



## IFF CANNES – MARCHÉ DU FILM 2006

**RESTART**  
by Julius Ševčík  
**SCREENING**  
May 19, 5:30 pm at Gray 2

**CLOSE TO HEAVEN**  
by Dan Svátek  
**SCREENING**  
May 21, 10:00 pm at Palais D

**RAFTERS**  
By Karel Jának  
**SCREENING**  
May 17, 2:00 pm at Palais F

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# NEWSLETTER 2 | 2006

## NEW CZECH FILMS



**THE RAFTERS | Raffáci**  
D: Karel Jának | CZ 2006 | 104 min | 35 mm  
Cast: Vojtěch Kotek, Jiří Mádě, Pavla Tomicová  
Domestic release: March 9, 2006  
Web site: www.raftaci.com

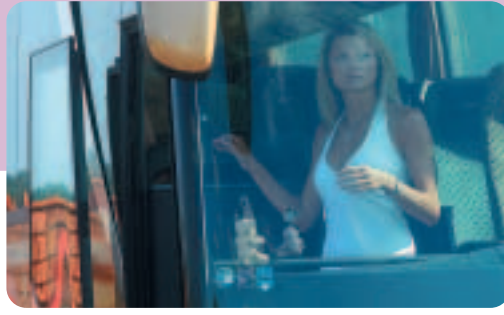
We can all remember the teenage nightmare that was a holiday with our parents. But it's especially infuriating when this only comes about through an unfortunate series of coincidences. When Dany promises to help Filip pick up a girl, he has no idea of the obstacles fate will put in their way. What awaits them in their adventures on the river? Swimming, boredom, love, disappointment, and drunkenness – but mainly sex, drugs, and rock'n'roll. *The Rafterers* is a comedy for young people and teenagers that should also appeal to their parents, who can only look back nostalgically on the carefree days of their first love.

**DREAMLESS NIGHTS | Bezesné noci**  
D: Radim Špaček, David Čálek | CZ 2003 | 108 min | DVD  
Domestic release: April 3, 2006  
Web site: www.spacek.info/bn/  
Director Radim Špaček and cameraman David Čálek present their documentary on the Czech "television crisis" that erupted in December 2000. The situation turned absurd the moment both sides publicly declared their desire for the same – freedom of speech for themselves. Working with the subject matter and material for more than two years gave the authors distance and a chance to make their discourse more precise, that is, more objective and well-rounded. The film serves neither side of the conflict; rather, it offers only scenes and moments to grasp, functioning as an analysis of the Czech media scene.

**INDIAN AND THE NURSE | Indián a sestřička**  
D: Dan Włodarczyk | CZ 2006 | 90 min | 35 mm  
Cast: Tomáš Masopust, Denisa Demeterová, Tatiana Pauhofová  
Domestic release: April 13, 2006  
Twenty-five-year-old František belongs to a "white Indian" community, people who spend their free time enjoying the lifestyle of the original inhabitants of North America. Then František meets a Romany girl named Marie at a ritualistic witch burning ceremony. But Marie's family is none too thrilled about her new friendship. That's because Martin, a well-situated family friend, is interested in Marie too. So Marie's mother asks her son Tibor to keep an eye on his sister...

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

## NEW CZECH FILMS



**HOLIDAY MAKERS | Účastníci zájezdu**  
D: Jiří Vejdělek | CZ 2006 | 113 min | 35 mm  
Cast: Eva Holubová, Anna Polívková, Pavel Liška  
Domestic release: April 20, 2006  
Web site: www.ucastnicizajezdu.com

In *Holiday Makers* a chance group of vacationers sets out by bus for the Adriatic Sea. The grueling journey provides ample time to get to know the individual characters: myriad tense moments allow the travelers to reveal things about themselves that would have better remained hidden. As the kilometers roll by, the absurdities multiply. Not even arrival to their dream destination brings hope of improvement. Things are indeed pretty hot by the sea! *Holiday Makers* is a timeless comedy about enjoying to the fullest even the most precarious vacation.

**BEST WISHES! | Všechno nejlepší**  
D: Martin Kotík | CZ 2006 | 100 min | 35 mm  
Cast: Jan Dolanský, Viktor Preiss, Tomáš Matonoň  
Domestic release: June 1, 2006  
The comedy *Best Wishes!* takes place over the course of one late-summer day, the day on which a young taxi driver named Jarďa intends to celebrate his 27th birthday – in style. He's got everything perfectly planned, but unfortunately a certain man chances to cross his path. The man gets into Jarďa's cab and during this all-day taxi adventure, he turns Jarďa's birthday plans – and his entire life – into absolute hell.

**BEAUTY IN TROUBLE | Kráska v nesházích**  
D: Jan Hřebejk | CZ 2006 | 120 min | 35 mm  
Cast: Aňa Geislerová, Jana Brejchová, Josef Brábřeh  
Domestic release: September 7, 2006  
Marcela left her husband for the worse. Then she meets Evžen, a man with a traumatic childhood: initially abandoned by his parents and left to grow up in communist Czechoslovakia, Evžen only joined them in the free world a decade later. After this experience, he never committed to anyone, and now, in his best years, he has retired, bought land in Italy, and begun cultivating olives and wine in Tuscany. Evžen offers Marcela a new lease on life. And thus she finds herself faced with a great internal dilemma, fighting the same battle as the "beauty in trouble" of Robert Graves' poem...

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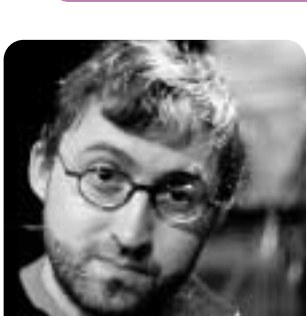
# 41<sup>st</sup> Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

## June 30 – July 8, 2006

www.kviff.com



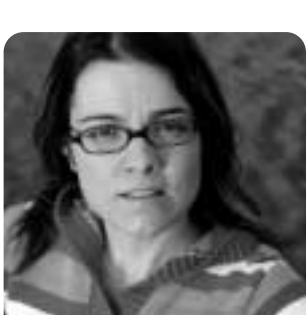
## TELEGRAM



**Jan Hřebejk's new film will compete for the Crystal Globe.** The Czech Republic will be represented in the Official Selection – Competition at the 41<sup>st</sup> Karlovy Vary IFF with the world premiere of Jan Hřebejk's new film *Beauty in Trouble*. Featuring Aňa Geislerová (Silver Shell for Best Actress at the IFF San Sebastian 2005) and the legendary Jana Brejchová, who returns to Czech film after a six-year break.



**Indian and the Nurse to be the first Czech film presented in the section East of the West – Competition at the 41st Karlovy Vary IFF.** This love story about a Romany nurse and a labourer from South Bohemia, who with his friends in his free time imitates the Native American lifestyle, was written by Jan Stehlik and directed by debuting filmmaker Dan Włodarczyk.



**Karla Stojáková of Axman Production will be showcased as the Czech Producer on the Move** by the European Film Promotion in co-operation with the Czech Film Center during IFF Cannes 2006. Karla's feature film debut, *Restart* by Julius Ševčík, was structured as a Czech-Finnish co-production and has recently been released theatrically. Axman Production is now developing three feature films – *The Shining World* by Michael Baumbrück, *The Testament* written by Iva Stojáková, and *The Messenger* by Julius Ševčík.



**Czech director Ivan Fila (*Lea, King of Thieves*) is currently at the financing stage and in pre-production for his English language project *Bella Luna* (Canada, France, Italy, UK, USA, Germany, Czech Rep.) starring Sophia Loren. It's a poetic tragicomedy about a one-time famous Oscar-winning actor and gambler, Frederick Sastre, who meets up under strange circumstances with an old flame of his, the Neapolitan opera diva Bella Luna.**

## INTERVIEW

CFC caught up with **Julia Jentsch**, who is currently shooting *I Served the King of England* in the Czech Republic. In it she plays the female lead under the direction of the legendary Jiří Menzel. This is the first lead in an international co-production for the young German actress (**Sophie Scholl: The Final Days**, **The Edukators**). The film is scheduled to premiere at the end of the year in Czech cinemas.

What was your first reaction upon reading the script?  
Receiving it, I initially thought it weird... I had never read a script like this before. Describing persons and what they were doing, how they were going about page after page before any dialogue started. On the one hand it interested me, but on the other I found it really weird. Still, it fascinated me; it felt like one of those paintings that you just can look at. I found this really unusual. It was both strange and special at the same time, which made me curious.

What is your first impression of shooting for *I Served...*?  
I always have a sense about a film, or about the director and the people with whom I make a film. But the sense I have now I've never had before. I don't mean this in a judgmental way. This film differs from any other film. It is different because of this... well, it has this Jiří-Menzel slant on things. Something I like a lot. It depicts things with this light touch, a twinkling eye. And I love that.



What is it like to work with Jiří Menzel as a director?  
What is special about Jiří Menzel is that each scene already preexists as a picture in his head; and his Czech humor; his view of looking at people. That is very special, something I've experienced in no other film. It is a playful humor, not slap-stick, but one with a gentle smile, very playful; a humor that allows old people in the film to do childish and absurd things. That is also why I think this movie differs from the ones I know from Germany and those I've made myself.

Do you think this film will find an international audience?  
Simply put: I believe that it will be a lot of fun to watch. Anyone can comprehend this story because it is based on a novel by Bohumil Hrabal. And his books are easy reads.

The reason I've been impressed by J. M.'s earlier films is that the actors are magnificent. I've got a feeling that Czech actors touch with a gut feeling and are totally grounded, and they also really direct, and they also really direct, which is an exceptional quality. This alone touches everyone: basically it's very human and through that also universal. That's why I hope this film will be a success in Germany. Clearly, it will be a Czech film, and that's another thing that makes it interesting, but it also tells a story that resonates with everyone, because it is about a man who wants to turn his dreams into reality...

## CZECH FESTIVALS

**II. PRAGUE SHORT FILM FESTIVAL**  
November 15-19, 2006

The international showcase of short films wants mainly to support an area of film that, despite enjoying a boom in many parts of the world, has remained largely hidden to the Czech public, which has had little chance to see the medium's best works and meet their authors.

- International competition of short films (up to 20 minutes) – Main award Grand Prix Plus (5,000 €)
- Non-competitive informative film programs, retrospectives, homage profiles, and other accompanying events. Films in non-competitive informative sections can have a maximum length of 45 minutes.)

The festival accepts fiction short films only. It does not accept animation, documentary, or industrial films.

**Deadline for Entries: September 1<sup>st</sup>**  
More information on [www.pragueshorts.com](http://www.pragueshorts.com)

## INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL JIHLAVA

October 24-29, 2006

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 Entries: May 31**  
More information on [www.dokument-festival.cz](http://www.dokument-festival.cz)

## FILM COMMISSION NEWS

### LONDON IN PRAGUE

Shooting on the German comedy *Neues vom Wixxer* began in Prague at the end April. The film is a sequel to the 2004 box-office hit *Der Wixxer*, which was also filmed in the Czech Republic. It is a film lampoon of British author Edgar Wallace's detective stories, and the Czech locations in it will double for London and a mysterious English castle. The eight-week shoot, being handled in the Czech Republic by **Wilma Film**, will bring the production to locations in Prague, as well as to the Sychrov and Sívohv chateaux. Much of it will be filmed in the ČKD studios, where sets of Scotland Yard and interiors of a mysterious English castle have been erected.

The film's producer is Munich's Rat Pack Filmproduktion. Czech filmmakers comprise 90 percent of the crew, while the heads of departments were brought in from Germany. Directed by Cyril Boss and Philipp Stennert, the comedy is checked full of popular German actors and comedians including Oliver Kalkofe, Bastian Pastewka, Christoph Maria Herbst, Christiane Paul, Judy Winter, Hella von Sinnen, Martin Semmelrogge, Chris Howland, as well as Joachim Fuchsberger.

### TO BE CONTINUED: 007 IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Director Martin Campbell is scheduled to complete principal photography on *Casino Royale* in the Czech Republic at the end of May. The filming on the 21st James Bond film began on January 30 and has since brought the production to various locations in Prague and the Czech Republic. The final shots will take place in the Czech spa town Karlovy Vary. *Casino Royale* has employed over 400 crew members, more than half of which are of Czech nationality. I am pleased to say that many of the Czech crew work throughout the whole movie – not only in the Czech Republic but also in the Bahamas and Italy," said David Minkowski from **Stilking Films**, which acts as the Czech co-producer. The producers, Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli, are delighted to be filming in the Czech Republic: "The country has a long history of great international filmmaking. There is a wealth of beautiful location opportunities here and we have been impressed by the extremely talented local technicians who are working along side our British crew." Columbia will release the film on November 17.



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