

MEL
Sat 23 Aug 6.30pm
ACMI Cinema 2
SYD
Sat 6 Sep 4.30pm
Dendy Newtown



OSTŘE SLEDOVANÉ VLAKY CLOSELY OBSERVED TRAINS

1966 | Czechoslovakia | 93 min

This much adored Best Foreign Language Oscar winner from Jiří Menzel has just been digitally restored. Based on the novel of the same name by Czech literary great Bohumil Hrabal, this sweet, bawdy, tragicomic delight concerns Miloš (Václav Neckář), a train dispatcher at a small railway station in German-occupied Czechoslovakia during World War II.

Miloš is not experienced in the ways of the world, but dearly wishes to be, especially where matters sexual are concerned. However, even with the best intentions and assistance of his colleagues, his quest to come of age is complicated, caught in the middle between Nazis, bureaucrats and partisan guerrilla Resistance forces...

Director:
Jiří Menzel
Screenwriters:
Bohumil Hrabal
Jiří Menzel
Producer:
Zdeněk Oves
Main Cast:
Václav Neckář
Josef Somr
Jitka Zelenohorská
Jitka Bendová
Vladimír Valenta

MEL
Sun 24 Aug 6.00pm
ACMI Cinema 2
SYD
Sat 6 Sep 4.00pm
Dendy Newtown



VTÁČKOVIA, SIROTY A BLÁZNI BIRDS, ORPHANS AND FOOLS

1969 | Czechoslovakia & France | 78 min

Shot under highly straitened circumstances in the immediate wake of the Soviet invasion, and featuring a score by the great Zdeněk Liška and breathtaking cinematography from Igor Luther, this extraordinary film from "the Slovak Fellini" had no sooner premiered abroad in 1969 than it was banned at home for 20 years!

While Juraj Jakubisko's mosaic-like parable is set in undefined space and time, its crazy world without ideals filled with violence, cynicism and hopelessness clearly references Czechoslovakia after August 1968. Three strange loners survive only thanks to their "foolishness" – a life based on play and a philosophy of joy. But the tragic ending of their coexistence is an inevitable outcome of a reality that only offers two possibilities: insanity or death.

Director:

Juraj Jakubisko

Screenwriters:

Juraj Jakubisko
Karol Sidon

Main Cast:

Magda Vášáryová
Jiří Sýkora
Philippe Avron
Míla Beran
Françoise Goldité

Digitally restored by
the Slovak Film Institute.

MEL

Sun 24 Aug 8.00pm
ACMI Cinema 2

SYD

Sun 7 Sep 2.00pm
Dendy Newtown



KAUZA CERVANOVÁ NORMALIZATION

2013 | Slovakia & Czech Republic | 100 min

Eight years in the making, Robert Kirchhoff's documentary investigates the events behind the scenes in the longest case in the history of the Czechoslovak courts, which began in 1976.

Known throughout Slovakia, the still-unresolved Cervanová case concerns the kidnapping, rape and murder of medical student Ludmila Cervanová. Seven people were sentenced for murder who proclaim their innocence to this day, insisting they were the victims of a far-reaching political conspiracy.

Were these children of high-ranking Communist Party officials the real perpetrators? Has a terrible miscarriage of justice really gone uncorrected for nearly 40 years? *Normalization* is amongst the most controversial and the most gripping of recent Slovak documentaries.

Director/Screenwriter/ Producer:

Robert Kirchhoff

Director Robert Kirchhoff will be a guest of the festival and will conduct a Q&A after the Sydney screening.

MEL

Mon 25 Aug 6.30pm
ACMI Cinema 1

SYD

Fri 5 Sep 6.30pm
Dendy Newtown



BOXER A SMŘ

THE BOXER AND DEATH

1962 | Czechoslovakia | 102 min

In this gripping WWII drama concerned with the tragic story of a man whose only chance for survival is in accepting the rules of a loaded game, concentration camp commander Kraft (Manfred Krug) finds out that would-be escapee Komínek (Štefan Kvietik) is a former professional boxer. Overnight, the prisoner is made Kraft's sparring partner and rises to a privileged position at the camp. His already deeply ambivalent feelings about his situation change following the death of a friend, and his anger leads to open revolt.

This first collaboration between screenwriter Tibor Vichta and director Peter Solan is adapted from a short story by Polish novelist Józef Hen and shot on location at the site of a former Jewish labour camp near the Slovak town of Nováky.

Director:
Peter Solan

Screenwriters:
Józef Hen
Tibor Vichta
Peter Solan

Main Cast:
Štefan Kvietik
Manfred Krug
Valentina Thielová
Józef Kondrat

Digitally restored by
the Slovak Film Institute.

MEL
Mon 25 Aug 9.00pm
ACMI Cinema 1

SYD
Fri 5 Sep 4.00pm
Dendy Newtown



KÝM SA SKONČÍ TÁTO NOC

BEFORE TONIGHT IS OVER

1965 | Czechoslovakia | 91 min

This digitally restored third collaboration between screenwriter Tibor Vichta and director Peter Solan is a too little known New Wave masterpiece whose time has come!

One night in the groovy bar of a ski resort in the High Tatras, two young women using up their paltry savings to enjoy a few rare days of carefree living, two plumbers looking for an erotic adventure, a building contractor drinking away his workers' wages and an alcoholic former major all meet. Over the course of a few hours they gradually reveal their unfulfilled dreams, illusions and the disappointments of average people of those times.

Full of authentic atmosphere from a semi-improvised approach to its filming, *Before Tonight is Over* is both a beautiful time capsule and a timeless charmer.

Director:
Peter Solan

Screenwriters:
Tibor Vichta
Peter Solan

Main Cast:
Stano Dančiak
Marián Labuda
Jana Gýrová
Jitka Zelenohorská
Július Pántik

Digitally restored by
the Slovak Film Institute.

MEL
Thu 28 Aug 8.45pm
ACMI Cinema 1

SYD
Sun 7 Sep 2.00pm
Dendy Newtown



ĚŠTEBÁK

THE CONFIDANT

2012 | Slovakia, Czech Republic & Poland | 108 min

This paranoid historical thriller is based on a true story and comes from archive material from the Nation's Memory Institute in Bratislava. The prototype of the protagonist was a ham radio buff in the tumultuous late 1960s whose talents came to the attention of the secret police (StB).

In order to protect his girlfriend Eva (Michaela Majerníková) from StB persecution, but without telling her, Adam Horný (Jiří Mádľ) becomes a professional agent whose work is wiretapping people and collecting compromising information on them.

However, he soon discovers that he, too, is being monitored. When he tries to find out why, he has to look into his own past. Will he be able to survive with honour in an atmosphere of fear and doubt?

The Confidant is the Opening Night film in Sydney.

Director:

Juraj Nvota

Screenwriter:

Lubor Slivka

Producers:

Katarína Vanžurová
Lubor Slivka

Main Cast:

Jiří Mádľ
Michaela Majerníková
Jan Budař
Ondřej Vetchý
Táňa Pauhofová

MEL

Thu 28 Aug 6.15pm
ACMI Cinema 1

SYD

Thu 4 Sep 6.00pm
Dendy Newtown



ZAMATOVÍ TERORISTI

VELVET TERRORISTS

2013 | Slovakia, Czech Republic & Croatia | 87 min

This seriocomic documentary focuses on three men who performed romantic, some might say foolhardy or inept, acts of guerrilla resistance under Normalization.

One had wanted to blow up a podium during Labour Day celebrations in the 1970s, but was arrested drunk and in possession of explosives. Another had wanted to assassinate President Husák and launch a revolution, but his letter to the CIA never received a response. The third was a repeat destroyer of Communist Party billboards.

This highly entertaining film not only considers the merits of the acts for which these three "terrorists" were imprisoned, but also investigates what they are up to today. Are there still causes worth fighting for? And what of love and relationships?

Directors:

Pavol Pekarčík
Ivan Ostrochovský
Peter Kerekes

Producer:

Peter Kerekes

SYD

Thu 4 Sep 4.30pm
Dendy Newtown



LÍBÁNKY

HONEYMOON

2013 | Czech Republic & Slovakia | 98 min

The veteran pairing of director Jan Hřebejk and screenwriter Petr Jarchovský have a new film about inglorious pasts and their tendency to catch up with people when they least expect it.

The intimate story of *Honeymoon* takes place during an afternoon, a night, and the morning after at a family cottage, where an uninvited guest (Jiří Černý) disrupts the otherwise idyllic wedding celebration of Tereza (the luminous Anna Geislerová) and Radim (Stanislav Majer) with his mysterious presence and a disturbing gift.

With gorgeous widescreen cinematography and excellent performances, *Honeymoon* will have you asking how well you can ever truly know someone and whether people really can shed long held prejudices and change for the better over time.

Director:

Jan Hřebejk

Screenwriter:

Petr Jarchovský

Producers:

Michal Kollár
Viktor Tauš

Main Cast:

Anna Geislerová
Stanislav Majer
Jiří Černý
Kristýna Fuitová

SYD

Thu 4 Sep 7.00pm
Dendy Newtown



LYRIK

THE LYRICIST

2014 | Slovakia | 83 min

"The Lyricist" was the code name, as an "object of surveillance" in the archives of the secret police, for the erudite historian and dissident, Ján Mlynárik. Illustrated by archival and contemporary footage as well as interviews, this documentary explores how Mlynárik (1933 - 2012) not only experienced some of the key moments in his nations' histories, he also initiated or participated in certain of them himself.

Results of his reflections and contemplations are placed against a backdrop of memories of the various versions of Czechoslovakia in history: the first Czechoslovak Republic, the wartime Slovak State, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Czechoslovak Federative Republic, as well as the Czech Republic and Slovakia of contemporary times.

Director/Screenwriter:

Arnold Kojnok

Producers:

Silvia Panáková
Erik Panák

SYD

Sat 6 Sep 2.00pm
Dendy Newtown



JAKO NIKDY LIKE NEVER BEFORE

2013 | Czech Republic & Slovakia | 89 min

In Zdeněk Tyc's compelling chamber drama, the end of summer also spells the end of a life.

Painter Vladimír Holas (Jiří Schmitzer) is dying. He doesn't want to die in a hospital, so his country home is his last resort. Two women are with him: Karla (Petra Špalková), younger, a bohemian and a painter like Vladimír, and the older Jaruna (Taťjana Medvecká), a nurse, his former lover and very different from Vladimír and Karla. All three wage futile wars against death, against themselves, and amongst themselves.

Winner of Czech Lions for Jiří Schmitzer and Petra Špalková's superb performances, *Like Never Before* sugarcoats nothing: dying is no easy matter and caring for a dying person – not least an irascible artist – can be quite an ordeal.

Director:
Zdeněk Tyc
Screenwriters:
Markéta Bidlasová
Zdeněk Tyc
Producer:
Ondřej Trojan
Main Cast:
Jiří Schmitzer
Petra Špalková
Taťjana Medvecká
Marek Němec

SYD
Sun 7 Sep 4.30pm
Dendy Newtown



KANDIDÁT CANDIDATE

2013 | Slovakia & Czech Republic | 106 min

This box-office smash, a critically acclaimed political comedy-thriller, tells "a real story that never happened."

An unprepossessing young man (Michal Kubovčík) from the colossal prefab housing estates in Petržalka in today's Bratislava is headhunted for a surveillance job. Consequently, he winds up wire-tapping and monitoring a variety of behind-the-scenes figures in the two month long lead-up to a presidential election.

But who even is his enigmatic new employer? And who is this no-hoper Peter Potôň, and why on earth would egomaniacal advertising supremo Adam Lambert (Marek Majeský) stake so much on taking on his unpromising presidential campaign?

Candidate is the Closing Night film in Melbourne.

Director:
Jonáš Karásek
Screenwriters:
Maroš Hečko
Michal Havran
Peter Balko
Producer:
Maroš Hečko
Main Cast:
Marek Majeský
Michal Kubovčík
Michal Dlouhý
Monika Hilmerová

MEL
Fri 29 Aug 7.00pm
ACMI Cinema 2
SYD
Sat 6 Sep 6.30pm
Dendy Newtown

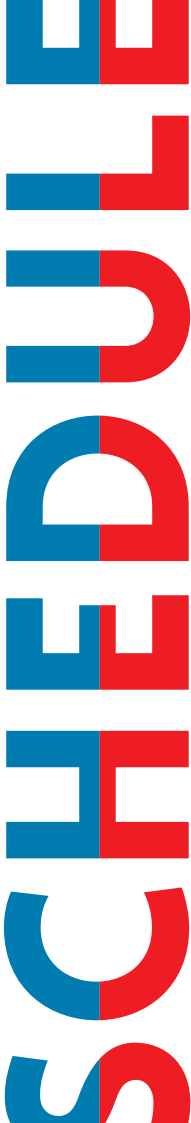
MEL

Feature Films

To See the Sea <small>OPENING NIGHT</small>	Thu 21 Aug 6.30pm
Delight	Fri 22 Aug 7.00pm
The Godfather's Story	Fri 22 Aug 9.30pm
Burning Bush	Sat 23 Aug 6.30pm
Closely Observed Trains	Sun 24 Aug 6.00pm
Birds, Orphans and Fools	Sun 24 Aug 8.00pm
Normalization	Mon 25 Aug 6.30pm
The Boxer and Death	Mon 25 Aug 9.00pm
The Confidant	Thu 28 Aug 6.15pm
Before Tonight is Over	Thu 28 Aug 8.45pm
Candidate <small>CLOSING NIGHT</small>	Fri 29 Aug 7.00pm

Jan Švankmajer Retrospective

Shorts: Dialogue and Resistance	Wed 27 Aug 7.00pm
Faust	Wed 27 Aug 8.45pm
Alice	Wed 3 Sep 7.00pm
Conspirators of Pleasure	Wed 3 Sep 9.05pm
Shorts: Militant Surrealism	Wed 10 Sep 7.00pm
Little Otik	Wed 10 Sep 8.20pm



SYD

Feature Films

Velvet Terrorists	Thu 4 Sep 4.30pm
The Confidant <small>OPENING NIGHT</small>	Thu 4 Sep 6.00pm
Honeymoon	Thu 4 Sep 7.00pm
The Boxer and Death	Fri 5 Sep 4.00pm
Normalization	Fri 5 Sep 6.30pm
The Godfather's Story	Fri 5 Sep 9.30pm
The Lyricist	Sat 6 Sep 2.00pm
Closely Observed Trains	Sat 6 Sep 4.00pm
Burning Bush	Sat 6 Sep 4.30pm
Candidate	Sat 6 Sep 6.30pm
Delight	Sat 6 Sep 9.30pm
Before Tonight is Over	Sun 7 Sep 2.00pm
Birds, Orphans and Fools	Sun 7 Sep 2.00pm
Like Never Before	Sun 7 Sep 4.30pm
To See the Sea <small>CLOSING NIGHT</small>	Sun 7 Sep 6.00pm

Jan Švankmajer Retrospective - UTS Faculty of Design

Alice & The Garden	Sat 6 Sep 2.30pm
Conspirators of Pleasure & Food	Sat 6 Sep 5.00pm

LÉKCE FAUST FAUST

1994 | Czech Republic, France & Great Britain | 90 min

Jan Švankmajer's second feature, a heady mixture of live action and multiple forms of animation, is much indebted to his earlier puppeteering work on Emil Radok's beautiful short film *Johanes Doktor Faust* (1958) as well as to prior treatments of the venerable Faust legend in other art forms by Marlowe, Goethe, Grabbe and Gounod.

Švankmajer's adaptation, however, is very much a product of his own sensibility, featuring a gormless Prague Everyman (Petr Čepek) who may not have any real power to influence his fate, no matter what Mephistophelean pacts he makes.

CaSFFA is delighted to be presenting a digital restoration of *Faust* with its original Czech soundtrack in partnership with the Melbourne Cinémathèque.

JAN ŠVANKMAJER RETROSPECTIVE

**Director/
Screenwriter:**
Jan Švankmajer

Producer:
Jaromír Kallista

Main Cast:
Petr Čepek
Jan Kraus
Vladimír Zudpal
Antonín Zcpal
Jiří Suchý
Petr Meissel

MEL
Wed 27 Aug 8.45pm
ACMI Cinema 2

NĚCO Z ALENKY ALICE

1987 | Czech Rep, Switzerland, GB & W Germany | 84 min

Jan Švankmajer's brilliant first feature is a free interpretation of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Alice is alternately a wide-eyed young girl (Kristýna Kohoutová) and a small stop-motion animated doll, narrating her own adventures as she negotiates a menacing world populated by various Wonderland staples and fantastical collage-creatures from the bizarre menagerie housed in Švankmajer's "Natural Science Cabinets" – his *wunderkammern* of the 1970s.

For its Melbourne screening, CaSFFA is delighted to be presenting a digital restoration of *Alice* with its original Czech soundtrack in partnership with the Melbourne Cinémathèque. It will be preceded by two superb, anticipatory short films: *Jabberwocky* (1971, 12 min), and *Down to the Cellar* (1982, 14 min).

JAN ŠVANKMAJER RETROSPECTIVE

**Director
/Screenwriter:**
Jan Švankmajer

Producer:
Jaromír Kallista

Main Cast:
Kristýna Kohoutová

MEL
Wed 3 Sep 7.00pm
ACMI Cinema 2

SYD
Sat 6 Sep 2.30pm
UTS



SPIKLENCI SLASTI

CONSPIRATORS OF PLEASURE

1996 | Czech Republic, Switzerland & Great Britain | 75 min

Dialogue free and mostly live action, Jan Švankmajer's hilarious third feature has its origins in an unmade short film from 1970, *Light-Bluebeard*, concerning the sado-masochistic, transmutative relations between a pair of neighbours.

A series of experiments in tactility conducted in the 1970s by the Group of Czech-Slovak Surrealists, at Švankmajer's behest when he was forbidden from making films, further informs this singular comedy that features six characters participating blithely in an elaborate auto-erotic roundelay. Švankmajer's perennial interest in the sense of touch is elevated here to synaesthetic levels...

For its Melbourne screening, CaSFFA is delighted to be presenting *Conspirators of Pleasure* in partnership with the Melbourne Cinémathèque.

JAN ŠVANKMAJER RETROSPECTIVE

Director
/Screenwriter:
Jan Švankmajer

Producer:
Jaromír Kallista

Main Cast:
Petr Meissel
Gabriela Wilhelmová
Barbora Hrzánová
Jiří Lábus
Pavel Nový
Anna Wetlínská

MEL
Wed 3 Sep 9.05pm
ACMI Cinema 2

SYD
Sat 6 Sep 5.00pm
UTS

OTESÁNEK

LITTLE OTIK

2000 | Czech Republic, Great Britain & Japan | 127 min

The common link between food and aggression throughout Jan Švankmajer's oeuvre assumes ghastly new dimensions. At the core of his nightmarish but funny fourth feature lies *Otesánek*, a fairy tale popularised by folklorist Karel Erben concerning a couple who raise a tree stump as the child they could otherwise never have, foolishly not heeding the advice to "be careful what you wish for..."

Probably Švankmajer's most accessible film, *Little Otik* incorporates animation of Eva Švankmajerová's distinctive illustrations, several deliciously unsavoury episodes presented in spectacular stop-motion and excellent performances from Jan Hartl and Veronika Žilková as the "parents".

CaSFFA is delighted to be presenting *Little Otik* in partnership with the Melbourne Cinémathèque.

JAN ŠVANKMAJER RETROSPECTIVE

Director
/Screenwriter:
Jan Švankmajer

Producer:
Jaromír Kallista

Main Cast:
Veronika Žilková
Jan Hartl
Jaroslava
Kretschmerová
Pavel Nový
Kristina Adamcová
Arnošt Goldflam
Dagmar Stříbrná

MEL
Wed 10 Sep 8.20pm
ACMI Cinema 2

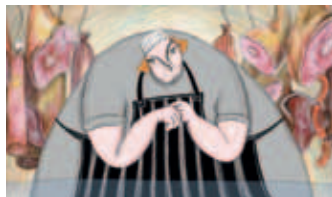


NEW CZECH AND SLOVAK SHORT FILMS

ALIEN (CIZINEC)

Director: Martin Máj | 2013
Czech Republic | 7 min

An animated comedy about travelling to foreign countries.



HAM STORY (O ŠUNCE)

Director: Eliška Chytková | 2012
Czech Republic | 6 min

An animated, imaginative story about the grey, everyday ordinariness of life.

HOMO CIRIS

Director: Jana Mináriková | 2013
Slovakia | 23 min

Concerning one ordinary man's wish to be a fish.

L.H.

Director: Adam Sedláč | 2013
Czech Republic | 30 min

Based on a true story about Lord Hoven (Lord of the Shit), who caused an uproar with his "artwork" in a university lavatory.

LITTLE COUSTEAU (MALÝ COUSTEAU)

Director: Jakub Kouřil | 2013
Czech Republic | 8 min

A little boy longs for deep-sea adventures in this homage to Jacques Cousteau.

LITTLE SECRET (STRACH)

Director: Martin Krejčí | 2013
Czech Republic | 21 min

A teenager blames his serious injury on an attack by a group of Roma, with snowballing repercussions. Inspired by a true story.



M.O.

Director: Jakub Kouřil | 2012
Czech Republic | 7 min

Animated story of an elderly woman and a mail-order mechanical grandpa.

MOMO

Director: Teodor Kuhn | 2012
Slovakia | 30 min

On the importance of having a father: a young boy has problems with self-control and finding a purpose in life.

MYTHOPOLIS

Director: Alexandra Hetmerová | 2013
Czech Republic | 11 min

Animated film in which creatures from Greek mythology have the same everyday problems as us.



PANDAS (PANDY)

Director: Matúš Vizár | 2013
Slovakia & Czech Republic | 12 min

Animation in which an interfering ape called the human being discovers the panda, for the panda to become a pawn in mankind's games.

SNOW (SNEH)

Director: Ivana Šebestová | 2013
Slovakia & France | 18 min

Animation about a woman waiting for her love, a man who looks for a perfect snowflake in faraway lands and snow, which conceals and melts dreams.

THE EXHIBITION (VÝSTAVA)

Director: Peter Begányi, Andrej Kolenčík | 2013 | Slovakia | 35 min

In a small, struggling museum, the stuffed animals are coated in dust and the three caretakers themselves resemble exhibits.

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL (NEPOKRADEŠ)

Director: Martina Malinová | 2013
Czech Republic | 12 min

Documentary addressing shoplifting as an act of subversion records the participants in the act and explores their motives.



TRAM (TRAMVAJ)

Director: Michaela Pavlátová | 2012
Czech Republic & France | 8 min

Following the road's vibrations, to the rhythm of tickets being stamped, a conductress gets turned on and the whole tram becomes an erotic object.

Each of these shorts will play before a feature in Melbourne and/or Sydney. Please refer to our website for details.

JAN ŠVANKMAJER SHORTS

In the year of Jan Švankmajer's 80th birthday, we are proud to present two programs of his astonishing short films in Melbourne and another in Sydney.

DIALOGUE AND RESISTANCE

1958-2005
Czechoslovakia & Czech Rep
92 min



Johanes Doktor Faust
(dir. Emil Radok, 1958)

The Last Trick
(Poslední trik pana Schwarzwaldeda a pana Edgara, 1964)

Dimensions of Dialogue
(Možnosti dialogu, 1982)

The Pendulum, the Pit and Hope
(Kyvadlo, jáma a naděje, 1983)

The Death of Stalinism in Bohemia
(Konec stalinismu v Čechách, 1990)

Torchbearer
(Světloňoš, dir. Václav Švankmajer, 2005)

MILITANT SURREALISM

1969-1992
Czechoslovakia & GB
65 min



A Quiet Week in the House
(Tichý týden v dome, 1969)

Leonardo's Diary
(Leonardův deník, 1972)

Virile Games
(Mužné hry, 1988)

Darkness Light Darkness
(Tma/Světlo/Tma, 1990)

Food
(Jídlo, 1992)

Co-presented with the Melbourne Cinémathèque.

JAN ŠVANKMAJER SHORTS IN SYDNEY

1968-1992
Czechoslovakia & GB

The Garden (screening with *Alice*)
(Zahrada, 1968)

Food (screening with *Conspirators of Pleasure*)
(Jídlo, 1992)

FESTIVAL GUESTS

ROBERT KIRCHHOFF

Born in 1968, Slovak director and producer Robert Kirchhoff is a founder and CEO of atelier.doc Ltd. (www.atelierdoc.sk).

His latest film *Normalization* screens in this year's festival. He leads courses at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava in Directing Documentary Film and Auteur Documentary Film.



ADAM HRADILEK

Head of the Oral History Group at the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Prague since 2008. In 2010 he edited a monograph, *For Your Freedom and Ours*, a collection of interviews and essays on protests against the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia in Warsaw Pact countries.



ALEXANDRA STRELKOVÁ

Director of the National Cinematographic Centre of the Slovak Film Institute, in charge of Slovak film promotion. She is a member of the Slovak Film and Television Academy and the representative of the Slovak Film Institute in the European Film Promotion.



THANK YOU

Special thanks: Adam Hradilek, Adrian Danks, Alexandra Strelková, Alister Karl, Amanda Bell, Amanda Lauder, Andrea Dvořáková, Andrej Bučko, Anna Petrášová, Antina Ittner, Barbora Greplová, Bec Matthews, Beth Evans, Biba Bohinská, Chloe Schnell, Chris Barwick, Chris Bielen, Claire Gandy, Conny Dietzschold, Czech & Slovak School of Sydney, Daniel Vadocký, Daniela Hurábová, David Buchler, David Tiley, Deborah Szapiro, Dylan Bird, Dylan Rainforth, Eloise Ross, Emma Mayall, Erik Panák, Eva Přibyllová, Filip Koubek, Greg Hamilton, Guillaume Roux, Hana & Avni Sali, Hani Stolina, Ian Aaron, Igor Bartho, Information Planet, Ing. Jana Tomková, Ing. Jozef Brngál, Isabella B., Jakub Beseda, James Johnstone, Jan Herget, Jan Hřebek, Jan Švankmajer, Jan Urban, Jessica Mitchell, Jim Knox, Katrina Wilson O'Brien, Kelli Keating, Kendyl Rossi, Kim Stone & Greg Noble, Klára Vysloužilová, Komisia Audiovizuálneho fondu SR, Lauren Taylor, Lee Farrell, Lenka Allen, Lisa Goldsworthy, Litia Kirwin, Louise Sheedy, Luke Stephens, Magda Dąbrowa, Marek Maďarič, Mark Cummins, Markéta Šantrochová, Martin Pohl, Martin Šmatlák, Matthew Rive, Megan Soley, Melody Henderson, Michael Koller, Michael Scott, Michaela Mertová, Michelle Carey, Mike Shuttleworth, Milan Beseda, Milan Kantor, Milan Neklapil, Mr Dusan Kren (President of the CzechoSlovakian Country Club), Patricia Laksmono, Pavel Valter, Pavla Kallistová, Pepca Stejskal, Peter Marko, Peter Švehla, Radovan Holub, Reece Goodwin, Renee Dudfield, Renzo Colla, Richard Bejsak, Richard Watts, Robert Kirchhoff, Ron Bolitho, Roxane Persehai, Ruth Hurley, Sabina Poláková, Samuel Maher, Sandie Frost, Sarah Ward, Šárka Ponroy Vamberová, SBS Czech Program, SBS Radio, Scott Ferguson, Stephen Hahn, Tereza Hejretova, The Festivalists, Thomas Caldwell, Vardos, Vince Arnone, World View, Zuzana Fraňová, Zuzana Golanová, Zuzana Vasitch and our GENEROUS SPONSORS, AMAZING CROWDFUNDERS and WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!

CONSPIRATORS

Sculptural works by local artists forming an international dialogue with the rich themes and irresistible tactility of Jan Švankmajer's oeuvre. A tantalising array of materials including glass, hair, food products, textiles, clay and found objects, the works are a homage to the limitless material potential and pleasure of sculpture. The exhibition features hand-cranked automata and sculptures that resonate with the gothic and surreal undertones of Švankmajer's tactile imagination.

Full list of artists at www.casffa.com.au

MEL Yarra Gallery
21-28 Aug 10am-6pm
Opening Fri 22 Aug 6-8pm

Featuring performances of intricate automated works by exhibiting artist James Cattell and the compelling musical storytelling of Pete Reid.



Terry Williams and Jenny Bartholomew
Untitled Talking, 2013
Courtesy of the artists and Arts Project Australia
Image by Penelope Hunt

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

SCRATCHING SURFACES

CaSFFA presents an evocative trio of exhibitions side by side in Melbourne in the Yarra Gallery, informed by the 2014 festival theme of "resistance" and celebrating the singular career of legendary filmmaker and surrealist Jan Švankmajer.

MEL Yarra Gallery
21-28 Aug 10am-6pm
Opening Fri 22 Aug 6-8pm
Artist and curator talks Sat 23 Aug 4-6pm

JAN ŠVANKMAJER: DIMENSIONS OF DIALOGUE / BETWEEN FILM AND FINE ART

Celebrating in text and images the 80th anniversary in 2014 of the birth of legendary Czech surrealist filmmaker, animator, visual and tactile artist Jan Švankmajer. The exhibition describes the trajectory of his epic career and was organised by Czech Centres with concept and text by Švankmajer's fellow members of the Group of Czech-Slovak Surrealists and assistance from Athanor Film.

MEL Yarra Gallery
21-28 Aug 10am-6pm
Opening Fri 22 Aug 6-8pm

SYD UTS
4-7 Sep 11am-5pm



PRAGUE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE SECRET POLICE

Photos and text providing insight into the surveillance practices employed by the dreaded Czechoslovakian secret police. Exhibition prepared by The Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Prague in cooperation with the Security Services Archive.

MEL Yarra Gallery
21-28 Aug 10am-6pm
Opening Fri 22 Aug 6-8pm

SYD Conny Dietzschold Gallery
2 - 7 Sep, 11 am - 5 pm
Opening Tue 2 Sep

Featuring presentation by Adam Hradilek - Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Prague.



FILM CO-PRODUCTION PANEL

Contemporary Czech & Slovak
Filmmaking & International Possibilities

An informative presentation and panel discussion of the current situation in the Czech and Slovak film and audiovisual industries, presenting shooting locations and covering opportunities for co-productions, including financial advantages and tax breaks for international film productions made in the territories of the Slovak and Czech Republics.

Panelists will include Alexandra Strelková, Silvia Panáková, Robert Kirchhoff and Martina Vacková.

Visit the CaSFFA website for further information.

SYD Dendy Newtown
5 Sep 2pm

GALLERY AFTER DARK

Join the dialogue. Meet members of the CaSFFA team for an informal chat about all things film and festival and a leisurely wander about "Scratching Surfaces" - the trio of CaSFFA exhibitions in the Yarra Gallery. Additional guests to be announced - keep an eye on the CaSFFA website. With drinks and biscuits!

MEL Yarra Gallery
Tue 26 Aug 6-9pm

POSTERS: SLOVAK CLASSIC FILMS PHOTOS: BEAUTY OF SLOVAKIA

SYD Dendy Newtown
4-7 Sep

TICKETING AND VENUES

MEL

ACMI CINEMAS

Federation Square, Melbourne

Tickets can be purchased online: www.acmi.net.au, over the phone: 03 8663 2583 or in person at the ACMI box office

General Admission

Adult \$18
Concession* \$15
ACMI Members \$14

Opening Night

Adult \$40
Concession* \$35
ACMI Members \$34
To See the Sea plus party in Optic Kitchen + Bar at ACMI. Includes cocktail upon arrival, first drink at the party free, nibbles, and live music from Vardos.

Closing Night

Adult \$30
Concession* \$25
ACMI Members \$24
Candidate plus party in Optic Kitchen + Bar at ACMI. Includes cocktail upon arrival, first drink at the party free, nibbles and live music.

Festival Mini Pass

Admission to three sessions, except for Opening and Closing Night and the Melbourne Cinémathèque screenings. Sessions must be nominated at the point of purchase. Adult \$48

Concession* \$39
ACMI Members \$36

The Jan Švankmajer Retrospective is co-presented with the Melbourne Cinémathèque. These sessions are available to Cinémathèque members only.

Cinémathèque Membership

Annual pass
Full \$145
Concession \$125

Mini pass (3 consecutive Cinémathèque screenings)
Full \$27
Concession \$22
Cinémathèque memberships are available at the ACMI box office or online at www.acmi.net.au.

YARRA GALLERY

Federation Square, Melbourne
No tickets - entry is free!

SYD

DENDY NEWTOWN

261-263 King Street, Newtown

Tickets can be purchased online: www.dendy.com.au, over the phone: 02 9550 5699 or in person at the Dendy Newtown box office

General Admission

Adult \$19
Concession* \$16
Student \$14
Senior \$12

Club Dendy

Adult \$14
Student \$12
Senior \$9

Opening Night

Adult \$35
The Confidant plus reception in Dendy Newtown. Includes guests, drinks and canapés.

Closing Night

Adult \$25
To See the Sea plus reception in Dendy Newtown. Includes a glass of sparkling on arrival and live music.

UTS (UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY)

Theatre 322, Level 3
Faculty of Design,
Architecture and Building
702-730 Harris Street, Ultimo
No tickets - entry is free!

CONNY DIETZSCHOLD GALLERY

Crown Street, Sydney
No tickets - entry is free!

Accessibility

ACMI Cinemas and Dendy Newtown are wheelchair-accessible.

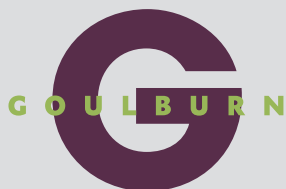
All films with dialogue will be screened with English subtitles.

Classification

Unless a rating is specified, all films are restricted to persons aged 18 years and over. This is a legal requirement of the Australian Classification Board.

For further information visit www.classification.gov.au.

* For students, pensioners, seniors, and holders of unemployment, health care or companion cards.



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