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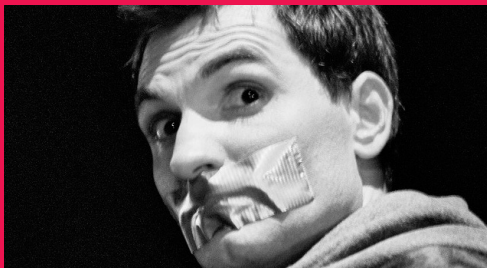
NEWSLETTER

3 | 2004

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IN COMPETITION
ONE HAND CAN'T CLAP



SPECIAL SECTION
CZECH DREAM

FOCUS ON NEW CZECH CINEMA

During the 14th Festival of East European Cinema in Cottbus November 2-6, 2004

SPECIAL SECTION
BORED IN BRNO



SPECTRUM SECTION
SMART PHILLIP

NEW CZECH FILMS



NON PLUS ULTRAS | D: Jakub Sluka | CZ 2004 | 79 min
35 mm | premiered: August 4, 2004

A humorous if brief look at the lives of a few men, some of whom have grown prematurely old, others of whom have yet to grow up. The characters are real, they live among us. It's just that they no longer seem as enthusiastic about their favorite activity – soccer hooliganism – as they used to be. Stick, a middle-aged loner, finds himself in crisis one Sunday afternoon. His own fans threaten to assault him before a game. Bejčák, the unwritten leader of a sizeable group of fans, comes to his aid. Thanks to Bejčák, Stick finds himself in new surroundings, and he observes with detachment the group of aging soccer hooligans who have accepted him among them. *Web: www.nonplusultras.cz*



FATHERLAND – A HUNTING LOGBOOK | *Vaterland – Lovecký deník*

D: David Jařáb | CZ 2004 | 94 min | 35 mm | premiered: August 8, 2004

A fantasy thriller with elements of black comedy revolving around several cultural conflicts and a hunt. Returning to old family holdings after fifty years can be fun and adventurous, but it can be dangerous too. Traces of the world as it was remain, and the new world hasn't yet revealed clear contours. An old-fashioned game, then, can become a release mechanism from a trap everyone eventually gets stuck in: hunters, natives, and mysterious prey. But not even the colonial atmosphere can hide that we are in the heart of Europe, and that it's precarious to divide the world into categories such as first, second, third, fourth...

Web: www.czech-tv.cz/program/detail.php?nzv=Vaterland



UP AND DOWN | *Horem pádem* | D: Jan Hřebejk | CZ 2004

108 min | 35mm | premiered: September 16, 2004

Three intertwined tragicomic stories about losing and finding love, friendship, families, parents and children. A dramatic tale of altruism and xenophobia, a story of our fear of the unknown and the feeling of being threatened that awakens the demon of racism hidden in every one of us. The stories mostly take place in present-day Prague: Two refugee smugglers find a two-month old child left in their car after a job. They sell the forgotten Indian boy to the childless Miluška who desperately wants to have a child. Her husband František, however, is a football hooligan and a racist...

Forty-year-old Hana works in a refugee aid center. Her much older partner Otakar collapses while lecturing at the university. Their eighteen year-old daughter learns by accident that Otakar never divorced his first wife, Věra, with whom he has a son, Martin... *Web: www.horempadem.cz*

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

NEW CZECH FILMS



DIRTY SOUL | Duše jako kaviár | D: Milan Cieslar | CZ 2004

99 min | 35 mm | premiered: October 14, 2004

The film is a mosaic of three tragicomically portrayed stories of two sisters, Anna (16) and Jana (26), and their oldest stepbrother Vladimír (35). They're all seeking the best partner of their life, which leads them into downfalls and groping. They keep unconsciously bouncing into each other, repeating the same mistakes. The youngest Anna is far from an ideal beauty; she is constantly trying to become more beautiful and perfect. She runs into the same problems as her older sister, who is on the verge of divorcing her husband. All the characters are portrayed with a cynical exaggeration and humor, but mainly with human sympathy for all those human mistakes of body and spirit. This story is ruled more than any other by the saying: A man is a ravine and when I look down, I suffer from vertigo.

Web: www.celluloid.cz/texts/caviar1.htm



SNOWBOARDERS | Snowboardáci | D: Karel Janák | CZ 2004

90 min | 35 mm | premiered: November 4, 2004

Avalanches, first love, embarrassment, a good dose of adrenaline and – most importantly – humor. This story of two cool dudes, three sex kittens and four snowboarding pros is played out in the mountains during the Christmas holidays. Essential viewing for teenagers and the whole family alike.

Web: www.whisconti.cz/snowboardaci



LOVERS AND MURDERERS | Milenci a vrazi | D: Viktor Polesný

CZ 2004 | 110 min | 35 mm | to be released: December 9, 2004

This adaptation of Vladimír Páral's "Lovers and Murderers" is set in the seventies and eighties in the bizarre wavy industrial countryside of North Bohemia. The main stage is a house owned by Kotex factory, where the workers' destinies unfold. The ground floor is occupied by laborers, random and permanent. Above there is the flat of the factory's director and separate women's and men's dorms. However, this structure is never obeyed. Everything is hopelessly mixed. And the mad merry-go-round of human life spins and spins till the final "loss of illusion". It stars Jiří Langmajer, Ondřej Vetchý, Veronika Žilková and others.

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

COMING SOON: SHOOTING GUIDE CZECH REPUBLIC

Do you want to find out more about filming in the Czech Republic? Check out the new shooting guide published by Czech Film Commission that will be presented at the Berlin IFF in February 2005.

The shooting guide provides key contacts to local film professionals and companies and lists services and resources available for filmmakers visiting the Czech Republic. An online version is also in the works – www.filmcommission.cz for more information.

ONGOING PRODUCTIONS: OLIVER TWIST

Since early spring of 2004, PRAGUE BARRANDOV STUDIOS have been hosting the largest production of this year "OLIVER TWIST". The film is directed by the legendary director ROMAN POLANSKI. It is an independent co-production by R. P. FILMS of France, RUNTEAM II Ltd. of the U. K. and Prague company ETIC FILMS s.r.o., which is entirely shot in the Czech Republic.

When Polanski completed "The Pianist", he was determined to make a totally different type of movie. It is the Charles Dickens' classic story of a young orphan boy who gets involved with a gang of boy pickpockets in 19th Century London. 11-year old London schoolboy Barney Clark plays Oliver. Sir Ben Kingsley was cast for Fagin. The very experienced crew, most of who worked with Polanski on "The Pianist", include director of photography Pawel Edelman, production designer Allan Starski, costume designer Anna Sheppard and editor Herve de Luze.

"It is one of the most ambitious sets ever built in Prague", says Petr Moravec and Veronika Finkova from Czech co-production company ETIC FILMS. The enormous set of London city contains five major streets and numerous market squares and side streets. More photos from the shoot at www.etic.cz.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE SEE WWW.FILMCOMMISSION.CZ

INTERVIEW

Like his past films, Jan Hřebejk's latest feature, *Up And Down*, has also become a box office hit in the Czech Republic. The director and his longtime scriptwriter Petr Jarchovský produced a tragicomedy that struggles with the complexities of life today...

Up And Down is your first film that takes place in the present...

Writing the screenplay came to us very naturally. Petr Jarchovský told me the story of an abandoned child that came to him while he was watching a television report about refugees. I remembered the story of my friend, a Czech from L.A., and his emigration thirty years ago. We added a few true stories we had experienced or heard of and made the rest up. Basically, we put it together when we were working on the screenplay for our film *Pupendo*.

Your themes, even though they have a comic spark, are always very serious: (Big Beat – the totalitarian 50s, Cosy Dens – the occupation in 1968, Divided We Fall – the Holocaust, Pupendo – the normalization of the 70s). In Up And Down, it's racism and xenophobia. "Great events" are always playing out against the backdrop of "little stories..."

We never said, "Now we'll make a film about the Holocaust or the occupation." We were always intrigued by a certain character or story. It was the same with *Up And Down*. We always look for something attractive in our stories and in the end it's the characters whose story we are telling that are the most attractive. History goes on around out little characters. In a sense, it's a sort of plebeian view of the world. Our heroes don't make history; instead, they are usually its victims.

Why did you cast Václav Havel in your film?

The Burmese dissident couple in our film was inspired by my wife's work for Amnesty International. At the time, she was working on an exhibition of photographs on Burma held under the auspices of President Václav Havel. I knew that his modest participation in the film could contribute to the believability of this motif.

Your films always have great actors. Is this true of the new film?

Besides Jan Tříska (a great Czech film and theater star of the 1960s who now lives in L.A.), starring in the lead roles are Miloš Forman's son Petr Forman and the Slovak actress Emília Vášáryová, who first appeared in Vojtěch Jasný's *When The Cat Comes*, which won three major awards at the Cannes film festival in 1964.

Part of the film takes place in Australia. What was it like to work there?

The Forman family living in Brisbane helped us a great deal. Miloš Forman's brother Pavel and his family have been living there since the end of the 1960s. Some of the scenes were filmed in their backyard. And the old man who appears almost at the end of the film is not Sir Peter Ustinov in his last role, but Pavel Forman in his first.



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

FESTIVALS & WORKSHOPS

FAMUFEST

NOVEMBER 11–14, 2004 IN THEATRE ARCHA PRAGUE

The Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts (FAMU) produces most of the Czech short films. Every year FAMUFest presents the short films produced during the last school year. FAMUFest has gradually become a major event not only for the FAMU students who organize it but also for students from other schools and film professionals. In addition to the competition review of FAMU students' work over the last year, The festival presents films from the FAMU golden fund, i.e. films by the school's most successful graduates, as well as films of a more experimental character which have not been shown publicly before.

The playful theme of this year's event is "Do-it-yourself".

The Festival program includes:

- A showcase of students' films from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Bolivia and others
- Festival TV with a lot of surprises
- "Readers' corner" – screenplay competition
- "OskarBox" – part of the "Dělejte scény | Make a scene" project sponsored by Oskar mobile phone operator. A chance for everybody to shoot their own film clip.
- "Any moment of life has its price – What's the rush?" – Exhibition of the best 20 images of the Jameson photography competition
- Nightly concerts

CONTACT

FAMUFest

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tel: +420 736 751 010

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famufest '21
Mezinárodní festival dokumentárního filmu / Mezinárodní festival dokumentárního filmu
V divadle Archa, Praha 11.-14. listopadu 2004

Call for Entries

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For applications and further information please visit
www.docuinter.net (documentary workshops 2005), mail your
fully filled in application form with
all attachments by January 9, 2005
to exoriente@docuinter.net



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FOCUS ON NEW CZECH CINEMA

THE FOCUS OF 14TH FILM FESTIVAL COTTBUS, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE NOVEMBER 2-6 2004, PRESENTS AN EXHAUSTIVE PROGRAM SHOWCASING THE VELVET GENERATION OF THE 90s:

- THE VELVET GENERATION – Showcase selected and presented by Jan Svěrák
- FAMU – Portrait of the famous film school
- SHORT FILMS from Zlin Film College and Private Film College Pisek
- MUSIC CLIPS & COMMERCIAL SPOTS
- THE VELVET GENERATION – Round table discussion on new Czech cinema



FOLLOWING THE FOCUS OF THIS YEAR'S FILM FESTIVAL, CONNECTING COTTBUS – THE MARKET FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTIONS – WILL ALSO PLACE AN EMPHASIS ON THE CZECH REPUBLIC.

Come and Pitch!

The following 5 Czech film projects in development have been selected for the traditional Pitching section:

- *The Carp* presented by Bionaut Films
- *Three Seasons in Hell* presented by Dawson production
- *U-Bahn* presented by Endorfilm
- *The Grandhotel* presented Lucky Man Films
- *The Reflection of Bethlehem Star* presented by Verbasicum

Case study

- *Something like Happiness*
a Czech-German co-production directed by Bohdan Sláma
Production: Negativ, Czech TV, Pallas Film

...and round table discussions, presentations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT WWW.FILMFESTIVALCOTTBUS.DE

CONNECTING|PITCHING|ROUNDTABLES|CONTACT
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ALFAFILM Ltd. - production services
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Head of GATTEO: Jan Mates
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