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SOMETHING LIKE HAPPINESS by Bohdan Sláma

IFF Toronto – Contemporary World Cinema
IFF San Sebastian – Official Competition
New York Film Festival
New Montreal FilmFest

SHARK IN THE HEAD by Maria Procházková

IFF Toronto – Contemporary World Cinema

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CZECH FILMS AT FILM FESTIVALS



CITY OF THE SUN by Martin Šulík

IFF Pusan – World Cinema Section
New Montreal FilmFest

SLAVEK THE SHIT

by Grímúr Hákonarson
IFF Pusan – Wide Angle Section



NEW CZECH FILMS



SEARCHING FOR ESTER | *Pátrání po Ester* | D: Věra Chytilová
CZ 2005 | 128 min | DVCam+DVD | Domestic release: June 2

www.patranipoester.cz, www.bionaut.cz

Ester Krumbachová – an artist, screenwriter, director; one of the boldest personalities of the Czech New Wave. Co-creating films such as *The Party and the Guests* (O slavnosti a hostech), *Daisies* (Sedmikrásky), *All My Good Countrymen* (Všichni dobří rodáci), *Marian*, and many others, Ester also worked in theatre, and was a writer and an illustrator. In the 1960s, she was a 'pivot' of the art scene in Prague, attracting artists who were on the threshold of their career, just setting out to find their own form of self-realization. Those who underwent her tutelage remember her forever. Director Věra Chytilová talks to those who knew Ester Krumbachová, who worked with her, befriended her, loved her. She sets off on a search that is to end by answering the question: Who was Ester?



SOMETHING LIKE HAPPINESS | *Štěstí* | D: Bohdan Sláma
CZ 2005 | 120 min | 35 mm | Domestic release: September 15

www.wildbunch.biz, www.negativ.cz

Monika, Tonik and Dasha grew up in the same housing project in an industrial suburb of a small Czech city. Now they are adults and each of them struggles with feelings of loneliness and personal failure. Monika, whom Tonik secretly loves, works at a supermarket. Her boyfriend, George, has gone to America to pursue a job and Monika remains hopeful that soon she will follow him. Tonik has fled from his conservative family and lives happily with his individualistic aunt who is set to save her desolate, crumbling farmhouse from the encroaching factory nearby. Dasha has two small children and an irresponsible, married lover. She suffers from exhaustion and despair and often acts meanly towards those closest to her. Dasha's mental state worsens dramatically. Monika takes care of the kids and in this situation she also rediscovers how great Tonik's support for her is.



DOBLBA! | D: Petr Vachler

CZ 2005 | 90 min | 35 mm | Domestic release: September 29

www.doblba.cz

The plot of the black Christmas comedy *Doblba!* unfolds within the Muk family's many branches. One day shortly before Christmas an unexpected inheritance falls into the Muk family's lap. The sudden possibility of becoming rich sets in motion a number of pivotal incidents: some family members are lured slightly off their intended course, others are redirected in completely new directions, and the paths of certain others almost come to an end. Nothing will ever be the same again. And there is no such thing as coincidence. Everyone must reevaluate his or her own list of priorities. As always, the rule applies: all good or bad deeds will 'pay dividends' in the future.

2005 - 2006

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

NEW CZECH FILMS



HRUBEŠ AND MAREŠ FRIENDS COME RAIN OR SHINE

Hrubeš a Mareš jsou kamarádi do deště | D: Vladimír Morávek
CZ 2005 | 100 min | 35 mm | Domestic release: October 13
www.hrubesamares.cz

Václav Hrubeš (Czech Shooting Star 2005: Jan Budař) and Josef Mareš are pals: They have no money; they are neither too smart nor too handsome. Hrubeš works as a ticket inspector, Hrubeš has no job at all. However he is a prominent member of the fan club of the singer Hana Zagorová and tries to lose weight each month with a different method. Both intensely long for love, women and a nice job. When his despot father kicks Hrubeš out of his home, his mother is on the brink of a nervous breakdown and Mareš's grandmother dies, our two guys start to live together. Life in their bachelor's household is somewhat dull. Suddenly the film director Viliam Karpatti turns up from Slovakia. After the flop of his movie *The Opening of a Non-Existing Supermarket* he cannot even show up in Bratislava – and so he is ready to offer his bold projects abroad. And Hrubeš and Mareš are exactly what he is looking for...



STILL LIVING... | **Ještě žiju s věšákem, plácačkou a čepicí** | D: Pavel Göbl
CZ 2006 | 105 min | 35 mm | Domestic release: January 5, 2006
www.placacka.cz

An absurd tragicomedy based on the successful theatre play by René Levínský, which was nominated for the Alfréd Radok Prize for the best contemporary production. Set against a backdrop of the fading genius loci of their particular world, the main characters work out or, rather, try to work out, their entangled relationships. Switchman Franta Bláha 'shoots' himself at his own bachelor party; he and co-worker Gábina Kleinová, a cleaning woman for the railways, were planning to get married. But that evening something else happens: Franta's identical twin brother dies. The brother was financially much better off than Franta. And he wasn't about to get married. Can Franta resist a sudden drunken impulse to switch identities with his deceased brother? Thus begins another day at a medium-sized Czech train station in the year 2005...



LUNACY | Šílení

D: Jan Švankmajer
CZ 2005 | 95 min | 35 mm | Domestic release: November 17

Set at the beginning of the 19th century, this philosophical horror story is loosely based on two Edgar Allan Poe tales: *The Premature Burial* and *The System of Dr. Tarr and Prof. Fether*. Young Berlot suffers from a recurrent dream in which hospital orderlies attempt to strap him into a straightjacket. The dream ends with his waking up in a destroyed room. After his mother's funeral, Berlot meets a certain marquis in a pub and accepts an invitation to his palace. One night he witnesses an orgy in the palace chapel. A young woman is being forced to participate and she captivates Berlot to such a degree that he decides immediately to quit the palace. The marquis, however, falls into a cataleptic fit which seems like death, and the nobleman's valet forces Berlot to seal the coffin. The next day they find the marquis feasting in the family tomb. He too has his secrets and is thus able to offer Berlot therapy which should end his troublesome dreams...

2005 - 2006

FILM COMMISSION NEWS

THE BROTHERS GRIMM by Terry Gilliam

International premiere at the International Venice Film Festival – Official Competition



Established in 2003, **Reforma Films** is a Prague-based collaboration of U.S. and European filmmakers.

The company's first big-budget production was *The Brothers Grimm*, starring Matt Damon, Heath Ledger, Peter Stormare, and others. It was shot entirely in the Czech Republic, with 103 shooting days over twenty weeks, including almost three weeks on location. Filming took place on the four biggest stages and the entire back lot of Barrandov Studios and was finished at the end of November 2003.

Director Terry Gilliam on *The Brothers Grimm*: 'We built the sets for the forest [...], the back of that set looked as interesting as the forest itself. [...] These guys were so good at putting together old buildings; they know it and they feel it. [...] For doing things that are very rustic, it's the perfect place.'

See www.reformafilms.com for more details.

EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED by Liev Schreiber

International premiere at the International Venice Film Festival – Horizons section



Founded in 1993, **Stilking Films** is a producer of feature films, commercials and music videos. With offices in Prague, Cape Town, Barcelona, London, Milan and Los Angeles the company also offers an integrated network of options for physical production.

The ten-week shoot of *Everything Is Illuminated* took place mostly in the countryside around Prague and finished in August 2004.

Although the filmmakers had initially scouted the Ukraine, they decided to film in and around Prague. Liev Schreiber: 'I was lucky enough to have shot a film in Prague as an actor and had become great friends with Matthew Stillman who runs Stilking, one of Prague's best production companies. I saw the locations I realized they were not only a perfect match for the Ukrainian countryside, but they were also really beautiful!'

One of the film's producer's, Marc Turteltaub added: 'I think the service level here is extraordinary [...] it's the quality of the people here. [...] We found a great work ethic!'

See www.stilking.com for more details.

MADE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT WWW.FILMCOMMISSION.CZ

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

THE FINE ART OF LOVE – MINE HAHA by John Irving

International premiere at the International Venice Film Festival – Out of Competition

Balzer International Films (BIF), established as an independent production company in 1993, offers a complete range of production services. BIF has provided production services or has co-produced *My Giant* (USA 1998, feat. Billy Crystal), *Brucio nel vento* (Italy, Switzerland 2002) among other films.

Recently it co-produced *The Fine Art of Love – Mine Haha*. The story is based on *Mine-Haha or Physical Education of Young Girls* by German author Frank Wedekind (*Spring Awakening, Lulu*). The film takes place in Thuringia, Germany, in the early 20th century and the principal photography took place in the Czech Republic. Among the main locations were the monastery Teplá, Marienbad and Sychrov Castle. This British-Italian-Czech co-production is featuring Jaqueline Bisset. See www.bif.cz for more details.

HOSTEL by Eli Roth

International premiere at the International Toronto Film Festival – Midnight Madness section



The latest project made by **International Production Company** and its founders Daniel Frisch and Philip Waley, *Hostel*, a US studio film (Sony Screen Gems), is expecting a major theatrical release in November 2005.

Established in 2003, IPC has produced *The League of Extraordinary Gentleman*, *Running Scared*, and *The Pink Panther* among other films.

Hostel, filmed one week in Český Krumlov, had major set builds, was shot in over fifty locations, and had two crews filming over a seven-week period. With the exception of the makeup effects, the entire crew was hired locally in the Czech Republic.

The film's director, Eli Roth, and his close friend Quentin Tarantino feel the picture looks like five times the amount that was spent, and Sony Screen Gems is amazed by the production value. The film's venerable editor, George Folsiey Jr., said it was one of the best productions he has experienced in his forty-year career.

See www.intlprodco.com for more details.



MADE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT WWW.FILMCOMMISSION.CZ

TELEGRAM

The DVD release of Věra Chytilová's latest film *Searching for Ester* – about the fascinating Ester Krumbachová (1923–1996), one of the boldest personalities of the Czech New Wave – provides some interesting bonus material. This consists in unused interviews with Krumbachová's contemporaries, a video-clip directed by Krumbachová herself, and a TV-documentary on the artist by her former husband, director-writer Jan Němec. For sales abroad please contact Bionaut Films: bionaut@bionaut.cz, www.bionaut.cz.



Filming of *Young Hanibal: Behind the Mask* (director: Peter Weber, *Girl with a Pearl Earring*) will start in October in the Barrandov Studios, which will design and manufacture the sets and props and provide film development services in its own laboratories. Production services in the Czech Republic provided by ETIC.

The Sorrow of Mme. Schneider, a Czech-Albanian co-production by director-actor Piro Milkani (*Lamerica* by Gianni Amelio), will be shot in the Czech Republic. The Albanian director studied film at the Prague Film School in the sixties. The autobiographical feature will star, among others, the Czech actress Aňa Geislerová and the Italian actor Michele Placido. Shooting will take place between September and October 2005. The theatrical release is planned for March 2006.



Czech New Wave veteran director Jan Němec (*Late Night Talks with Mother*) is finishing *Toyen*, a film freely inspired by the life and work of the female Czech surrealist artist Toyen. Featuring Zuzana Stivínová (*Faithless Games*) and Czech Shooting Star 2005 Jan Budař. The theatrical release is planned for November 30, 2005.

Korean love stories shot in Prague during August: Three episodes of the twenty-part TV series *Loves in Prague* (produced by the Korean company Olive 9, with Czech production services provided by Axman Production) are scheduled to be broadcasted by SBS Korea in mid-September 2005. The two-week shoot is taking place in and around such Prague landmarks as the Charles Bridge, Old Town Square, Vyšehrad, and Prague's Lesser Quarter.

CZECH FESTIVALS & MARKETS

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL JIHLAVA 2005

October 25–30

This prestigious showcase of original documentaries with special emphasis on works from Central Europe tries to offer broad-ranging and current information about past and contemporary works from the world of documentary cinematography.

Program sections:

- Between the Seas – competition of Central European documentaries of the past year
- Czech Joy – competition of Czech documentaries
- Beadecker, Opus Bonum – newest original documentaries from around the globe
- Translucent Beings – wide-ranging retrospective profiles of important film personalities

Deadline for accreditation: October 10

For more information please visit:
www.dokument-festival.cz



International
Documentary
Film Festival

EAST SILVER

The 2nd year of the unique documentary film market for East and Central European documentaries is part of the International Documentary Film Festival Jihlava and aims to create an easily accessible platform for film professionals to exchange their professional experiences.

The market offers a broad database of documentaries from 2004–2005 intended primarily for festival program directors, broadcasters, and distributors.



For more information please visit:
www.eastsilver.net

EAST EUROPEAN FORUM 2005

- October 26–28

The Pitch Workshop, chaired by top European documentary film producers, lecturers, and distributors, will provide participants the skills and knowledge they need to draft an attractive co-production proposal, create a budget according to European standards, and to pitch their projects effectively.

- October 29–30

The Pitching Forum – a public presentation where directors and producers have an opportunity to pitch their film projects to leading East and West European television producers and to enlist their aid in co-financing or co-production.



For more information please visit:
www.docuinter.net

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