

Czech The NEWS – Los Angeles



Czech That Film is Back!

Fans of Czech cinema can celebrate! Their annual feast of the best new Czech films is fast approaching. Czech That Film festival, an annual touring program, is coming back this spring, now celebrating its 3rd year. The Czechfest will open with “Honeymoon” (Líbáňky, 2013) directed by Jan Hřebejk, the leading Czech filmmaker after 1989, on Thursday, March 27th, 2014 at 7 pm. A Q&A session with Jan Hřebejk will follow the screening. The gala evening will conclude with an after party and free Czech beer. The festival will continue through Wednesday, April 2nd, 2014.

All screenings will start at 7 pm and are complimentary but reservations are required at: <http://cinema.usc.edu/CzechThatFilm>

The festival will take place on the campus of the University of Southern California (900 W 34th St., Los Angeles) at the Ray Stark Family Theater except for the screening of the film „Like Never Before“ that will be presented next door also on USC campus at the Albert & Dana Broccoli Theater.

Dear Friends in the Southland,

Spring is arriving in California and I am glad we finally got some rain here last month. We have received some good news from the Czech Republic as well. A new coalition government headed by the Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka from the Social Democratic Party received a vote of confidence from the Czech Parliament in February. Mr. Lubomír Zaorálek was named as the new Minister of Foreign Affairs.

I am excited to announce that the annual “Czech That Film” festival will return to California and other West coast cities in March and April. This time, the Czech Consulate is cooperating with the University of Southern California. Together, we will present the top five best new Czech films at two theaters on the premises of USC. The opening night will take place on March 27, 2014 featuring the film “Honeymoon” and a Q&A with its director, well-known Jan Hřebejk.



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To subscribe for our newsletter and upcoming cultural events, please, contact us at losangeles@embassy.mzv.cz or 310-473-0889

Czech Films Return to Los Angeles



„Don Juans“

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Attendees will have an opportunity to meet in person with the renowned Czech director Jan Hřebejk (the Oscar-nominated “Divided We Fall”), who will introduce his latest feature to American audience. Jan Hřebejk won the Best Director Award for “Honeymoon” at the 48th International Film Festival of Karlovy Vary. “Honeymoon” is an intimate drama, a part of a loose trilogy of stories from contemporary life (*Kawasaki Rose*, *Innocence*). The common theme of these pictures is a secret buried in the past, which can have an unexpected impact upon the present.

Schedule of Screenings

HONEYMOON

(Libánky, 2013, 92 min.), dir. Jan Hřebejk
Thurs, March 27, 7 pm, USC (Ray Stark Family Theatre);
Q&A with the director, reception to follow

DON JUANS

(Donšajni, 2013, 102 min.), dir. Jiří Menzel
Fri, March 28, 7 pm, USC (Ray Stark Family Theatre)

LIKE NEVER BEFORE

(Jako nikdy, 2013, 100 min.), dir. Zdeněk Tyc
Sat, March 29, 7 pm, USC (Albert & Dana Broccoli Theatre)

COLETTE

(Colette, 2013, 126 min.), dir. Milan Cieslar
Tues, April 1, 7 pm, Ray Stark Family Theatre in
cooperation with American Jewish Committee Los Angeles
(AJC)

LOUSY BASTARDS – WORLD PREMIERE

(Všiváci, 2013, 100 min.), dir. Roman Kašparovský
Wed, April 2, 7 pm, Ray Stark Family Theatre; Q&A with the
director, reception to follow.

“We are eager to host the best of current Czech cinema. The program of 2014 Czech That Film will include a diverse assortment of films and surely should not be missed by any enthusiast of international cinema” said Alessandro Ago, Director of Programming and Special Projects at USC's School of Cinematic Arts.

In 2014, Czech That Film will host another special guest – a promising Czech director Roman Kašparovský, who will in person present a world premiere of his feature debut „Lousy Bastards“ („Všiváci“, 2013). In “Lousy Bastards” Kašparovský creates a dramatic thriller about two men trying to make the right choices in the world.

The line-up continues with Jiří Menzel’s “Don Juans” (Donšajni, 2013), the Czech entry for the Best Foreign Language Oscar at the 86th Academy Awards. The American premiere of the latest existential drama of Zdeněk Tyc „Like Never Before“ (Jako nikdy, 2013), starring popular Czech actors Jiří Schmitzer and Taťjana Medvecká, received two Czech Academy Awards (Český lev) last month. Milan Cieslar’s newest film “Collete”(2013), a love story from Auschwitz, based on renowned literary author Arnošt Lustig’s novel, is co-sponsored by American Jewish Committee.

The festival after kicking off its tour in Los Angeles on March 27 will continue to the major American cosmopolitan areas as follow:

San Francisco (March 30 – April 2)
Salt Lake City (April 1-3)
Cedar Rapids, IA (April 4 -5)
Denver (April 5 -8)
Phoenix (April 7 -30)
Washington D.C. (April 9 & June 11)
Portland (June 12-15)
New York City (June 4-6)
Chicago (July 4-31)
Seattle (July 11-13)

We would like to express a deep gratitude to the Czech Center in Prague and the University of Southern California (USC) for their cooperation in organizing the festival and all the participating partners and sponsors, especially: Czech Tourism, ELMA, Milk&Honey Films, Prague Studios, Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles (SVU).

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Dear friends in Southland,

A young Czech film director, Roman Kašparovský, will come to Los Angeles for the closing night of the festival on April 2, 2014, and will personally introduce a world premiere of his debut "Lousy Bastards." It took it a lot of work from everybody here at the Consulate to bring you this exciting program. I hope you will find it interesting and stimulating, both from a cinematic as well as a storytelling point of view. Please find a detailed program on the previous page. I look forward to seeing you all at screenings in the beautiful theaters at the USC campus. I can assure you that the parking there is convenient and the area is completely safe now.

I am also happy that the third edition of our popular Petrof Concert Series had such a fantastic start in February when the Czech-Argentinian pianist Fabio Banegas Jiříček performed works of Czech composers such as Dvořák, Smetana, Janáček and Benda. I am honored that the exceptional Czech violinist Pavel Šporcl, together with his talented pianist Petr Jiříkovský will come to Los Angeles to perform at the Petrof Concert Series on April 20th presenting a fantastic concert of the best Czech violinists of the past such as Kubelik, Ondříček, Kocian and Laub. Some works of Dvořák and Smetana will be performed as well.

We have already had a very busy cultural season this spring, starting with a series of screenings of Menzel movies based on Hrabal's novels. The opening of a new exhibition of photographs by a renowned Czech photographer and Hollywood cameraman, the late Alexander Hackenschmied (in the US known as Sascha Hammid) took place on Tuesday, March 4th, accompanied by film screenings of his most famous works such as "Meshes in the Afternoon" (1943) and "The Crises" (1939). This valued collection of Hammid's photographs will be on display only through May, so please do not hesitate to visit the Front Gallery here at the Consulate.

The new Czech law on citizenship is also keeping us busy here at the Consulate. Many of you have already taken advantage of the new legislation and applied to regain your Czech citizenship. As we are receiving many phone calls and applications daily, please be patient when your request is not being processed as smoothly as we all would wish. To get more information about our events, please visit our website and Facebook page.

Michal Sedláček



Receiving line – Mexican Ball

Join Us For Ball Honoring Los Angeles Consular Corps

The Czech Consulate would like to invite you to the 63rd Annual International Night Benefit Ball honoring this year the Los Angeles Consular Corps. The event, organized by the International Committee of the Los Angeles Philharmonic will be held on Friday, May 30, 2014, at the legendary Dorothy Chandler Pavilion at the Music Center in downtown Los Angeles.

The International Committee, founded in 1951, is an affiliate of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra dedicated to bringing into focus the impact of music as a "language of international goodwill" among all nations. This black-tie gala evening will begin with Opening Ceremony and silent auction followed by dinner and dancing. A special international cultural program will also be part of the festive evening.

The main purpose of this gala is to build bridges between cultures and countries and to support and raise funds for the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association. The proceeds of the ball will be dedicated to support music and music schools in greater Los Angeles area. All the countries represented in Los Angeles will be honored this year, a majority of local Consul Generals shall be in attendance. The Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti as well as all five LA County supervisors will be invited to share this special evening with LA Consular Corps.

For tickets, please contact Sylvie Trnkova, Assistant to the Czech Consul General at: sylvie.trnkova@mzv.cz or 310-473-0889 ext.230.

Famous Pavel Šporcl Comes To LA

Exciting, once in a year event comes to Los Angeles! After the Petrof Concert Series 2014 opened with a concert of a talented pianist Fabio Banegas last month, the most distinctive member of the young generation of Czech violinists, Pavel Šporcl, will perform in Los Angeles as a part of the Petrof Concert Series. He will be accompanied by Petr Jiříkovský, a well-known Czech pianist, conductor, and one of the leading representatives of the middle generation of Czech artists. This special invitation-only concert will take place at the Residence of the Czech Consul General on Sunday, April 20, 2014 at 2 pm.

Pavel Šporcl and Petr Jiříkovský will perform works of famous Czech composers Antonín Dvořák, Bedřich Smetana and other gifted Czech violinists of the past such as R. Kubelík, J. Kocián, F. Ondříček, F. Drdla and F. Laub.

The talented Pavel Šporcl first took up violin at the age of five, subsequently to study it at the Prague Conservatory and Academy of Music. From 1991–1996 he pursued his studies in the U.S.A., under the tutelage of outstanding teachers including Eduard Schmieder, Itzhak Perlman and Dorothy DeLay.

Today, Pavel Šporcl is a regular guest at various television and radio studios, making appearances in virtually all media. His recordings have invariably shot up to top-selling positions. Pavel Šporcl is the holder of various prizes and awards. In 2007, Gramophone magazine awarded him the title of “Gramophone Recommends”. His CD (Dvořák/Suk violin) was declared to be the best selling classical CD of the year 2006. He also received many awards for his CD Paganini - Supraphon Platinum Album in 2006, Supraphon Gold Album in 2005, Harmony magazine Reader’s price in 2005, Classical Internet Award in 2005, and others.

Mr. Šporcl appears on concert platforms around the world and has been working continually with a rich gallery of Czech and international orchestras (Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, National Orchestra de France, Orchestre de Paris, and Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, etc.).

He also worked with famous conductors (V. Ashkenazy, L. Pesek, A. Nelsons, J. Belohlavek, I. Volkov, J. Kout, J. J. Kantorow and P. Altrichter) and performed at prestigious festivals such as Rheingau Music Festival, Schleswig-Holstein festival, Prague Spring, International Festival of Colmar, and Radio France Montpellier.



Pavel Šporcl

In summer 2004, Mr. Šporcl debuted at one of the most significant international festivals in Salzburg, Salzburger Festspiele, with tremendous success. He has also cooperated with great colleagues such as J. Suk, S. Mintz, N. Lugansky, G. Lipkind. His recordings for such companies as EMI, Universal, Supraphon received many great critical acclaims.

Pavel Šporcl likes to go beyond the classical music scene and cooperates with many non-classical music artists. His project “Gypsy Way” where he performs on stage along with gypsy cimbalom band has been received with great enthusiasm in many countries around the world and was seen by more than 120 thousand people. He strives to bring the message of classical music to the broadest circle of listeners, especially to young audiences. Mr. Šporcl frequently performs “instructive” concerts intended for students from middle schools and high schools turning these projects into exceptionally popular occasions.

Program “My Violin Legends”

Ferdinand Laub – Polonaise G major, Op.8

Jan Kubelík – Burlesque

Eugen Ysaye – Poeme Elegiaque

A.Dvorak – Sonatina in G major, Op. 100

1. Allegro risoluto

2. Larghetto

3. Scherzo. Molto vivace

4. Finale. Allegro

Franz Drdla – Souvenir

Pavel Šporcl – Bohemian Nostalgia

Jaroslav Kocian – Old Folks at Home

Please, join us for this special event organized by the Society of Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles (SVU) together with the Consulate General of the Czech Republic.

If you’d like to attend, please reserve your ticket (20 USD) at Sylvie.Trnkova@mzv.cz.

The exhibition “Operation Israel” Comes to LA



In May, the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles, in cooperation with American Jewish Committee of Los Angeles, will organize a special exhibition commemorating the Czech assistance in Israel's struggle for independence. The exhibit will deepen the continued bonds of friendship between the Czech Republic, the state of Israel, and the United States. The place and date of the exhibition are still being worked out.

The “Operation Israel” exhibit documents the Czech-Jewish-American relations prior to the Declaration of Independence of Czechoslovakia in 1918, the personal commitment of President Thomas G. Masaryk to Jewish culture, and his visit to Palestine in 1927. The main part of the exhibition details key events of 1947-1949, such as the UN vote regarding partition of original Palestine, the supply of arms, aircrafts and trained pilots in the operation “Confidential”, despite the UN embargo on arms supplies to Palestine.

The exhibition will also highlight support for the establishment of the state of Israel, by both, the Czech political leaders such as Jan Masaryk, Czechoslovak Minister of Foreign Affairs at that time, and the Czech people even after the communist take-over in Czechoslovakia in February 1948. Support of Israel was one of the few foreign policies that had not changed immediately after the overthrow of the democratic Czechoslovak government. This policy, however, has turned due to Joseph Stalin's disappointment over the fact that the newly established State of Israel did not become part of the communist bloc. The final chapter of the exhibit documents the visit of President Václav Havel to Israel in 1990.

Last year in May, a special exhibit already took place in Philadelphia in honor of the 65th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel.

Opening remarks were delivered by the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the U.S. Mr. Petr Gandalovič and Yaron Sideman, the Consul General of Israel in Philadelphia. The event was organized by the Israeli Consul General in Philadelphia, Czech Honorary Consul General Peter Rafaeli, AJC Philadelphia and the Embassy of the Czech Republic.

New Czech Government Approved by the Parliament

The new Czech centre-left cabinet led by Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka won the required vote of confidence on February 18, 2014. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of this cabinet is Mr. Lubomír Zaorálek from the Czech Social Democratic Party, which narrowly won an early election in October last year.

The new Prime Minister Sobotka aims to raise pensions and minimum wages after the austerity policies of the previous cabinet, while keeping the budget deficit below 3 percent of gross domestic product, which is a softer target than the previous cabinets' plans to eliminate the deficit.

"We need to raise our influence in Europe, to be able to secure our national interests. We cannot stand on the sidelines but have to take part in the debate on what Europe will look like in the years ahead," Sobotka told parliament.

It took over two months to form a new Czech government coalition, which now consists of Social Democrats and the new centrist „YES“ movement of Finance Minister Andrej Babis and of the Czech Christian Democratic Union.

Mr. Bohuslav Sobotka, 42, served as finance minister in 2002-2006. A life-long politician, he won his first seat in the lower house of parliament in 1996, at the age of 24, one year after finishing his law degree. He served as the head of the budget committee.

Prime Minister Sobotka took part in reviving the Czech Social Democratic Party, dismantled by the Communists after their coup in 1948. He co-founded its youth branch in 1990 and after holding various positions he was elected chairman in March 2011.



Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka

Distinctive Collection of Photographs by Alexander Hackenschmied at the Front Gallery of the Czech Consulate

In honor of one of the leading figures in the avant-garde cinema and photography in the early 20th century, Alexander Hackenschmied, the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles currently hosts an exhibit of a broad sample of his photography work. The photo exhibition is on display at the Front Gallery at the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles (10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024) that is open from Monday through Friday from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm until mid of May, 2014.

The opening ceremony, celebrating one of the founders of modern Czech photography and avant-garde world film Alexander Hackenschmied, in the US better known under his American name Sasha Hammid, was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at the Consulate of the Czech Republic.

An exceptional cultural evening started with the opening of the exhibition and followed with a Hackenschmied's short film „Meshes of the Afternoon” (1943), which is considered to be one of the most essential and influential films of the early American avant-garde. Hackenschmied collaborated on this movie together with his first wife Maya Deren. In addition, the Czech Consulate presented a screening of a 1939 documentary about the rise of fascism in Europe „Crisis“ (95 min.) on which Hackenschmied cooperated with an American director Herbert Kline. The evening concluded with a documentary about Hackenschmied's work and life “Aimless Walk” (1997) directed by Martina Kudlacek.

Tino Hammid, son of Alexander Hackenschmied was at the attendance for questions and answers session. He also brought an Oscar statue received by Hackenschmied for his final film “*To be Alive*” (1964) in the Best Documentary Short Category in 1965.



*Michal Sedláček, the Czech Consul General with
Tino Hammid, son of A. Hackenschmied*



The Opening of the Exhibition

Czech Singer & Actor Jan Budař Returns to California

Jan Budař, Czech singer and actor, will return to California and will perform in various cities from April 11-13, 2014. Budař, born in Frýdlant, graduated from Brno's Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts (JAMU). He started his career in Brno's theatres. He is known for his award-winning work in Czech films “Champions” (2004) and “Boredom in Brno” (2003), both in which he won a Czech Lion for his outstanding acting. “Boredom in Brno” –starring, co-written and composed by Budař – also won four other awards from the Czech Film and Television Academy, including Best Film and Best Screenplay.

His other passion, music, is evident in the scores of multilingual music he composes for films and theatre, and the four albums he has released with his Eliščin Band. He will perform songs from „Eliščin Band“ accompanied by guitarist Jiri Cafourek this April in California.

This time Budař will start his tour in San Diego where the concert will take place at the Hall of Nations (2191 W. Pan American Road, San Diego) on April 11, 2014 at 7:00 pm. His next performance will be held on April 12, 2014 from 7:00 pm at the British Social Club (12882 Valley View St., Garden Grove). All tickets can be purchased at TicketWeb.com for \$15 or at the door for \$20.

San Francisco will host him on April 13, 2014 at Angelicas (863 Main St., Redwood City, CA). Tickets at angelicasllc.com/entertainment.htm.



Former Czech Nationals Eligible to Regain Czech Citizenship by Declaration

A new Czech nationality law, Czech Nationality Act No. 186/2013 Coll., went into effect on January 1st, 2014. As of this date, **Czech nationals are permitted to have a dual or multiple citizenships, and former nationals are eligible to regain their Czech citizenship by declaration.**

According to Section 31 of the law, former Czech or Czechoslovak nationals, who have lost their citizenship prior to the effective date of the new legislation (with certain exceptions), are eligible to regain Czech citizenship. Declarations for citizenship will also be accepted from those former Czechoslovak nationals who had permanently resided in the Czech (Socialist) Republic until leaving the country, provided that they do not have Slovak citizenship on the date of the declaration. **The new legislation repeals the rule of declarations not being accepted from those who lost their citizenship before February 25, 1948 and after March 28, 1990.** However, children cannot be included in declarations of their parents. Parents (or authorized representatives) will have to make a separate declaration on each child's behalf.

Section 32 states that declarations will be accepted from persons who were nationals of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic on December 31, 1992 but did not have the citizenship of the Czech Republic or of the Slovak Republic. No declarations will be accepted from those who have Slovak nationality on the date of the declaration. Direct-line descendants of the former nationals specified in the preceding paragraph will also be allowed to make the declaration, provided that they have never had Czech or Slovak nationality.

Section 33 declares that persons born outside of the Czechoslovak Republic between October 1, 1949 and May 7, 1969, if at least one of the parents was a Czechoslovak national and became (or would have become) a Czech national on January 1, 1969, are also eligible to regain citizenship. **These persons must present their declarations before January 1st, 2015.**



Slovak nationals will no longer be able to acquire Czech citizenship through declaration. There will be a transitional period of one year during which Slovak nationals will be allowed to make declarations according to the old legislation (Section 72). **These declarations must be presented before January 1st, 2015.**

In order to make a declaration, a special form needs to be filled out and required documents submitted (to download the form and see the list of required documents please visit the website of the Czech Consulate at: www.mzv.cz/losangeles). The application is then forwarded by the Consulate General to the respective authority in the Czech Republic for approval.

For detailed information on the procedures, forms and other information, please visit website of the Consulate General www.mzv.cz/losangeles.



March 2014	April 2014	May 2014
<p>March 21-April 20, 2014, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays at 7:30 pm - The Memorandum by Václav Havel, directed by Jen Bloom</p> <p>Venue: The Miles Playhouse (1130 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica, 90404)</p> <p>For tickets, please visit: app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=smrt (use code SHINE for a discount)</p>	<p>April 1 at 7:00 pm - Screening of the Czech film <i>“Colette”</i> in cooperation with American Jewish Committee Los Angeles (AJC)</p> <p>Venue: USC (Ray Stark Family Theatre)</p>	<p>May, 2014 (TBD) – Opening of the exhibition <i>“Operation Israel”</i></p>
<p>March 27, 2014 at 7:00 pm – Opening Night of the Czech That Film festival with the Screening of the Czech film <i>“Honeymoon”</i> Q&A with the director</p> <p>Venue: USC (Ray Stark Family Theatre)</p>	<p>April 2, 2014 at 7:00 pm– Closing Night of the Czech That Film festival with the world premiere of the Czech film <i>“Lousy Bastards”</i> followed by Q&A with the director</p> <p>Venue: USC (Ray Stark Family Theatre)</p>	<p>May 14, 2014 at 7:00 pm – Opening of the exhibition <i>Bohumil Hrabal: “Who Am I?”</i> in honor of the 100th Anniversary of his birth followed by a screening of the Czech film <i>“I Served the King of England”</i></p>
<p>March 28, 2014 at 7:00 pm– Screening of the Czech film <i>“Don Juans”</i></p> <p>Venue: USC (Ray Stark Family Theatre)</p>	<p>April 12, 2014 from 7:00 pm – Concert with the Czech singer and actor Jan Budař</p> <p>Venue: British Social Club (12882 Valley View St., Garden Grove)</p> <p>All tickets can be purchased at TicketWeb.com for \$15 or at the door for \$20</p>	<p>May 30, 2014 – Los Angeles Consular Corps Ball 2014</p> <p>Venue: Dorothy Chandler Pavilion at the Music Center in downtown Los Angeles</p>
<p>March 29, 2014 at 7:00 pm – Screening of the Czech film <i>“Like Never Before”</i></p> <p>Venue: USC (Albert & Dana Broccoli Theatre)</p>	<p>April 20, 2014 at 2:00 pm – Concert with the renowned Violinist Pavel Šporcl</p> <p>Venue: The residence of the Consul General (Upon invitations only – tickets \$20)</p>	

