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NEWSLETTER

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PRODUCTION GUIDE CZECH REPUBLIC



INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL CANNES 2005

A GRAND WELCOME FROM THE HEART OF EUROPE AT THE CZECH-POLISH-SLOVAK PAVILION NO 3 AT THE VILLAGE INTERNATIONAL IN CANNES 2005 – A MEETING POINT FOR FILM PROFESSIONALS SEEKING INFORMATION ON CINEMATOGRAPHY IN THESE COUNTRIES.

CZECH PROGRAM



THE PRESENTATION OF THE PRODUCTION GUIDE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Film Commission has published the first edition of the Production Guide Czech Republic, a resource for filmmakers planning to shoot here. The guide provides contacts to local film professionals, companies and services, listings of international productions that have taken place in Prague and the Czech Republic over the past ten years as well as other film-related information.

You can collect your personal copy during IFF Cannes 2005.



JIŘÍ MENZEL IN CANNES

The well-known Czech director-writer who is currently preparing his next film based on Bohumil Hrabal's famous novel *I Served the King of England* will be the guest of honor at a cocktail hosted by the production company AQS/Bioscop and the producers Peter Zempler and Tomáš Hoffman.



OFFICIAL SELECTION CINEFONDATION

SLAVEK THE SHIT
BY GRÍMUR HÁKONARSON
CZ / IS / ES, 15 MIN.

SCREENINGS AT THE MARCHÉ DU FILM

- From Subway with Love – Seller Contact: Česká produkční 2000
- The Velvet Murderers – Seller Contact: Montecristo Entertainment
- King of Thieves – Seller Contact: Cine International Filmvertrieb
- Up and Down – Seller Contact: Menemsha Entertainment

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE WWW.FILMCENTER.CZ

NEW CZECH FILMS



FROM SUBWAY WITH LOVE | *Román pro ženy* | D: Filip Renč
CZ 2005 | 95 min | Domestic premiere: April 14, 2005
www.cp2000.cz, www.romanprozeny.cz

This romantic comedy presents a story of two women, twenty-year-old Laura, an editor at a woman's weekly, and her widowed mother, a translator-interpreter named Jana. The two of them tirelessly seek Mr. Right. Having once lived through an intense relationship with a 'typical' Czech man, Jana intentionally avoids Czech men. She searches for her dream foreigner while long-sufferingly warding off the tragicomic advances of her good-natured neighbor Žemla. After several unsuccessful attempts, Laura falls in love with Oliver, a forty-year old who works as an ad agency idea man. Little does she suspect that twenty years ago Oliver was Jana's true love...



THE CITY OF THE SUN | *Sluneční stát* | D: Martin Šulík
CZ 2005 | 120 min | 35 mm | Domestic premiere: April 21, 2005
www.sluncenistat.cz

Set in the present, the four ordinary men in this story find themselves at crossroads in their lives. Karel, Tomáš, Milan, and Vinc were once seduced by the possibility of making money in Ostrava's cosmopolitan melting pot. But times are changing – the company has offered their jobs to foreign workers. The friends try to solve their job loss by going into business themselves. But instead of the success they expected, they only sink deeper into debt and go through a number of unpleasant events which testify to their inexperience and naiveté. Even their private lives become complicated. Personal crises and an inability to adapt to new conditions are the hallmarks of life in the real world, an environment scarred by existential uncertainty in a once rich industrial city...



CLOSE TO HEAVEN | *Blízko nebe* | D: Dan Svátek
CZ 2005 | 90 min | 35 mm | Domestic premiere: July 2005
www.holiday-films.cz, www.blizkonebe.cz

The story plays out over the course of a day and a night at hotel *Close to Heaven*, a cosmopolitan place where people of various races, nationalities, and cultures meet. Not even at the turn of the millenium is it easy to be black in a Czech city. A thirty-year-old Kenyan named Samuel stands at the edge of the hotel roof recalling his native land. He spreads his arms, closes his eyes, and flings himself off. Then time stops, allowing Samuel to explain why he has decided to take his life. He introduces the viewer to the hotel's denizens: his beautiful Swedish love named Emily, his African family, the Siamese twins Kira and Mína, the conjurer Ernest, a society of old séance enthusiasts, the mysterious Mr. Jägermeister, and last but not least the hotel owner, Mr. Gut. Thus unfolds a story of multiple perspectives which culminates in an entirely unexpected way.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE WWW.FILMCENTER.CZ

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

HISTORICAL SIGHTS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC SERVE AS A HOME TO THE ILLUSIONIST

Principal photography on Bull's Eye Entertainment's movie *The Illusionist* started at the beginning of April in Prague. The nine week shoot will also take place in such historical Czech towns as Dobříš, Konopiště, Tábor and Český Krumlov, all known for their splendid castles or richly decorated theater halls. The extraordinary architecture and preserved heritage of the Czech Republic offer the perfect locations for this stylish screen adaptation of Steven Millhauser's story *Eisenheim The Illusionist* set in early 1900's Vienna.



Two-time Academy Award nominee Edward Norton heads the stellar cast in the lead role of Eisenheim, a magician who falls in love with a woman well above his social standing. When she becomes engaged to the crown prince, the magician uses his powers to win her back and undermine the stability of the royal house of Vienna. Golden Globe nominee Paul Giamatti and one of Hollywood's most sought after actresses Jessica Biel star alongside in this romantic drama directed by Neil Burger, also signed under the screenplay.

The international film production company Stilking Films hosts the production in the Czech Republic and Matthew Stillman and David Minkowski of Stilking Films act as co-producers. The crew, the majority of whom are from the local talent pool, includes Ondřej Nekvasil, an Emmy Award winning production designer whose extensive experience in Czech theatre and opera lend authenticity to the film's elaborate sets. See www.stilking.com for more details.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT WWW.FILMCOMMISSION.CZ

INTERVIEW

After her last film *Some Secrets*, which received the New Director's Award at the IFF San Sebastian 2002, director-writer Alice Nellis is now in preproduction of her next film *Loving Hell*, an international co-production with Germany and Great Britain. Shooting with an international cast will start at the end of this summer.

How difficult was it to get the film financed?

The model of a European co-production does not really acknowledge the reality of our film industry, which is quite different. And by that I don't mean only the prices and fees, the whole structure and tradition is something very new to us and it needed a whole new attitude.

Is it a challenge for you to shoot with an international cast, partly in English, in your home town? Who will be playing the main characters?

Making a film is always a challenge and doing it with people who come from a different tradition and a different working experience makes it even more adventurous. My advantage is that I work with a producer – Pavel Šolc – who already has quite extensive experience working with foreign productions.

Regarding the cast: so far the three main characters are played by Stephen Dillane (UK, known from *Hours* and *Spy Game*), Christiane Paul (Germany) and Geraldine James (UK). As for Czech actors, we should see Zuzana Bydžovská, Eva Holubová, Pavel Liška and Aňa Geislerová. And right now, in May, I will start some further casting in Slovakia.



Loving Hell will be also about a difficult situation that forces your main characters to change their perspectives on life. How important is that for yourself?

Nothing in the world, and especially relationships, has only one side, one truth. A part of growing-up and taking on the responsibility for your own life is to acknowledge this fact; even if it is impossible to actually see or 'feel' these other sides, you should always at least know that they are there. Sharing a life with somebody means to tolerate another interpretation of the world around you.

As you are also a professional musician, how important is music in the film for the plot?

Music is something like a character itself. It gives the specific love story a contrasting, timeless element. It is a dimension in which the characters meet effortlessly, fall in love without words and fulfill their happiness when times are good. And it is the space into which some of them flee and suffer, alone when things turn bad. Sometimes music is often more eloquent and important than actual dialog. The emotions, so hard to communicate by mere words, are expressed in their purity and rawness through music. But that fact – the perfection of it – is precisely what makes it so hard to come back to and try to communicate by our imperfect language, full of misused words and misleading explanations.

T E L E G R A M

In the course of the last ten years several renowned Czech directors have been tempted to bring the world famous novel *I Served the King of England* by Bohumil Hrabal onto the screen. Among those who have tried their hands at it are Jan Hřebejk and Jan Svěrák. Now the legendary New Wave director and Oscar winner Jiří Menzel has taken on the challenge. The long awaited film will be produced by Peter Zempliner and Tomáš Hoffman (AQS/Bioscop). Negotiations are under way with international co-producers. The expected date for domestic release is November 2006.



The Czech Republic's most successful and prolific director Jan Hřebejk is currently working on his newest film, *Beauty in Trouble*. Based on a poem by the English author Robert Graves, the film features Shooting Star Aňa Geislerová as well as Emilia Vášaryová and Jana Brejchová. Shooting will start this summer.

European Film Promotion and the Czech Film Center present the Czech Producer on the Move during IFF Cannes 2005: Helena Uldrichová. Her name is credited to several Czech features such as *Champions* as well as to the co-production of the 2004 Oscar-nominee *Zelary*.

Promising director David Ondříček will start shooting his fourth film *Grandhotel* at end of this summer. Jaroslav Rudiš, a young Czech novelist whose latest book *Sky Beneath Berlin* was published by the German publishing house Rowohlt, wrote the screenplay for this film.



FESTIVAL AGENDA

45th INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH MAY 29 – JUNE 4, 2005 IN ZLÍN



Along with the Chicago Festival, the Festival in Zlín is the largest film festival for children and youth in the world, annually presenting over 300 films from all over the world.

The program consists of 7 competitive sections:

- Competition of Feature Films for Children
- Competition of Feature Films for Youth
- Competition of Animated Films for Children and Youth
- European Debuts Competition
- Zlínský pes – Student Films Competition
- Competition of Films from Visegrad Countries
- Rainbow Marble – International Advertising Awards

This year's National Day is dedicated to cinematography from Scandinavian and Baltic countries.

Contemporary cinematography of Switzerland will be introduced through discussions with Swiss filmmakers on Swiss Film Forum.

CONTACT

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40th KARLOVY VARY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL JULY 1–9, 2005

The most important annual film event in Central and Eastern Europe, presenting over 200 new films from all over the world.

A relaxed environment where film professionals may become acquainted with new projects and promising new filmmakers, assisted by the Film Industry Office.

Official Program:

- Official Selection
- Documentary Films in Competition
- East of the West – Competition

■ Non-competitive Sections in 2005:

Horizons, Another View, Forum of Independents, 8th Variety Critics' Choice, Czech Films 2004–2005, Tribute to Jiří Krejčík, Tribute to Robert Redford, Tribute to Liv Ullmann, Nature and Landscape in Norwegian Cinema, Tribute to Kihachiro Kawamoto, Tribute to Sam Peckinpah, Focus on Canadian Films, 2005: A Musical Odyssey, Worried About Work, World War II: 60 Years After

Accreditation Deadline: June 8, 2005

CONTACT

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IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

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