



IN GERMAN CINEMAS  
FROM MARCH 8, 2006

## SOMETHING LIKE HAPPINESS

by Bohdan Sláma  
Distributor: Neue Visionen

FEATURING PAVEL LIŠKA  
CZECH SHOOTING  
STAR 2006

# NEWSLETTER 1 | 2006

## NEW CZECH FILMS



### AN ANGEL OF THE LORD

**Anděl Páně**  
D: Jiří Strach | CZ 2005 | 90 min | 35mm  
Domestic release: November 3, 2005  
Web site: [www.andelpane.cz](http://www.andelpane.cz)

Angel Petronel is a charming muddle-pate, whatever he touches he wrecks or ruins, even the honourable office he is entrusted with as Guardian of the Heavenly Gate. By way of punishment, God sends him down to Earth, so he learns about how hard it is to live a blameless life. But what a calamity it becomes, having this scatterbrain try to convince people that he is God's messenger! Moreover, what can one expect of an angel who is naïve enough to believe that Uriah the Devil is his friend! Luckily he has support up in Heaven.



### GOD'S STONE QUARRY (ONE YEAR IN NORTH BOHEMIA) | Kamenolom Boží (jeden rok v Severních Čechách)

D: Břetislav Rychlík | CZ 2005 | 88 min | Betacam digi | Documentary  
Domestic release: November 10, 2005

God's Stone Quarry is similar in form to Rychlík's older film, *One Year*, which focused on people long settled in the Horňácko region straddling the Moravian-Slovak border. At first sight, the interconnectedness of the Carpathian highlanders' lifestyle, culture, and economy with their environs and their respect for nature vastly differ from the lives of the people inhabiting Northern Bohemia's 'lunar' landscape. But human dreams and desires are ever the same, even in a region which seems to have been written off.



### SHUT UP AND SHOOT ME

**Sklapni a zastřel mě!**  
D: Steen Agro | CZ 2005 | 90 min | 35mm  
Domestic release: December 1, 2005  
Web site: [www.suasm.com](http://www.suasm.com), [www.sklapni.cz](http://www.sklapni.cz)

Long-suffering Czech Pavel Zeman works six jobs so his ungrateful wife Liba can buy designer shoes and clothes. Colin Frampton is an Englishman who never stops worrying, not even on holiday in Prague. When Colin's wife is accidentally squashed by a statue, he decides that he can't face life without her. So Colin bribes Pavel to help him die. An unlikely friendship develops as Pavel's plans for Colin's death spin out of control...

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## NEW CZECH FILMS



### RESTART

**Restart**  
D: Julius Ševčík | CZ 2005 | 85 min | 35mm  
Domestic release: December 8, 2005  
Web site: [www.restartfilm.com](http://www.restartfilm.com)

Sylva's life used to be a full time of clubbing, drinking and love play with her boyfriend. Until one night, when puzzled in a party agony, she makes a fatal error. Now, scared and abandoned she sets out on a journey to win her love back. Confronted with one obstacle after another, Sylva rides an emotional roller coaster towards a final collision. A collision that signifies the moment of a total system breakdown. And at the same time, the moment of RESTART.



### SOURCE | Zdroj

D: Martin Mareček | CZ 2005 | 75 min | DVD  
Domestic release: December 29, 2005  
Web site: [www.automatfilm.cz](http://www.automatfilm.cz)

Baku, Azerbaijan, the site of the world's first oil well, is once again becoming a focus for foreign investors eager to exploit the country's vast oil riches. Source traces the pipeline from our commuter highways back to this surreal and sinister landscape on which our way of life depends, where cows graze on polluted land and children play in toxic gunge. But between big oil companies like British Petroleum and the corrupt government lining their pockets, what does this mean for the ordinary people of Azerbaijan?



### TAMING CROCODILES

**Jak se krotí krokodýli**  
D: Marie Poledňáková | CZ 2006 | 108 min | 35mm  
Domestic release: January 12, 2006  
Web site: [www.krokodyli.cz](http://www.krokodyli.cz)

Lubos spends most of the year in the Alps working on a rescue team. He has finally arrived home and his wife Anna is looking forward to spending a whole month with him. But their 8-year old daughter Amalka refuses to go on a school trip. Lubos goes to school to excuse his daughter's absence, and ends up going to the High Tatras with Amalka and her class as a medical technician. Although he promises Anna he'll be back in a few days, Anna waits for Lubos in vain. When Lubos finally returns, he has a great surprise for the whole family.

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## NEW CZECH FILMS



### KHA-CHEE-PAE | Chačipe

D: Miroslav Janek | CZ 2005 | 57 min | Digibeta, 35 mm  
Domestic release: February 2, 2006

Miroslav Janek investigates life in a children's home by means of play. He invites the kids to become his filmmaking partners: he teaches them how to operate a movie camera, and encourages them to film the environment in which they live. Together they create animation, shoot skits they have thought up by themselves, and experiment with film materials – all the while revealing many things about their lives. In the kids' hands, the camera is a toy and, at the same time, a tool that enables them to confide their secrets, to cope with powerlessness and unexpected sorrow.



### EXPERTS | EXPERTI

D: Karel Coma | CZ 2006 | 85 min | 35mm  
Domestic release: February 9, 2006  
Web site: [www.experti1.com](http://www.experti1.com)

The main character, Oskar, loves computers. When Oskar is rejected by a girl who then turns around and begins dating his rich classmate, Oskar decides to radically change his life in order to get the girl of his dreams. Spending the last of his allowance on changing his appearance, he finds work with a computer company. He gets his first few breaks and soon has plenty of work to keep him occupied as he transforms himself into a well-dressed businessman. Everything was on the right path, but then a little accident happened that Oskar would really like to forget.



### FIMFÁRUM II. | Fimfárum z druhé kapsy

D: Jan Balej, Aurel Klimt, Vlasta Pospíšilová, Břetislav Pojar | CZ 2006 | 90 min | 35mm  
Domestic release: February 23, 2006  
Web site: [www.fimfarum.cz](http://www.fimfarum.cz)

The sequel to a collection of fairy tales 'for clever children and clever adults' from the much beloved book by Jan Werich. Břetislav Pojar presents *Tom Thumb*, a picturesque story full of plot twists and adventure. Three similar brothers come to life in *Hunchbacks from Damascus*, which evokes the atmosphere of the Near East thanks of Aurel Klimt's oriental narrative style. Vlasta Pospíšilová's *Three Sisters and a Ring* employs a rustic instruction manual à la *The Decameron*: how to trick a husband out of a ring. And Jan Balej allows brothers Marek and Kouba to explain a natural phenomenon, and to relive an age-old fairy tale about envy and devils in *Why, Uncle, Is the Sea Salty?*

## TELEGRAM

**Juraj Jakubisko** is currently in production with **Bathory** (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, UK), a period drama about the 16th century Hungarian countess Elizabeth Bathory, who has gone down in history as one of the world's most notorious serial killers. Jakubisko Film, Bathory's main producer, has received *Eurimages* support and has set the feature's budget at almost € 10 million.



Principle photography of **Jiří Menzel's** adaptation of Bohumil Hrabal's book ***I Served the King of England*** will start in March 2006. The film, produced by Ceska Produkcni and Bioscop in co-production with Slovakia, has a budget of almost € 3 million. It is Academy Award winner Menzel's (*Closely Observed Trains*; 1966) first film in more than 12 years.

The third upcoming co-production with a budget of € 2 million is **Tobruk** by director-producer **Václav Marhoul**. The WWII drama about a Czech youngster taking part in one of history's famous battles is to be filmed on location in northern Africa beginning in August 2006. The film, which received support from the Media Development Fund, will be produced by Marhoul's own company Silver Screen in co-production with Slovakia.

Principle photography of **Jan** and **Zdeněk Svěrák's Empties** (Czech Republic, UK, Italy) will start in March 2006. The latest film from the Oscar-winning team of *Kolya* is a comic and poetic coming-of-age story set in contemporary Prague with a budget of € 1.2 million.

**Alice Nellis'** third film **Loving Hell** has postponed shooting for one year. With an international cast and a predominantly English-language script (90 % of the film), the filming shall take place in Prague in 2006 for about 50 shooting days. The 4-million-euro project will be a Czech-Slovak co-production.



## INTERVIEW

**Q&A with Alain de la Mata, head of acquisition at Wild Bunch**, the cinema co-production, acquisition and distribution entity, based in Paris and London. The company's line-up presents a wide diversity of world cinema including Emir Kusturica's most recent film *Life is a Miracle*, Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11* and Luc Jacquet's *March of the Penguins*. Among the recent acquisitions of this year we can find *Something Like Happiness* by Czech director/writer Bohdan Slama, which was awarded with the Golden Shell at the San Sebastian IFF in 2005.

**Wild Bunch is known for its innovative and sometimes even visionary selection of world cinema. Where would you position *Something Like Happiness*?**  
I think SLH's achievement lies in bringing to the screen a universally moving story. Told as an ensemble piece by making several strands of closely interwoven narrative work together it is also served by truly remarkable performances from an exceptional young cast – Aňa Geislerová, Pavel Liška and Tatiana Vilhelmová.

**I believe it is the first Czech film that is represented by Wild Bunch? How come?**

Despite having followed Czech productions for the last 4-5 years, until now I haven't come across films which I thought had the potential to sell to a reasonable number of territories. With the possible exceptions of Saša Gedeon's *Return of the Idiot* – in my humble opinion the best Czech film of the past few years – and maybe David Ondricek's *Loners*, but it was too late for Wild Bunch to be involved by the time I saw that one.

**You have been coming to Prague as well as to the International Film Festival Karlovy Vary for the couple of years now. What is your impression of the Czech film production?**

Having watched numerous Czech productions I can't help but feel that many directors and producers are not concerned with reaching audiences abroad. As most of the financing comes from local TV channels or from co-production with Slovakia and bordering countries, it seems the aim is more to cater to local tastes for broad comedies or telemovie melodramas. On the other hand, I am constantly struck by the quality of acting, particularly from the young generation. This is perhaps due to the majority of actors sharing a theatre background as opposed to TV. In particular I think Pavel Liška – having seen his performances in other films as well – is one of the most exciting European actors of his generation.

**Is it important whether the film you are representing is an international co-production?**

Absolutely not. This had no influence on Wild Bunch getting involved with this film nor will it have any influence on the film's selling performance. Our aim is to identify and work with credible production structures that can deliver, in terms of production values, artistic merit and cast performance, the film they've promised to. In this instance, Negativ has certainly delivered the project I recall them presenting at Rotterdam Cinemart two years ago.



### CZECH FESTIVALS

**19<sup>TH</sup> FINALE PLZEŇ**  
Festival of Czech Film, APRIL 3-9, 2006 in Pilsen

The only competitive and comprehensive overview of Czech feature films, made during a one-year period. Representative selection of contemporary documentaries. A prolific chance to compare contemporary cinematography and film history through the retrospectives alongside meetings with the celebrities of Czech cinematography.

#### Competition

- ⊗ Czech Feature films
- ⊗ Czech Documentaries Under 30 Minutes
- ⊗ Czech Documentaries Over 30 Minutes

#### Non-competitive sections

- ⊗ Tribute to Otakar Vávra and His Famous Students
- ⊗ Czech Cinema's Most Turbulent Decade – Year 1966 School – The Essence of The Film Life

More information on [www.finaleplzen.cz](http://www.finaleplzen.cz)

**ANIFEST**  
International Festival of Animated Films,  
May 4-10, 2006 in Třeboň

AniFest is an annual competition festival of animated films presenting every year the best animated films from the whole world.

#### International competition

- ⊗ Feature-length films
- ⊗ Short films
- ⊗ Television films and serials
- ⊗ Video clips
- ⊗ Advertisement or introductory spots
- ⊗ Student films
- ⊗ Films made by children

#### Non-competitive sections

Large film retrospective of animation from the British Isles  
Visegrad Countries: Children and Animation (block of films for children)  
Presentations by animation studios, schools and companies involved in film animation  
Animation workshops

More information on [www.anifest.cz](http://www.anifest.cz)



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Roman Synek, Dana Synková,  
Monika Charvátová, David Synek  
Phone: +420-234 261 111  
Fax: +420-234 261 112

Address: Dolnoměcholupská 209/17  
102 00 Prague 10, Czech Republic  
[office@gatteofilms.com](mailto:office@gatteofilms.com), [office@alfafilm.net](mailto:office@alfafilm.net)  
[www.filmstudiogatteo.cz](http://www.filmstudiogatteo.cz), [www.alfafilm.net](http://www.alfafilm.net)