

## 1) News Agency of Nigeria, 28.11.2012

### Film corporation, institute, Czech embassy to host film week

November 28, 2012 13:44



NAN-H-41

#### Festival

Abuja, Nov. 28, 2012 (NAN) The Nigerian Film Corporation (NFC) said on Wednesday that it was collaborating with the National Film Institute (NFI) and the Embassy of Czech Republic toward hosting a film festival week to strengthen bilateral relations.

A statement signed by Mr Brian Etuk, head, public affairs of the corporation, stated that the festival tagged: 'Czech New Wave' would hold from Wednesday, Dec. 5, to Thursday, Dec. 6.

It noted that that was the first collaboration of its kind between the NFC, NFI and Czech Republic.

The statement added that some of the best films of the Czech cinematography were due to be screened.

"Some of the best films of Czech Cinematography from a 1960's film movement called the "Czech New Wave" will be screened during the festival", it said.

According to the statement, the festival is open to film students, enthusiasts and the public and that participants must be up to 18 years.

The statement quotes Mr Afolabi Adesanya, the Managing Director of the corporation, as saying: "Movies speak a universal language thus improving mutual understanding and serving as bridge between nations."

Adesanya said the festival was therefore coming on the heels of other festivals the corporation had hosted with other embassies.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the film corporation and film institute had hosted several film weeks with embassies of the United States of America, Spain, France, China, Egypt, Ukraine, Mexico among others.

According to the statement, the Film Week seeks to strengthen bilateral agreements on Culture and Film between Nigeria and other nations. (NAN)

## 2) The Guardian, 2.12.2012

### AROUND AND ABOUT NOLLYWOOD

SUNDAY, 02 DECEMBER 2012 00:00 BY SHAIBU HUSSENI LIFE  
MAGAZINE - MOVIEDOM



#### NFI-CZECH Republic Embassy to host film week

THE Nigerian Film Corporation (NFC), National Film Institute (NFI) and the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Nigeria will, on December 5 and 6, host a two-day film exposition, at NFI in Jos. With the theme, *Czech New Wave*, it is the first between the NFC-NFI and the Embassy of the Czech Republic. An opening ceremony, on December 5, beginning at 2pm, to be jointly chaired by the Ambassador of the Czech Republic Mr. Joroslav Siro and Mr. Afolabi Adesanya, Nigerian Film Corporation's managing director, will precede screening of films. A statement from the film corporation indicated that some of the best films of Czech Cinematography from a 1960s film movement called the *Czech New Wave* will be screened during the festival, which includes *The Fireman's Ball*, *The Cremator*, *The Witches Hammer*, *Closely Watched Trains*. Also, the organisers stated that the festival is free and it is open to film students and enthusiasts and members of the general public who must be 18 years and above. The Nigerian Film Corporation/National Film Institute has successfully hosted Film Weeks with Embassies of the United States of America, Spain, France, China, Egypt, Ukraine, Mexico and others. The film week seeks to strengthen bilateral agreements on culture and film between Nigeria and other nations.

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# world NEWS

## First Czech Film Festival Holds In Jos

BY MILLIE IBE, Abuja

The Embassy of the Czech Republic and National Film Institute in Jos will from November 5, 2012 jointly present the first Czech Film Festival in Jos. The two-day festival begins tomorrow.

In a statement made available to LEADERSHIP by the Czech Embassy in Abuja, it stated that, some of the best films of Czech cinematography from a 1960's film movement called „Czech New Wave“ will be screened during the festival: The Firemen's Ball, The Cremator, The Witch-

es' Hammer and Closely Watched Trains. The latter received an academy award for Best Foreign Language Film in 1967.

The statement also said that the event will be dedicated to all students of National Film Institute in Jos.

“The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Nigeria believes that movies speak a universal language, as they capture the defining features of our shared humanity, and thus can improve our mutual understanding and serve as bridges between our countries”, the statement said.

## 4) Daily Trust (+ Weekly Trust), 15.12.2012

### Czech 'New Wave Film Festival' ends in Jos

Written by Adie Vanessa Offiong Saturday, 15 December 2012 05:00

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The maiden edition of the Czech New Wave Film Festival organized by the Nigerian Film Corporation (NFC) and the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Nigeria has ended in Jos, Plateau State, with a call for sustainable film training and capacity building for the Nigerian motion picture industry. The National Film Institute (NFI), Jos, hosted the two-day event

The December 5th to 6th event brought together stakeholders, including students to foster a stronger cultural bi-lateral relations between Nigeria and the Czech Republic, using film and capacity sector as the medium.

Mr. Afolabi Adesanya, Nigerian Film Corporation's Managing Director, expressed delight at the sustained chain of collaborative film festival weeks between the NFC/NFI and foreign embassies like China, Egypt, the United States of America, Ukraine, France, Spain, amongst others in Nigeria.

"Film enthusiasts, especially students, have benefitted immensely from past film festivals. The embassies have provided a veritable platform for previewing and understanding the cultural, social and economic potentials of the partnering countries, conveyed through films," he said.

The outing Managing Director said the event was geared to provide further opportunities for film students to understand and appreciate films from other climes, and deploy the experiences acquired to enhance their knowledge and skills. "Film making is where you recycle ideas by learning from notable productions and attributes of personalities involved from other film cultures, to improve creative depth and presentations," Mr. Adesanya said.

The Commissioner for Culture & Tourism, Plateau State, Hon. Sylvanus Dangtoe, said the state were indeed happy that film activities in Plateau State were being sustained especially through film festival weeks with foreign nations. This, he said, would continue to boost the tourism potentials of the State, adding that the NFC/NFI would continue to enjoy the support and assistance of the state government.

Earlier, the Ambassador of Czech Republic, Mr. Jaroslav Siro represented by the Embassy's Third Desk Secretary and Cultural/ Press Officer, Eliska Kolarova, thanked the NFC for collaborating to host the festival. She said "films screened were selected from among the best of Czechs' classic movies originally intended for the Czech's audience, but had to be subtitled in English for easy understanding."

Kolarova said "Nigeria occupies an enviable position in the comity of film producing nations and as such collaborative efforts and partnerships must be sustained."

Meanwhile, Professor Hayward Mafuyai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jos has pledged that the university would sustain its support and assistance to the National Film Institute, Jos, saying that both institutions stand to gain much in the face of ongoing efforts to strengthen the academic programmes of the university through international and foreign partnerships.

Professor Mafusayi who disclosed this when he received visiting Mr. Afolabi Adesanya, Managing Director, Nigerian Film Corporation (NFC) in his office, said the university is upgrading its academic programmes by reviewing existing programmes, training and retraining of her academic staff, to put it on the path of sustainable growth.

## 5) The Guardian, 16.12.2012

### A good ending for the Czech filmfest in Jos

**T**HE maiden edition of the Czech New Wave Film Festival organised by the Nigerian Film Corporation (NFC) and the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Nigeria has ended in Jos, Plateau State, with a call for sustainable film training and capacity building for the Nigerian motion picture industry. The film festival, which witnessed a huge turnout of stakeholders and students, lasted for two days, December 5 to 6. It aimed at fostering strong cultural relations between Nigeria and the Czech Republic, using film and capacity building for the film sector in Nigeria. Managing Director of NFC, Mr. Afolabi Adesanya, who expressed delight at the sustained chain of collaborative efforts between the NFC/NFI and foreign embassies in Nigeria, stated that film enthusiasts, especially film students have benefitted immensely from past festivals. Adesanya noted that the festival has provided a veritable platform for previewing and understanding the cultural, social, and economic potentials of the partnering countries. Also, Commissioner of Culture and Tourism, Plateau State, Sylvanus Dangtoe told participants that government was happy that film activities in the state were being sustained, especially through film festival weeks with foreign nations. He said this would continue to boost the tourism potentials of the state. He assured that the NFC/NFI would continue to enjoy the support and assistance from the government of Plateau State. Earlier, the Ambassador of Czech Republic, Mr. Jaroslav Siro, who was represented by the cultural and press officer, Eliska Kolarova, thanked the NFC for collaborating to host the film festival. Nigeria, Siro said, occupies an enviable position in the comity of film producing nations and as such collaborative efforts and partnerships must be sustained.

**6) The Nation, 16.12.2012**

## **At the Czech Film festival**

Posted by: [Oris Aigbokhaevbolo](#) Posted date: **December 16, 2012** In: [Arts](#) | comment : [0](#)

On 5th and 6th December, the Czech Republic presented its first film festival at the premises of the National Film Institute (NFI) in Jos. A set of four best rated Czech films from the 60's-called the Czech New Wave movement was screened within two afternoons.

The event was launched by an opening speech of Afolabi Adesanya, Managing Director (CEO) of the Nigerian Film Corporation. Adesanya, in his speech, encouraged students of the NFI to look closely at the internationally acclaimed Czech films and get inspiration from other cultural milieu.

“We must know the classics of world cinema to be able to produce our own outstanding films,” he said.

The event was attended by a representative of the Plateau State Government, Hon. Sylvanus L. Dongtoe, Commissioner for Tourism, Culture and Hospitality, who appreciated that a representative of the Czech Embassy came to Jos, a place where many artistic Nigerians live, and expressed his hope that the reputation of Jos as a safe and friendly city to visitors will expand, thanks to events like the Czech film festival.

The representative of the Czech Embassy, Ms. Eliška Kolářová, cultural attaché, delivered a speech on behalf of the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, putting the Czech New Wave movement in context. She also spoke about its most important director – Miloš Forman– who later emigrated to the U.S, where two of his later films, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Amadeus* are among the most honoured movies in Academy Award history.

Films screened at the festival included *Firemen's Ball* directed by Milos Forman, *The Cremator* by Juraj Herz, and *Closely Watched Trains* by Jiri Menzel.

### **FIREMEN'S BALL**

Milos Forman is one of the most rewarded directors in Academy Award history- two of his films having won a combined 14 Oscars at the world's most prestigious film award ceremony. Yet, outside film schools and discussions between cinema buffs, it is unlikely the name is met with more than a faint recognition, which makes the decision to screen his last film before emigrating to the United States a wise one.

Years before the filmmaker directed Hollywood great, Jack Nicholson, in *One Flew Over Cuckoo's Nest* (adapted from the Ken Kesey novel,) which gave the actor his first of three Oscars, he directed this oddball comedy acknowledged as one of the best films from the Czech New Wave, a film movement with a short span but lasting legacy. *Firemen's Ball* is the story of a fire department's preparation for an event to honour the cancer stricken ex-president and a beauty pageant. Despite good intentions, the event crumbles under the weight of its own bureaucracy and general ineptitude of the organisers: gifts are stolen by the guests; when

young women coerced for the pageant abscond, an unattractive older woman is crowned; an officer of the department gets a heart attack when lights, switched off to encourage guests return their loot, abruptly comes back on and he is caught returning an item; a fire breaks out and the department it turns out to be as ineffectual at putting out fires as it is at organising a ball.

Immensely popular upon release, its peculiar manner of mocking officialdom led the Communist regime in place at the time to ban the film the year after it was released. Today, it may be puzzling a government banned such a hearty comedy. upon reflection, however, it is not strange: absolutist regimes of inflexible configurations cannot allow its power structures laughed at: laughter can be dissent.

Director Milos Forman denied any suggestion he made the film to satirise the workings and effectiveness of the Communist government's bureaucracies, saying he knew, "...if I be real, if I'll be true, the film will reveal an allegorical sense."

The world is full of artists who deny a deeper reading of their work. However, if it be true, we can only be grateful, for in this case the product functions both as a regular offbeat comedy as well as a criticism of its time; a time replete with corruption, needless structures, official ineptitude and above all, human stupidity. Nonetheless, none of these is peculiar to the 60's or to Czechoslovakia – every Nigerian has witnessed or experienced slight variations of the events of Firemen's Ball at least thrice in his/her lifetime.

Makes you wonder: who'd have thought the closest thing to a film on the socio-political milieu in contemporary Nigeria was made by a Czech director, in 1967? Not you? Me neither.

Aigbokhaevbolo is film critic based in Asokoro, Abuja