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### A CZECH, POLISH AND SLOVAK PAVILION AT CANNES IFF 2004!



#### Marché du Film

For the first time and as brand-new EU members the three countries represented by the Czech Film Center, the Polish Independent Foundation and the Slovak Audiovisual Producers Association will join forces at the most important film festival in Europe. Over the course of 11 days the pavilion will present news on the film industry and cinematography of the three Eastern European countries.

You can find us at pavilion No. 2,  
tel: +33 (0) 4 92 59 02 18

*Looking forward to seeing you there!*

### CZECH PRODUCER ON THE MOVE: VRATISLAV ŠLAJER!



These hard-working professionals, who have to be part-financial expert, part-creative genius and part-psychologist, are being presented for the fifth consecutive year to the international film business at Cannes IFF 2004 by European Film Promotion.

This year, together with his 17 colleagues the Czech Producer on the Move 2004 is Vratislav Šlajer – Bionaut Films. For further information please visit [www.efp-online.com](http://www.efp-online.com).

### Official Selection – Cinefondation

**KONTAKT** | CZ, 8 min, Martin Duda

There are two different animation techniques, two worlds, two persons. Who will win?  
**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May, salle Buñuel, 2:00 p.m.**



### KODAK Short Film Showcase For New Talents

**A GALLERY OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS;  
CLAIRE** | CZ, 16 min, Martin Matiašek

This picture is a visual portrait of a lonely woman who is locked in her inward world and an empty house left with relics of her broken marriage... is she going to find a beauty of a new coming day or she will except martyrdom...

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May, Miramar Theatre, 8:00 p.m.**



# NEW CZECH FILMS



**CHAMPIONS** | *Mistři* | CZ 2004 | 95 min | D: Marek Najbrt  
Feature | 35 mm | Released: April, 1<sup>st</sup> 2004

A film about illusions, about people who long for something, who love and cheat, and who sometimes believe in nonsense. Publican Karel believes in his pub and in his loving wife Zdena. Zdena believes that she's in love with a bus driver named Milan. Milan in turn sees himself driving a bus route bound for the beach. Josef believes he has friends and that he isn't a Gypsy. He and Karel believe that a local visionary drunk named Bohouš will get them out of financial difficulties. Meanwhile, Jarda, a man let down by life, believes in nothing. But despite their various situations, they all pin their hopes on the Czech hockey team's dogged fight to win the World Championship. Newly arrived cottage-owner Pavelec describes things best: 'We've got to root for ourselves. The Swedes certainly aren't going to root for us!'



**BITTER COFFEE** | *Silný kafe* | CZ/ISL 2004 | 85 min | D: Börkur Gunnarson  
Feature | 35 mm | Released: April, 29 2004

A film about friendship and discord, love and infidelity, and a holiday trip along a river. Two friends who haven't seen each other for ten years meet by chance on a Prague street. Maya lived abroad for years but seems just the same as always. Actress Renata, who has never left Bohemia, changes with each new role. Outwardly, each of them seems satisfied with life, their partners, work, and future prospects... They agree to take a trip to their hometown, organizing it as a gala return. Nothing is as it was before. The school is in the same state as their ruined friendship. Upon returning to Prague, even the metropolis seems different...

4 - 6 | 2004

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE [WWW.FILMCENTER.CZ](http://WWW.FILMCENTER.CZ)

# NEW CZECH FILMS



**POST COITUM** | CZ 2004 | 100 min | D: Juraj Jakubisko

A comedy about people who don't know what they want because they want too much. A story of relationships from which love never faded because it never existed at all. After having an orgasm humans are in an unusual frame of mind. They no longer seek what moments before they may have desired, they laugh at things that might recently have provoked them to violence, and they have no idea if they even got what they wanted. Nine characters, each a symbol of contemporary lifestyles, find themselves in such a state. The mathematical possibilities (four men times five women) result in 20 mini-episodes which merge into a single story of love, relationships, and sex. Nothing remains hidden but the intimate regions of the human body. Director Juraj Jakubisko's new film stars Franco Nero.



**MEN SHOW** | *Pánská jízda* | CZ 2004 | 80 min | D: Martin Kofík

A family comedy about how our banal worries can force us to see the world in a new light. After the wife/mother dies, the father and son become responsible for running the household, and they have to deal with all the usual cares that this entails. As capable, intelligent, and successful men they of course don't see this as a problem and thus promptly refuse the help offered by a neighbor. It soon becomes obvious that pride and vanity, rather than inexperience, are their greatest obstacles. As a result they gradually descend into a mire of embarrassments and catastrophes which gradually gnaw at their confidence and erode their belief in their own perfection. But then when things are at their worst Uncle Arthur comes to their aid...

4-6 | 2004

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# F I L M C O M M I S S I O N N E W S

## **ONCE AGAIN INTERNATIONAL PRODUCERS SHOW THEIR INTEREST IN FILMING IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

In order to provide the best possible conditions and services for the foreign producers, the Film Commission was established in January 2004, to base on and to develop the activities of the Czech Film Center. The main activities of Film Commission include providing useful business contacts and up-to-date information on production facilities and conditions in the Czech Republic, providing location information, facilitating communication with authorities, and promoting Czech locations in the international scope.

2004 is already shaping up to be a busy year for filmmakers shooting in the Czech Republic. The country is one of the most attractive film locations in Europe, offering producers and directors a wide range of various architectural styles. Production costs are rather low compared to other European countries, and professional level of Czech crews is respected worldwide. Recently finished projects include, among others:

- **U. S. sci-fi blockbuster 'Alien vs. Predator', directed by W. S. Anderson with Lance Henriksen starring, was filmed in Prague indoor locations. Stillking Films, as the co-producer on this anglo-czech-german-canadien coproduction finished the film in February.**
- **The Italian filmmakers shot a two-part TV mini series for Rai Uno 'Wuthering Heights', based on the famous novel by Emily Brontë, in the Czech Republic. Czech production company Studio Fama 92 finished the project in March.**
- **Prague hosted the shooting of the German TV movie for ZDF 'The Flowers of Prague' which was finished in March. The film services were provided by Wilma Film.**
- **The Czech director Bretislav Pojar continues the filming of the animated 'Tears Running on the Field' for the Japanese Manabe Ltd. Production company.**
- **Roman Polanski joins the growing list of cinematic luminaries choosing the Czech Republic as film location with the production of 'Oliver Twist'. Principle photography begins in late June. Stillking Films and Etic are the Czech production companies involved.**
- **The shooting of the NBC's TV series 'Transylvania' is about to start in May, and the running projects of these days include also the two-part German TV movie for ZDF 'Redeemed by Love' (Wilma Film) and another two-part TV series, 'Maugret', an Italian-Spanish co-production (Studio Fama 92).**
- **Another movie that will be shot in the country is 'Everything Is Illuminated' directed by Liev Schreiber. The shooting is scheduled to begin in June, in production of Warner Independent Pictures and Barrandov Studio.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE SEE [WWW.FILMCOMMISSION.CZ](http://WWW.FILMCOMMISSION.CZ)

# INTERVIEW

## VISIONS OF EUROPE

Twenty-five countries, twenty-five visions from respected film directors from each of the respective countries that form the new European Community. Each director gave a personal vision of current or future life in this coming cultural melting pot. The omnibus film project called *Visions of Europe* was initiated and produced by Zentropa in cooperation with ZDF/ARTE.

Q&A with director and scriptwriter Saša Gedeon on his 5 minute short film called UNISONO, in which viewers can watch a group of European cultural attachés based in Prague singing the Czech anthem *Kde domov můj* (Where my homeland is).

### **Does Europe represent for you a bunch of people trying to sing a song out of tune? Is it a metaphor which gives hope?**

Everyone who sings the national anthem in Unisono does so voluntarily. We'd never met before and they didn't even have a clear idea how the film would turn out, and yet they did this risky thing in their official function and sang a song – the national symbol. They didn't know what they were getting into, but they had the courage, openness, and informality to do it. If their behaviour can be taken as a metaphor then it's a metaphor full of hope.



### **10 new member states entered the EU on May 1<sup>st</sup>. How will this step change the EU and the Czech Republic?**

It might help us to alter our rigid conceptions of national identity for the better. Whether we like it or not, the integration we've waited so long for will mean we finally find out what everybody else is really like. The process might be painful, unpleasant, but it'll certainly also be exciting, an adventure for everybody concerned.

### **What was your first reaction when Zentropa production contacted you?**

I'm not a political animal and so my first reaction to the commission was one of fear. But then I came up with a simple idea for a simple small film, which turned out to be surprisingly difficult to make. Even though you might not guess it from the final product, it was like dancing on thin ice as the singing of the national anthem by official representatives of European states brought shocked reactions from several embassies and even the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **What do you expect from taking part in such a project?**

I'm grateful that I had the chance to do it. Not just because I get to see my name alongside so many famous names of world-renowned filmmakers in such a high profile project for such a well-known and serious television channel, but because it was an excellent idea and everyone's now curious to see what the filmmakers were able to cram into five short minutes on their particular theme.

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# CZECH FESTIVALS

## 39<sup>TH</sup> KARLOVY VARY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, JULY 2–10, 2004

The most important annual film event in Central and Eastern Europe, presenting over 200 new films from all over the world. Recognized by FIAPF as a 'non-specialized festival with a feature film competition' (Category A). Famous for its young, enthusiastic audiences which generate the festival's exceptional atmosphere. A relaxed environment where film professionals may become acquainted with new projects and promising new filmmakers, assisted by the Film Industry Office.

### Preliminary Program

- Official Selection – Competition (35 mm, made after January 1, 2003)
- Documentary Films in Competition (35 mm, 16 mm)
- Non-competitive Sections: Horizons, Another View, East of the West, Forum of Independents, 7<sup>th</sup> Variety Critics' Choice, Czech Films 2003–2004, Tribute to John Cassavetes, Tribute to Sergio Leone, Ten Best Turkish Films, Focus on New Catalan Cinema, 2004: A Musical Odyssey II, Film and Dance

Accreditation Deadline: June 6, 2004

### CONTACT

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e-mail: festival@kviff.com  
internet: www.kviff.com

## 44<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH MAY 30 – JUNE 5, 2004 IN ZLÍN

Along with the festival in Chicago, this is the largest film festival for children and youth in the world, annually presenting about 230 films from 35 countries.

### The program consists of 6 competitive sections:

- International competition of feature films for children
- International competition of feature films for youth
- International competition of animated films for children and youth
- International competition of debut feature films – European debut films
- International competition of feature films from the Visegrad countries
- International student films competition

This year's National Day is dedicated to French film.

The international Project Fair 2004 with Producers' panel will offer directors and producers the opportunity of presenting their children's and youth film projects.

### CONTACT

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# NEWS FROM THE DOC SIDE



## **CZECH DREAM | Český sen**

D: Vít Klusák, Filip Remunda | CZ 2004 | 93 min | 35 mm | to be released June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004

distribution: SPI International | contact: Irena Taskovski | itaskovski@hotmail.com

The film is the first Czech *film reality show*. The men behind it, Vít Klusák and Filip Remunda, both students at the Prague FAMU film school, appear in the film in two roles: as directors who with the aid of image experts transform themselves into top managers and in this disguise order a campaign from a high-profile advertising agency for the gala opening of a fictitious hypermarket called ČESKÝ SEN. The campaign included TV and radio ads, 400 Prague illuminated advertisements, 200,000 flyers with their own ČESKÝ SEN product line, an advertising jingle, web pages and ads in the newspapers and magazines. On the last day of May 2003 several thousand eager fellow citizens arrived at a green field,

only to find instead of a shopping center an enormous film set representing the façade of the dream supermarket. The filmmakers survived the moment when they decided to present themselves to their customers with their health intact...

## **OUTLOOK ON UPCOMING DOCS**

### **THE VISIONARY – WINNER OR LOOSER | Vizionář – vítěz nebo poražený?**

D: Pavel Koutecký | CZ 2005 | 52 min | Format: DV | 35mm | to be released in winter 2005

contact/production company: Jiří Ptáček, bistro films | jirka@bistrofilms.com

A visionary, idealist, pioneer, emigrant, lost man. A designer, organizer, graphic designer. The 20th century man LADISLAV SUTNAR. He wanted his profession to influence the lives of millions – the unique destiny of the creative personality. Only today, in the age of the internet, are we fully able to appreciate his work, as if his graphic ideas were thought up only yesterday and not 50 years ago. This year we can all enjoy his art, which will be presented in exhibitions around the world (Paris, Amsterdam, possibly New York).

### **SHORT BREAK**

D: František Kölbl | CZ 2004 | 52 min | Format: DV | to be released in winter 2004/2005

contact/production company: Petra Ondřejková | pett@bistrofilms.com

The title *Short break* comes from an everyday life of a jazz musician. This film monitors those certain parts within the life of jazz singer Yvonne Sanchez. It presents an insight to the privacy of a woman with Cuban-Polish roots who is successfully getting to the top of her career, but at the same time – as a contrast – we see her struggles in the search for personal values of her private life. Another level of this film records the period of singer's pregnancy and the birth of a little human being. The dramatic situations coming from the new role of being a mother bring together the members of the family and show us the micro universe of the relationships in the 'real' life of Yvonne.

### **AROUND THE HOUSE | Kolem domu**

D: Andrea Prenchyová | CZ | 52 min | Format: 16 mm/35 mm/BETA | to be released in spring 2005

contact/production company: andrea@docuinter.net

A film about the beginning and end of collective living in Bohemia. Fifty years ago, the state-run chemical plant Chemické závody decided to build a collective living facility for its employees – an ultramodern building where the small flats were only for sleeping, a house where the doors to the flats were never closed, where the inhabitants ate together, raised children together and even worked in the same factory together. A total of 1,200 people were selected to move in. This was the beginning of perhaps the largest social experiment in Czechoslovakia. Fifty years later, the dilapidated building still stands on the edge of Litvínov. Its tenants struggle to maintain their privacy, despise their neighbors, battle with their miniature flats, gypsies and even electricity thieves, and recall with nostalgia the era when everything belonged to everyone.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE [WWW.FILMCENTER.CZ](http://WWW.FILMCENTER.CZ)**

# YOUR VISION ENLIGHTENS.

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**KODAK IS PROUD TO CONGRATULATE MARTIN MATIASEK  
FOR ENTERING THE 6<sup>TM</sup> KODAK EUROPEAN SHOWCASE  
FOR NEW TALENTS CANNES 2004.**

You've stopped at nothing to hold your vision up to the light  
so the rest of us could see. We thank you.



**Entertainment  
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