THE CZECH CENTRE IN ASSOCIATION WITH STAROPRAMEN PRESENTS

MADE IN PRAGUE

NEW CZECH CINEMA & JAZZ

1–29 November 2012
London

www.czechcentre.org.uk
Welcome to 2012’s Made in Prague festival, the annual Czech film season that has now reached the plum old age of 16. Each year we strive to build on the previous year’s success and make the festival even more attractive for London culture lovers.

Spread over seven venues and five weeks, the 2012 edition presents a lavish offering of talent and unique creative collaborations: the New Czech Cinema (comprising 13 new features and six short films), our exciting New Czech Jazz series and a fascinating comic illustration exhibition Alois Nebel: My Life. Some of our gala screenings and special events feature as part of the programmes of our partner festivals: London Jazz Festival, Comica Festival and the UK Jewish Film Festival.

If I were pressed to pick a couple of highlights from the festival here are my choices. Alois Nebel, a dark, strikingly illustrated Czech comic novel by Jaroslav Rudiš and Jaromír 99 cleverly tells the haunting tale of a murder in post-war Bohemia. The cult book was made into a film last year (nominated for the European Film Award 2012) with leading Czech actors and utilising the ground-breaking technology of rotoscopy which turns real images into illustrations resembling the original feel and style of the graphic novel. The gala screening on Friday, 9th November at the festival’s central base, the Riverside Studios, is followed by a live music party featuring the musicians who created the popular soundtrack for the movie. To complete the picture, the festival’s art exhibition is dedicated to illustrations from the original source material. Another highlight is the first gig of the New Czech Jazz Series at the Soho club Spice of Life. The concert presented Najponk, a star Czech jazz pianist, and UK jazzman Matt Fishwick. The pair will perform pieces from their latest jointly recorded album.

This year the Czech Centre has partnered with Staropramen, a premium and popular Prague beer, to bring you the world famous taste of the Czech capital. This alliance will certainly help to give our festival an exceptional flavour and reflect the magical atmosphere of the city that inspires our festival. Our sincere thanks to Staropramen and all the other enthusiastic and kind partners and friends who have helped to make this festival happen.

We look forward to seeing you at Made in Prague.

Ladislav Pflimph
Director, Czech Centre London
The Organist of St Vitus’ Cathedral + live music accompaniment by Najponk
Martin Frič, Czechoslovakia 1929, 78’, intertitles (Karel Hašler, Oskar Marion, Suzanne Marwille, L.H.Struna)

Love, blackmail and betrayal are the subjects of this successful melodrama. An old church organist witnesses the suicide of a man who gives him money for his daughter who is living in a convent. He looks after her like his own family and when she runs away with a painter, he becomes paralysed with grief and only her return can nurse him back. Leading Czech jazz pianist and winner of the Best Album Award from the Czech Music Academy, Najponk, will perform a live piano score to accompany the film considered the apex of Czech silent-era cinema.

Generation Singles
Jana Počtová, Czech Republic, 2011, 77’, subtitles

They are unmarried, flexible, financially independent... and single. Are long-term relationships an anachronism or an unattainable ideal? Who are the singles and why do they live without a partner? Director explores the answers through the honest testimony of six men and women over the course of one year. They openly discuss sex, missed chances, their fears and dreams providing an insightful and humorous probe into human relationships.

TUMORrow Never Knows
Pavel Štefl, Czech Republic, 2011, 4’

An animated story about an old lady and her ‘close friend.’

In collaboration with the Barbican and the Czech National Film Archive.

Allois Nebel: My Life

An exhibition of black and white cartoons inspired by the two cult Czech graphic novels by Jaroslav Rudiš and Jaromír 99, the first modern graphic novels to be published in the Czech Republic. Situated against the backdrop of the 20th century, the novel provides the testimony of seemingly ordinary people living on the outskirts of society and affected for generations by ‘Great History’. Artist Jaromír 99 was inspired by the American comics of the 1950s, socialist realism and motifs from traditional paper cutouts. The Artist Jaromír 99 will also draw live on the big screen in the Drawing Parade at Comica 2012, the London International Comics Festival, promoting his Alois Nebel trilogy and work on Franz Kafka’s The Trial, due to be published by SelfMadeHero in 2013.

In collaboration with Comica Festival and Labyrint.
Dorota, a naive high school graduate, leaves her family and boyfriend in Slovakia to find work. Joining other immigrant women in a Czech textile factory, her poetic dreams are crushed by life's harsh reality. Left with no money and nowhere to go when the factory closes, Dorota sees life in Germany with an older man as her best option. Reminiscent of early Miloš Forman films, the director draws upon her documentary background and uses non-actors and authentic settings to offer a striking portrait of contemporary life.

Dessert
Anna Mastníková, Czech Republic, 2011, 4’
An animated allegory on different kinds of love.

A Night too Young
Olmo Omerzu, Czech Republic, Slovenia, 2012, 65’, subtitles
(Natalie Řehořová, Martin Pechlát, Jiří Černý, Vojtěch Machuta)
A long and unforgettable night in her prefab flat awaits a young teacher, her lover and his friend following a disastrous New Year’s Eve celebration. When joined by two boys on the edge of puberty, encountering alcohol, drugs and sexual desire for the first time, complex power games unfold. The only Czech film selected for this year’s Berlinale, this is a highly original and atmospheric allegory where the child and adult worlds reflect each other recalling Krzysztof Kieslowski’s Decalogue in aesthetics and subject matter.

Second Act
Olmo Omerzu, Czech Republic, 2008, 43’, subtitles
A honeymoon comes too late to save a marriage.

Made in Ash
Iveta Grófová, Slovakia, Czech Republic, 2012, 80’, subtitles
(Dorota Bíllá, Silvia Halušicová, Robin Horký)
Dorota, a naive high school graduate, leaves her family and boyfriend in Slovakia to find work. Joining other immigrant women in a Czech textile factory, her poetic dreams are crushed by life’s harsh reality. Left with no money and nowhere to go when the factory closes, Dorota sees life in Germany with an older man as her best option. Reminiscent of early Miloš Forman films, the director draws upon her documentary background and uses non-actors and authentic settings to offer a striking portrait of contemporary life.

Alois Nebel
Tomáš Luňák, CZ, DE, SK, 2011, 87’, subtitles
(Miroslav Krobot, Marie Ludvíková, Karel Roden, Alois Švehlík)
In 1989 Alois Nebel works as a stationmaster in a small village in the Jeseník mountains, close to the Polish border. Preferring old timetables to people, Nebel lives through his memories, haunted by the violent post-war expulsion of the Germans and getting lost in the mists of time. An encounter with a mysterious mute man and kind Květa helps him to connect the past with the present and find middle-aged love.

A Night too Young Live Music Party
In collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia.

Made in Ash Live Music Party
In collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Slovakia.

A Night too Young Live Music Party
In collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia.
Walking too Fast
Radim Špaček, Czech Republic, 2010, 146’, subtitles
(Ondřej Malý, Kristina Farkašová, Martin Finger, Luboš Veselý)
While monitoring the lives of the political enemies of totalitarian Czechoslovakia, a tyrannical secret agent becomes obsessed with the life and mistress of a leading dissident. Bored and no longer caring, he exploits the system to tear the lovers apart and get the woman for himself. A more chilling Czech answer to The Lives of Others, this engaging thriller with a stand out central performance succeeds in recreating the grim reality and despair of life in a police state while simulating the feeling of being watched.

Coffee Foam Kitty workshop (in Czech only)
(Tereza Horváthová, Kočička z kávové pěny, Baobab, 2006)
An interactive literary and arts workshop for Czech speaking children based on Tereza Horvathová’s book with artist Zuzana Jungmanová. Following the stories of an adventurous kitten created from coffee foam and taking inspiration from Eva Volfová’s illustrations embroidered in colourful materials, the children will participate in a competition for the best art work. The winners will receive their awards after the screening of Kitty Mama at the Riverside Studios.

Kitty Mama
Vít Karas, Czech Republic, 2011, 89’, subtitles
(Libuše Šafránková, Ondřej Novák, Marika Šoposká, Vojtěch Dyk)
A delightful fairy tale involving a sick dog, a three-headed dragon, a small boy and a kind-hearted witch called Kitty Mama. Like any good fairy tale there is a princess needing to be saved. But instead of a dashing prince it is a poor puppy and a boy from the real world who, with Kitty Mama’s assistance, come to the rescue. Written by Irena Dousková and steeped in the tradition of Czech fairy tales, Kitty Mama stresses the importance of doing good deeds for their own sake and not for glory and reward.

Eighty Letters
Václav Kadrnka, Czech Republic, 2011, 75’, subtitles
(Zuzana Lapčíková, Martin Pavluš)
Set in 1987 and based on the director’s memories and the surviving correspondence of his parents, the film captures a day in the life of a Czech mother and her son trying to get exit visas for the UK where her husband has emigrated. Through the eyes of the teenager who follows his mother driven from one office to another, Kadrnka portrays an oppressive system that destroys families and families that resist it. A beguilingly poetic evocation of the 80’s atmosphere in Czechoslovakia and the forced break-up of a family in Romanian New Wave style.
Long Live the Family!
Robert Sedláček, Czech Republic, 2011, 106’, subtitles
(Igor Chmela, Iva Vrbková, Simona Babčáková, Jiří Vyorálek)
“For the good of his family” Libor has swapped his teaching job for a business executive position, signing some dodgy papers on the way. Now facing a police investigation into serious money laundering, he abandons his luxury villa pretending to take his family on holiday. The road-trip turns into a police hunt and under pressure family relationships are exposed. Drawing on the contemporary social scene, Sedláček offers a strong critique and plenty of humour in this family drama.

Cosmic Songs
Katarina Dědičová, Czech Republic 2011, 12’
A short film inspired by Jan Neruda’s poems.

Flower Buds
Zdeněk Jiráský, Czech Republic, 2011, 93’, subtitles
(Vladimír Javorský, Marika Šoposká, Luboš Veselý, Josef Láska)
It’s Christmas in a small industrial town and Hrdina’s family struggles to get by. Father makes matchstick models in bottles and is addicted to playing slot machines, while his hard working wife thinks he is saving money for a trip to the Amazon. Their daughter wants to leave but becomes pregnant; meanwhile the son, longing for pure love, buys himself a stripper for a girlfriend. Played out as a series of deadpan incidents, the film is an acute and darkly funny portrait of gradual family breakdown.

The Last Flight Of Petr Ginz
Sandra Dickson, Churchill Roberts, USA 2011, 67’
Petr Ginz, a child prodigy from Prague, was a writer and artist whose imaginary works captured a world of adventure and exotic locations. By 14 he had written five novels, a diary about the Nazi occupation of Prague, and by 17 he produced more than 170 drawings and paintings and edited an underground magazine in the Theresienstadt Ghetto. Narrated by Petr’s sister Chava Pressburger and set to John Califra’s superb musical score, animation brings to life the work of this brilliant young artist.

Talmy
Helen Carmel Benigson, UK 2012, 23’
A documentary-based art film that trespasses history, identity, object and narrative.

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5 CZK
Marek Ciccotti, Czech Republic, 2011, 14’
Fascinating life stories available just for 5 Czech Crowns.

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The House
Zuzana Liovičová, Slovakia / Czech Republic, 2011, 97’, subtitles
(Miroslav Kratochvíl, Judit Bárdos, Tat’jana Medvecká, Marian Míta)

Disowning his eldest daughter who married too young a man he disapproves of, irascible and stubborn Imrich commences single-handedly building a house for his younger daughter Eva in the family garden, stealing the bricks from the older daughter’s unfinished house and forcing Eva to help. Eva, about to graduate from high school, is set on escaping the small village and her overbearing father, skipping school to earn money for a dream life in England and even starting an affair with her new English teacher. An impressive debut offering an intimate and humorous portrait of generational clash strained by a lack of money and prospects, built on excellent naturalistic performances.

Introduction and Q&A with Zuzana Liovičová.

THU 29 NOV
6.30 PM
THE GATE CINEMA

In collaboration with the Embassy of the Slovak Republic

In collaboration with the Embassy of the Slovak Republic
The UK - Czech Jazz Night
Najponk Trio

The opening night of the New Czech Jazz series will feature the Najponk Trio as they launch their new CD The Real Deal. Guest musicians include Matt Fishwick, one of the first call drummers in the UK.

Leading Czech jazz pianist, Jan Knop, aka NajPonk, has performed all over the world with the likes of Janusz Muniak, Dave Liebman, Piotr Baran, Dan Roberts and George Mraz. Both as a soloist and as part of a trio, Najponk has featured at jazz festivals from Novosibirsk to Cheltenham, and has also played at the prestigious A Trane Jazz Club in Berlin.

Rooted in classical jazz—swing, rhythm and blues, Najponk reinterprets jazz standards with virtuosity and enthusiasm and builds on the best of jazz traditions with his own compositions. His rich discography features solo projects, recordings with his own trio and international collaborations. Najponk Trio’s recording Ballads, Blues & More (1999) won the Czech Academy Award for the best jazz CD, while It’s About Time (2010) with Ondřej Pivec and Greg Hutchinson, was awarded Jazz album of the year. On his latest CD The Real Deal (2012) he collaborated with Matt Fishwick (drums) and Jaromír Honzák (bass), bringing delicate and subtle touches to well known jazz standards.

www.wegottickets.com

London Jazz Festival
Tomáš Liška Trio

The leading Czech double bassist Tomáš Liška with talented pianist Vít Křišťan and acoustic guitarist virtuoso David Dorůžka perform compositions which balance on the edge of improvisation, jazz and classical producing an intimate acoustic sound built on the interpretational depth of their music. Part of the London Jazz Festival. Tomáš Liška is the winner of the International Jazz Competition at Getxo and the Best Bassist at the international competition in Hoeilaart, Belgium. He took master classes with American players Joey DeFrancesco, Benny Golson, Bobby Durham, Jimmy Cobb, Alberto Mancio and Buster Wilkins and is now finishing his Masters at the prestigious Jazz Institute Berlin. His best CD Invisible World took the Czech jazz scene by storm and was voted the second Best Album of the Year.

www.wegottickets.com

THU 1 NOV
8 PM
SPICE OF LIFE

Doors open at 6 pm
Admission £10/£8 (concs., advance)

FRI 16 NOV
8 PM
SPICE OF LIFE

Doors open at 6 pm
Admission £10/£8 (concs., advance)
THE CZECH JAZZ NIGHT 
Libor Smolík’s Quartet

The closing concert of the Czech Jazz series belongs to the Libor Smolík’s Quartet, an outstanding Czech quartet that shuns a mere musical connection, offering a masterful display of compositional creativity, group interplay, and musical integrity. Smolík’s smooth and sweet, bebop-style jazz guitar is complemented by pianist Peter Beneš while contrabassist Josef Fischer, one of the hottest bassists in the country, brings a more energetic Roma touch to the group’s modern jazz. With the UK guest drummer Matt Fishwick.

Libor Smolík, Czech Music Academy winner, is an outstanding jazz guitarist and composer. He studied in New York with Paul Bollenback, Lage Lund, Mike Moreno, Ben Monder, Steve Cardenas and Peter Bernstein. With Ondřej Pivec he formed the Organic Quartet and released his own trio’s well-received debut album "On the playground." He recorded the CD "In New York On Time" with guest musicians George Mráz, Jeff Ballard and Sam Yahel to be followed by "18 Days 2000 Miles" reflecting his US tour with the Libor Smolík Quartet.

www.wegottickets.com

THU 22 NOV
8 PM
SPICE OF LIFE
Doors open at 7.30
Admission: £10/£8 (concs., advance)
BARBICAN
SILK STREET
LONDON
EC2Y 8DS
BOX OFFICE: 020 7638 8891
WWW.BARBICAN.ORG.UK
ADMISSION: £10.50 ONLINE, £11.50 ON THE DOOR
THE TRICYCLE
269 KILBURN HIGH RD
LONDON
NW6 7JR
BOX OFFICE: 020 7328 1000
WWW.TRICYCLE.CO.UK
ADMISSION: £8 (£5 STUDENTS)
RIVERSIDE STUDIOS
CRISP ROAD
HAMMERSMITH
LONDON
W6 9RL
BOX OFFICE: 020 8237 1111
WWW.RIVERSIDESTUDIOS.CO.UK
ADMISSION: ONE FILM £8.50 (£7.50 CONCS.)
TWO FILMS: £13 (£11 CONCS.) EXCLUDING SUNDAY 1.30 PM
THE SPICE OF LIFE
28 NOTTING HILL GATE
LONDON
W11 3JZ
BOX OFFICE: 0871 902 5731
WWW.PICTUREHOUSES.CO.UK
ADMISSION: £10.50 (£9.50 CONCS.)
Czech Centre
13 Harley Street
London W1G 9QG
T 020 7307 5180
E info@czechcentre.org.uk
www.czechcentre.org.uk

Opening hours
Mon–Fri: 10 am–6 pm

Partner:

Supported by:

With thanks to the Riverside Studios, Spice of Life, Barbican, The Gate cinema, the UK Jewish Film Festival, BCSA, Yume Pictures, Czech National Film Archive, Czech School without Borders, London, Czech Film Center, the Embassy of the Slovak Republic and the Embassy of Republic of Slovenia.

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