



BEAUTY IN TROUBLE

by Jan Hřebejk

IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA SECTION

OF THE TORONTO IFF
SEPTEMBER 7-16, 2006

MARTA

by Marta Nováková

IN THE WORLD CINEMA SECTION

OF THE PUSAN IFF
OCTOBER 12-20, 2006

NEWSLETTER 3 | 2006

NEW CZECH FILMS



MARTA | Marta

D: Marta Nováková | CZ 2006 | 77 min | 35 mm
Cast: Jana Janáková, Jana Krausová, Vojtěch Štěpánek
Domestic release: August 31, 2006
Web site: www.martafilm.cz

There's a war going on. It doesn't matter which one. Living with his father somewhere in the wilderness, 17-year-old Marek grew up isolated from the outside world. Now he is not allowed to go anywhere as he might be forced to join the army. One day, an unexpected catch awaits him in his biggest trap: a woman wearing an army uniform. Lying unconscious in a pool of blood, the trap has hurt her ankle badly. Marek is hesitant at first, but finally decides to save her life – a decision that will change all their lives forever.



I GUESS WE'LL MEET AT THE EUROCAMP Sejdeme se v Eurocampu

D: Erika Hníková | CZ 2006 | 58 min | DVD
Domestic release: September 14, 2006
Web site: www.prachydelajcloveka.com

I Guess We'll Meet at the Eurocamp is a tragicomic documentary from the seemingly ordinary Czech village of Běšiny, which has no pub. But on the outskirts is the Eurocamp – home to firemen, Sokol members, and huntsmen, who aren't particularly fond of each other. Do Běšinyans live together or next to each other? What do Běšiny's residents have in common? The three protagonists – voluntary fireman František, huntsman Mates, and Sokol member Pavel – serve as our guides to this modern-day Czech village.



THE SORROW OF MME SNAIDER Smutek paní Šnajderové

D: P. Milkani, E. Milkani | AL 2006 | 100 min | 35 mm
Cast: Aňa Geislerová, Michele Placido, Nik Xhellij
Domestic release: September 21, 2006
Web site: www.grandhotel-film.cz

An unbelievable but true adventure of three students from Prague's film faculty took place in the '60s during the shooting of a graduate film in Český Šternberk. A Czech, a Slovak, and an Albanian, Leke Seriani, meet not only the count of Šternberk, but also the mysterious and sad Mrs. Snaider, the local police chief's wife. The situation turns even more complicated for Seriani when he learns he must return to Albania, which has decided to shut itself off from the rest of the world. Only 33 years later can he come back to the place he experienced the most beautiful and mysterious summer of his life.

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NEW CZECH FILMS



NICE MOMENTS WITH NO GUARANTEE Hezké chvíle bez záruky

D: Věra Chytilová | CZ 2006 | 90 min | 35 mm
Cast: Jana Janáková, Jana Krausová, Bolek Polívka
Domestic release: September 21, 2006
Web site: www.rockpodvrataku.cz

A comedy about the impossibility of maintaining illusions. The story's focal point is a psychologist named Hana who is trying to help solve her clients' various life crises. They are young and old, rich and poor (in spirit too), and Hana eventually gets personally mixed up in their complicated situations. Six characters, with a fateful impact on each other, stand out. They represent just part of the kaleidoscope of comic, tragic, and banal lives which, at critical moments, reflect a range of contemporary emotional problems.



MONEY MAKES THE MAN Prachy dělá člověka

D: Jiří Čhlumský | CZ 2006 | 100 min | 35 mm
Cast: Ondřej Vetchý, Tomáš Hanák, Michal Suchánek
Domestic release: September 28, 2006
Web site: www.prachydelajcloveka.com

Long ago, three friends attempted to escape the totalitarian regime of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. But they failed. After 1989, they meet again in Prague, in a mushrooming society where money has become the first and foremost motive. The film tells the true story of the two largest Czech robberies. In the first, the burglars stole 28 million crowns from a Prague post office and escaped from the law. The second robbery hit the country even harder. One hundred and fifty million crowns were stolen from an armored car carrying money from Citibank to the Czech National Bank.



GRANDHOTEL | Grandhotel

D: David Ondříček | CZ 2006 | 100 min | 35 mm
Cast: Marek Taclík, Klára Issová, Ladislav Mrkvicka
Domestic release: November 30, 2006
Web site: www.pravidlalzi.cz

Fleischman, a thirty-year-old hotel porter, lives in a small town on the border of the Czech Republic, Poland, and Germany. He leads a lonely life full of frustrations and strange rituals, such as his meticulous charting of the weather. Fleischman is unable to mentally or physically leave the town, despite his many attempts. In order to endure the everyday dreariness, he helps an old Sudeten German return the remains of his classmates to their home, and he secretly builds a hot air balloon that he hopes will finally carry him over the city limits.

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IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

FILM SERVICES WITH HEART



www.filmstudiogatteo.cz

FILM STUDIO GATTEO:

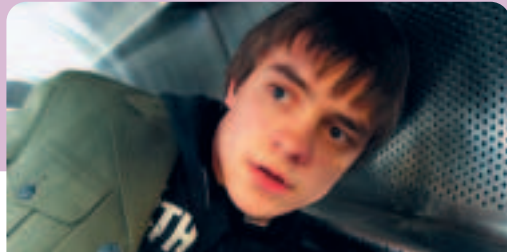
- soundproof studios
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www.filmstudiogatteo.cz, www.alfafilm.net

NEW CZECH FILMS



THE RO(C)K OF THE PARIAS Ro(c)k podvratáků

D: Karel Janák | CZ 2006 | 100 min | 35 mm
Cast: Vojtěch Kótek, Jiří Mádě, Klára Issová
Domestic release: November 2, 2006
Web site: www.rockpodvrataku.cz

A black comedy about amateur gangsters made by the successful director of *Snowboarders* and *Ratters*, which launched a wave of teenage comedies in the Czech Republic. The plot revolves around a group of young musicians who unexpectedly find themselves face to face with underworld shenanigans and the mafia. They are young, self-confident, rude, and broke... They have their band, their plans, their chance, but no instruments... They need money... Now!



ZÁVIŠ – THE PRINCE OF PORNO-MUSIC UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF GRIFFITH'S INTOLERANCE

D: Karel Vachek | CZ 2006 | 120 min | 35 mm
Domestic release: November 2, 2006
Web site: www.pravidlalzi.cz

Tracing a three-legged dog and a biped director on a journey through the Czech present and Czechoslovak past: The four-year-old Edward Václav saves the life of his parents, the sixty-year-old Bedřich Klaus plays and doesn't play tennis, a statue bangs its head against a wall. People fight in ketchup and bury their dogs. A collapsed house, and a millionaire's villa. Polar bears, ants, falcons, foxes. The world according to Karel Vachek.



RULES OF LIES | Pravidla lži

D: Robert Sedláček | CZ 2006 | 115 min | 35 mm
Cast: Jiří Langmajer, Jan Budař, Klára Issová
Domestic release: November 30, 2006
Web site: www.pravidlalzi.cz

A psychological drama set in a treatment center where eleven individuals are trying to untangle their various pasts. Their motto, however unattainable, might be summed up with the wish: Give me the courage to change what I can change, to accept what I cannot change, and the wisdom to know the difference. They are thirty-somethings who have committed every sin imaginable: they have lied, stolen, cheated, thought only of themselves, and one has even murdered. If they really want to arrive at a better future, they must be honest about the past...

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TELEGRAM



Czech director and horror specialist Juraj Herz (*The Cremator*, *ČSSR 1968*) is preparing a new horror movie based on a script by Martin Němec. *Darkness* (working title) is the first feature produced by Film Studio Gatteo with a total budget of 1 million euros. Shooting is scheduled to start in autumn 2007. The main character will be played by Ivan Franěk (*Burning in the Wind*, *IT, CH 2002*), a Czech actor based in Paris and working for international productions.



Oscar-winning *Kolya* director-producer Jan Svěrák (Biograf Jan Svěrák) is producing a feature without being involved as director for the first time. For his first entirely producer-project, he has chosen a script written by writer-director Alice Nellis, who will also direct. *Today* tells the story of a woman who, after learning that her favorite singer has died, feels the need to change her secure life. Nellis' third film stars avant-garde vocalist and actress Iva Bittová and Karel Roden. Domestic release is set for May 2007.



After the international premiere of *Beauty in Trouble* at Karlovy Vary IFF where it received a special jury prize, Jan Hřebejk started shooting his next feature, *Medvídek* (which means "cuddle-bear"). Besides his "old gang" – Aňa Geislerová, Roman Luknár, Jiří Macháček who were cast for Hřebejk's new feature film – we will see Oscar-winning actor and director Jiří Menzel in a supporting role. Hřebejk's eighth film will be co-produced by privat television network NOVA TV.



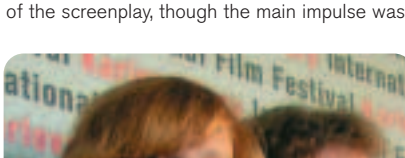
After the success of *The Indian and the Nurse* (D: Dan Wodarczyk) about a love story between a Czech boy and a Roman girl, a second Czech film with a Roman theme is currently in production: The road movie *Roming* tells the story of a modern Romany guy called Roman. When he was a child, his father once made the promise that his son would marry a gypsy girl. Now Roman is a young man studying law and has no desire to honor this old tradition. The Czech-Romanian co-production directed by Jiří Vejdělek (*Holiday Makers*) will be released in April 2007.

INTERVIEW

Q&A with director Jan Hřebejk, who is a tireless filmmaker. Usually Hřebejk, his scriptwriter Petr Jarchovský, and producer Ondřej Trojan produce one film as they're preparing the next one. His latest film, *Beauty in Trouble*, starring Aňa Geislerová, will be screened at this year's Toronto IFF while *Medvídek* (theatrical release in 2007) is already in production.

What was the inspiration for you and your longtime scriptwriter Petr Jarchovský for *Beauty in Trouble*?

I've always wanted to do a movie with the same story as Robert Graves' poem *Beauty in Trouble*. The story of a girl facing a hard situation in life ended up being the basis of the screenplay, though the main impulse was the personalities of the other characters we wanted to bring to life (the mother-in-law, mother, stepfather etc.).



With *B.I.T.* you abandoned the genre of retro-comedies, and turned to the present once again. Is the present not funny enough?

I think that had you watched my film *Cosy Dens*, which takes place during Prague Spring and premiered in 1999, back in 1971, for example, you wouldn't have laughed that much. This reconciling view comes not only through our omniscient position as viewers, but also because we're seeing it from a distance. And when you look at something with nostalgia, you naturally have more reasons to laugh. *Beauty in Trouble* is actually full of humor, which results from our knowing it. That bitter bite is given by the fact that we are seeking the truth.

Do you think maturity is a requisite for making films about the present?

My scriptwriter Petr Jarchovský and I have never said: Now we are going to write about the past and now we'll do the present. This process was always natural. I don't know if it has anything to do with our maturity, maybe it is because we started talking more about the present, respectively about the characters. Personally, I don't differentiate between the retro and present-day movies we've made.



This is the first time an earnest erotic scene appears in one of your films. How was shooting it?

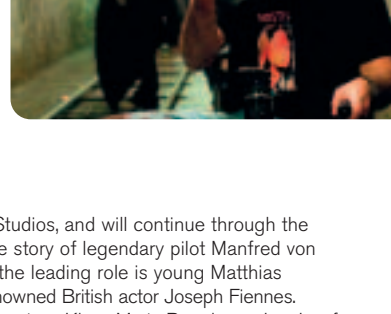
Shooting an erotic scene isn't something me or the actors yearn for. But in this movie it is well-founded. I have to thank both actors, Aňa Geislerová and Roman Luknár, for the fact that it came out like it did. The majority of existing movies have copulation as a theme. And you can hardly make up anything new. But you can't shoot it as a porno movie. First of all, the actors would not do it, and secondly that's not the aim. The purpose of this scene is in part to be a rapid erotic instrument, but for people to grasp an important aspect of the couple's life together.



FILM COMMISSION NEWS

HOSTEL PART II

Eli Roth is beginning shooting the sequel to his successful film *HOSTEL* (2005), also shot in the Czech Republic, on September 11. The crew will return to many of the former locations, such as Český Krumlov and Doksy, and visiting new locations like Karlův Vary and even Rome. Some scenes will be shot on sets at Barrandov Studios. Again, 95% of the crew will be Czech. "I'm thrilled to be back in the Czech Republic," said Eli Roth. "I had the best time of my life filming in Prague, working with the incredible crews and amazing Czech actors. I have been telling all the directors I know in America that they should find any excuse they can to shoot in Prague, because the crews here are simply the best in the world." Eli Roth is also looking forward to casting here and finding many new faces. *HOSTEL PART II* will pick up exactly where the last one left off, and will follow three American girls who are studying for a semester in Italy. Sony will make the film a major release all around the globe next spring. Quentin Tarantino is back as executive producer. International Production Company is the Czech co-producer of the film. (www.intlprodcos.com)



THE RED BARON

In early July, the shooting of the German film *THE RED BARON* began at Prague Studios, and will continue through the end of September 2006. Director Niki Müllerschön will bring to the silver screen the story of legendary pilot Manfred von Richthofen, Germany's most successful WWI aviator. Portraying the "Red Baron" in the leading role is young Matthias Schweighöfer. The celebrated airman's rival, Canadian pilot Roy Brown, is played by renowned British actor Joseph Fiennes. In supporting roles are a number of actors popular not only in Germany, such as Til Schweiger, Klaus Maria Brandauer, Jan Josef Liefers, and British actress Lena Headey. Filmed in English, *The Red Baron* is scheduled to hit the cinemas in autumn 2007. According to the producers, this is the most elaborate German film of all time. Barrandov Studios' set construction department is making over 20 historical aircraft and plenty of plane wreckage and partly destroyed military hardware. Production services in the Czech republic are provided by EIS Production. (www.eisproduction.cz)



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