

THE EMBASSIES OF **Slovakia, Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary**

PRESENT THE

# 4th Annual V4 Film Series

**WASHINGTON, DC | APRIL 14 – MAY 5, 2015**

**Free Admission! | RSVP required**



SLOVAK PRESIDENCY  
2014/2015 OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP

**DYNAMIC VISEGRAD**

## **VISEGRAD FOUR (V4)**

The Visegrad Group, (established in 1991, also known as the “Visegrad Four” or simply “V4”) is an alliance of four Central European states – Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. It reflects the efforts of these countries to work together in a number of fields of common interest within the all-European integration advancing their economic, military, energy and cultural cooperation with one another.

The Visegrad Group wishes to contribute towards building the European security architecture based on effective, complementary and mutually reinforcing cooperation and coordination within existing European and transatlantic institutions. Slovakia currently holds the rotating presidency of the V4.

*We are honored to present the fourth annual V4 Film Series to the Washington DC community. The theme of this year’s film series is “The Legends”. Our countries can be proud of their rich histories and traditions. Over the years some events and people in our countries’ history were blended into the area of legend and folk tales. These legends, because of the tie to a historical event or location, are believable, although not necessarily believed. Discover our national heroes and legends from the past. Indulge yourself in fantasy, where the boundary between the real and the unreal is almost invisible.*

### **2015 FILM SCREENINGS:**

**April 14, 2015 - 7 pm**

**BATHORY** - Embassy of the Slovak Republic  
3523 International Court, NW, Washington, DC 20008

RSVP: [rsvp.washington@mzv.sk](mailto:rsvp.washington@mzv.sk) with “Bathory” in the subject line.

**April 21, 2015 - 7 pm**

**PAPUSZA** - Embassy of the Republic of Poland  
2640 16th Street, N.W., Washington D.C., 20009

RSVP: [washington.culture@msz.gov.pl](mailto:washington.culture@msz.gov.pl) with “Papusza” in the subject line.

**April 28, 2015 - 7 pm**

**WHO WANTS TO KILL JESSIE? | KDO CHCE ZABÍT JESSII?**

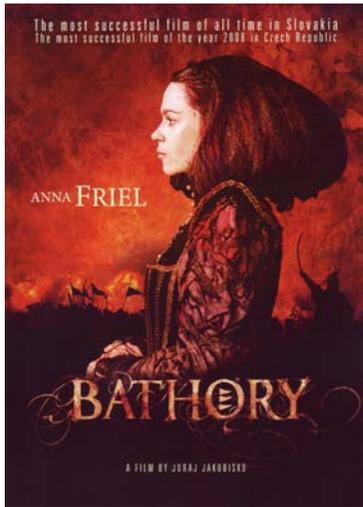
Embassy of the Czech Republic  
3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW., Washington, DC 20008

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/film-who-wants-to-kill-jessie-tickets-16127200892>

**May 5, 2015 - 7 pm**

**PUSKÁS-HUNGARY** - Embassy of Hungary  
3910 Shoemaker Street NW., Washington DC 20008

RSVP: [rsvp.was@mfa.gov.hu](mailto:rsvp.was@mfa.gov.hu) with “Puskás-Hungary” in the subject line.



**LOCATION:**

Embassy of the Slovak Republic  
3523 International Court NW  
Washington, DC 20008

R.S.V.P.:

[rsvp.washington@mzv.sk](mailto:rsvp.washington@mzv.sk)

with "Bathory" in the subject line.

**Slovakia | April 14, 2015 at 7 pm**  
**Bathory**

*DIR: Juraj Jakubisko, 2008, 138 min., in English*

*"In Jakubisko films the irrational, mysterious and sensational seems to be as natural as the life itself, although not all of us are able to have Jakubisko's eye, enabled to see that mysterious, unexpected and fantastic even in simple ordinary daily life."*

Federico Fellini (1988)

**SYNOPSIS:**

The gruesome tale of Countess Elizabeth Bathory, notorious yet obscure, has been recounted by historians, writers, poets, playwrights, musicians, painters, and moviemakers. Tradition has it that Countess Bathory was the greatest murderess in the history of humankind, as documented by her entry in the Guinness Book of Records. She tortured her victims, exclusively women, before killing them. She supposedly bathed in their blood. But is that really true? In four centuries, no historical document has been found to reveal what had exactly happened. The plot of the film diametrically opposes the established legend. Contrary to popular belief, Elizabeth Bathory was a modern Renaissance woman who ultimately fell victim to men's aspirations for power and wealth.

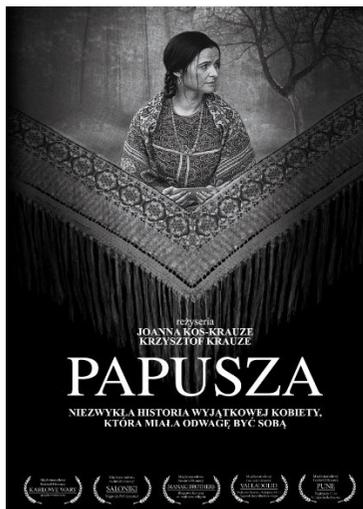
*"My story is about a defenseless widow who owns more property and riches than the king himself and who, as a result, becomes a victim of scheming from on high."*

Juraj Jakubisko ~ Director

**ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:**

Jakubisko is an outstanding Slovak director. Thanks to his typical expression defined by allegory, fantasy and visionary imagination, he is known as the artist, whose magical realism in film work and in our part of the world represents the same as Gabriel Garcia Marquez in Latin American literature. Juraj Jakubisko has attracted international attention thanks to his experimental films. Since his debut (Crucial Years, 1967), he is considered as an artist, who uses images as a painter and thoughts as a poet. Jakubisko created 15 full-length films all together, all characterized by his unique style.

After his outstanding achievements in 1960s, Jakubisko's career was silenced by the totalitarian communist regime for the next decade (1970 – 1979). Jakubisko's latest film Bathory (2009) became the most successful title of all times in Slovakia and the most successful title of the year in the Czech Republic. Juraj Jakubisko is not only the author and the director, but also the designer of his films. Mr. Jakubisko has received more than 80 international and domestic awards.



**LOCATION:**

Embassy of the Republic of Poland  
2640 16th Street, N.W.,  
Washington D.C., 20009

R.S.V.P.:

[washington.culture@msz.gov.pl](mailto:washington.culture@msz.gov.pl)

with "Papusza" in the subject line.

**Poland | April 21, 2015 at 7 pm**  
**"Papusza"**

*DIR: Joanna Kos-Krauze and Krzysztof Krauze, 2013, 131 min.,  
Romani and Polish with English subtitles*

**SYNOPSIS:**

Romani poet Bronisława Wajs (1908-1987), known as Papusza, was the first Roma woman who put her poems into writing and published them, and therefore confronted the traditional female image in the gypsy community. The film follows Papusza's life from birth to old age: arranged marriage as a small girl, her life in a gypsy tabor before, during and after WWII, then forced settlement in a communist Poland and urban life in poverty. It is a story of a gifted woman who wants to preserve her culture with words and has to pay a painful price for that decision.

Instead of attempting a classical biographical piece, the filmmakers bring to life events that were important both for the destiny of this talented woman, and for the modern history of her ethnic group. The black-and-white photography conjures up a poetic and, in places, raw testimony of the regions travelled by the Romanies before the Second World War and immediately after it. The film also treats the decline of their best traditions, and the physical and moral deprivation they suffered after being forced to abandon their nomadic existence.

**ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:**

Joanna Kos-Krauze and Krzysztof Krauze are Poland's leading film auteurs. Their work is characterized by a deep humanist approach and respect for their protagonists. Their first collaboration was "Dług" ("Debt"), directed by Krzysztof and jointly co-written. The film was recently chosen as the most important Polish production of the past twenty years. Altogether, their films have received more than 120 awards in Poland and around the world. Their films include "Mój Nikifor" ("My Nikifor"), a story about a forgotten painter (Award for Best Director in Karlovy Vary) and "Plac Zbawiciela" ("Saviour Square"), a drama about a toxic family.



**LOCATION:**

Embassy of the Czech Republic  
3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

**RSVP:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/film-who-wants-to-kill-jessie-tickets-16127200892>

**Czech Republic | April 28, 2015 at 7 pm**  
**Who Wants to Kill Jessie? | Kdo chce zabít Jessii?**

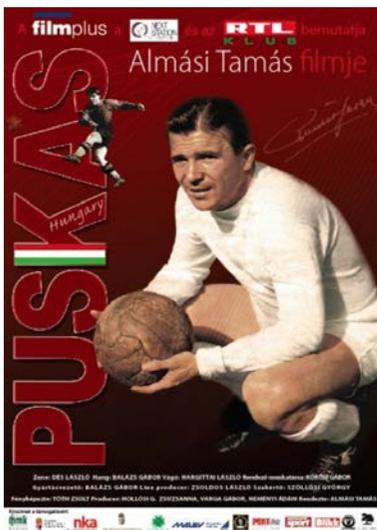
*DIR: Václav Vorlíček, 1966, 80 minutes, Czech with English subtitles*

**SYNOPSIS:**

The sci-fi comedy spins a new take on the legendary American superhero—SUPERMAN—as dreams mesh with reality in this Czech classic. Inspired by comic books, director Václav Vorlíček weaves a story of a scientist seeking a special formula to manipulate dreams and accidentally makes her husband's fantasies come to life—including a voluptuous blonde, gun-toting cowboy, and muscular superman. A predecessor to such resounding comic films as Sin City, the film cleverly brings the comic realm to live action, complete with comic bubbles—POW! The film received Special Mention at the Locarno International Film Festival (1966).

**ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:**

Václav Vorlíček is an accomplished Czech film director and screenwriter born in Prague in 1930. After studying at Prague's Film and Television School of the Academy of Performing Arts (FAMU) from 1951–1956, Vorlíček started working on his own movies in the 1960s. His name equates with signature comedies and parodies filled with humor. Who Wants to Kill Jessie? was Vorlíček's first movie that revealed the director's potential. You Are a Widow, Sir (1971), The Girl on the Broomstick (1972), and How to Drown Dr. Mracek, the Lawyer (1975) belong to Vorlíček's most renowned films.



**LOCATION:**

Embassy of Hungary  
3910 Shoemaker Street NW  
Washington DC 20008

**RSVP:**

[rsvp.was@mfa.gov.hu](mailto:rsvp.was@mfa.gov.hu)  
with "Puskás-Hungary" in the subject line.

**Hungary | May 5, 2015 at 7 pm**  
**"Puskás-Hungary"**

*DIR: Tamás Almási, 2009, 117 min., Hungarian with English subtitles*

**SYNOPSIS:**

Ferenc Puskás is undoubtedly the most famous Hungarian in the world with millions who still admire his great skill as footballer. He became one of the brightest stars of the 20th century. He was a true fairy-tale hero, a sport genius, the captain of the Golden Team (Magical Magyars), a key player for Real Madrid and the trainer who led the Greek Panathinaikos to European success.

He created a legend in his youth as a captain of the Golden Team, but adoration turned to persecution when he fled his homeland in 1956. He is still greatly admired in Hungary, Spain, Greece, Australia and across the globe. Puskás spent his life bringing people together from all walks of life as he took on new cultures and learnt new languages, but always remained a true Hungarian at heart. Puskás-Hungary, a film by Tamás Almási is a tribute to the most famous Hungarian, featuring some of the finest goals and brilliant dribbles of Puskás.

**ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:**

Tamás Almási is one of the most well-known Hungarian documentary film makers. He has worked as an assistant director with István Szabó, Miklós Jancsó, and Zoltán Fábri. He graduated from Academy of Film and Theatre of Budapest in 1979.

He started his career as a feature film director, which has had a very important impact on his documentaries. His films are all drama centered and he uses strong emotional effects in them.

So far he has made more than forty full-length documentaries and some feature films, which have been screened at a number of highly prestigious festivals in Europe and overseas earning him numerous awards. His films have been broadcast in almost forty countries.

Tamás Almási is also a professor at the University of Theatre and Film Arts in Budapest, the leader of the documentary film making MA program and also of the Hungarian part of the international MA program DocNomads.