

CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT

by **Michaela Pavlátová**

competing in the official section at the 43rd Karlovy Vary International Film Festival July 4–12, 2008

www.kviff.com

2 Newsletter

NEW CZECH FILMS



1 KULIČKY MARBLES

D: Olga Dabrowská
CZ 2008 | 75 min | HDV, 35 mm
Cast: Libuše Balounová, Petr Jeništa, Tereza Nvotová, Marika Procházková
Domestic release: May 1, 2008
www.filmkulicky.cz

A narrative film about how women do not beat men. About how it starts in the sandbox and does not even end at death. About blackmailing, crying, and tears, about the ability to sacrifice in order to reach a dreamt of goal, about sex in services, about how to exploit empathy. Come to be enlightened. Come to comprehend. A film for men and women both. They want her to stay the same. They want him to change for the better.



2 U MĚ DOBRÝ I'M ALL GOOD

D: Jan Hřebejk
CZ 2008 | 100 min | 35 mm
Cast: Lenka Vlasáková, Petr Forman, Boleslav Polívka, Jiří Schmitzer, Josef Somr
Domestic release: May 15, 2008
www.umedobry.cz

A poetic comedy set in a pub called At the Ferryman's. Among the pub-goers is Kája, who compensates for his tendency to gamble (thanks to which his marriage is on the rocks) by hanging out at the pub with his friends. Besides his salary as a security guard at an art gallery, he has saved a pretty penny over the years by posing as a chimney sweep for newlyweds' photos, and now he wants to use it to give his wife a long-promised seaside holiday, a promise which breathes new life into their relationship. But in a moment of weakness, Kája loses all of his savings. So as not to lose the rekindled love of his wife, he needs the help of his friends from the pub.

3 FRANTIŠEK JE DĚVKAŘ WOMANIZER

D: Jan Prušinovský
CZ 2008 | 90 min | 35 mm
Cast: Ela Lehotská, Petra Nesvačilová, Leoš Noha, Martin Pechlát, Josef Polášek
Domestic release: June 5, 2008
www.frantisekjedevkar.cz

"My name is František Soukenický and I am a womanizer. I have always chosen women who have been worth it. Or to be precise, they have chosen me. Everyone of them, in their own way, formed my character, influenced my thoughts, my point of view. To be brutally honest, I loved them all. Unfortunately, the women sometimes overlapped a bit..." František's story tells a story of broken hearts, of departures and returns. It speaks about people who are being hurt in relationships and about people who hurt their partners. And also about compromises which are not easy to find, but without which some would keep hurting and some would keep suffering. The story of František is told with a humor and distance which might seem sardonic, but is not intentionally so.

NEW CZECH FILMS



4 BATHORY BATHORY

D: Juraj Jakubisko
CZ, SK, UK, HU 2008 | 140 min | 35 mm
Cast: Anna Friel, Karel Roden, Hans Matheson, Franco Nero
Domestic release: July 10, 2008
www.thebathorymovie.com

The gruesome tale of Countess Elizabeth Bathory, notorious yet obscure, has been recounted by historians, writers, poets, playwrights, musicians, painters and moviemakers. Tradition has it that Countess Bathory was the greatest murderess in the history of humankind, as documented by her entry in the Guinness Book of Records. She tortured her victims, exclusively women, before killing them. She bathed in their blood and tore the flesh from their bodies with her teeth while they were still alive. But is that really true? In four centuries, no historical document has been found to reveal what had exactly happened.

5 RENÉ RENÉ

D: Helena Třeštíková
CZ 2008 | 85 min | 35 mm
Domestic release: July 24, 2008
www.aerofilms.cz/rene

The incredible story of a young man accompanied by a film camera from the age of 18 on his life's journey between prisons and short intermezzos outside; after another 18 years, we leave him as a 36-year-old man, an unlikely writer, a seriously ill patient, and unfortunately still an incorrigible criminal. The story of René "Czech Villon" unfolds against the backdrop of significant political changes in Central Europe whose reflections remain omnipresent in the film. René's background opens in a prison full of socialist banners, continues during the Velvet Revolution and finds him back in prison at the time of the Czech Republic joining the EU.

6 MÁJ MAY

D: F. A. Brabec
CZ 2008 | 85 min | 35 mm
Cast: Jan Tříska, Juraj Kukura, Nina Divišková, Matěj Stropnický, Sandra Lehnertová
Domestic release: August 21, 2008
www.filmmaj.cz

An imagery poem in the true sense of the word? Yes! Because there is just one way to approach this film – using the power of imagery to match the power of the words. Yet we shall not describe with words what a camera can tell via pictures. We shall not repeat known facts but even those unfamiliar with May will clearly see the story is one of love and boundless desire. The story takes place in an unspecified, distant past. But in spite of this unspecified and not entirely remote "distant past," the young heroes are more or less contemporary characters. Emotion is a motion, a direction we want to take using all means of expression, in particular imagery.



NEW CZECH FILMS



7 TOBRUK TOBRUK

D: Václav Marhoul
CZ, SK 2008 | 110 min | 35 mm
Cast: Jan Meduna, Petr Vaňek, Robert Nebřenský, Matěj Hádek
Domestic release: September 11, 2008
www.tobruk.com

There is only a very thin line between heroism and cowardice. Courage is the will power, which no man has enough to spare. When used, it is soon exhausted. Courage is the capital, which we gradually spend. The last order may be the order to pay out the account, which has been dwindling to zero. This is the main topic and the artistic motto of this wartime psychological drama.



8 DĚTI NOCI CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT

D: Michaela Pavlátová
CZ 2008 | 90 min | 35 mm
Cast: Marta Isssová, Jiří Mádrl, Jan Dolanský, David Novotný
Domestic release: September 25, 2008
www.detinoci.cz

Ofka, 25, works the nightshift behind the counter at a 24-hour shop. She doesn't reflect much upon herself, living with the attitude that she should hide inside herself the uncertainty and despair she feels from failed relationships. Mira, the only person whom she has truly loved, has started dating her good friend. Ofka is still in love with him and, because of this, treats her old friend Ubr, who is in love with her, mercilessly. In a flash, as Ofka finds herself the victim of a bizarre robbery, the world falls apart before her eyes and is suddenly full of confusion and pain. Awakening from her lethargy, Ofka realizes the truth about herself and eventually gets the courage to finally pursue her dreams.

9 NESTYDA SHAMELESS

D: Jan Hřebejk
CZ 2008 | 90 min | 35 mm
Cast: Jiří Macháček, Emília Vášáryová, Pavel Liška, Nina Divišková
Domestic release: October 9, 2008
www.nestyda.cz

The movie's main hero is Oskar, a TV weatherman. Like many fortysomethings, Oskar tries to ward off his mid-life crisis and his increasingly dissatisfying marriage with a steady stream of affairs. When he manipulates a weather report for the sake of flirting, the repercussions are quick to follow: Oskar finds himself jobless and wifeless. His carefree bachelor lifestyle, interlaced with lovers of varying ages, is not, however, idyllic.



CZECH FILMS 2007

FEATURES

- It's Gonna Get Worse
- Bestiar
- Crash Road
- The Can
- Catch the Doctor!
- One Night in a City
- The Wonder
- Maharal
- Teddy Bear
- Movie
- A Catfish Summer
- The Last Train
- Dolls
- Roming
- Little Girl Blue
- Václav
- Empties

DOCUMENTARIES

- History of Jaroslav Šabata
- Home
- Durban Poison
- Ghetto No. 1
- Jan Saudek – Trapped by His Passions,
- No Hope for Rescue
- With Kisses From Your Love
- Marcela
- Miloš Zeman – One Politician's Obituary
- Peace with Seals
- Desk-based Assassination
- Troublemakers
- A Town Called Hermitage
- Rula, Ticho, Cumba Ladislav...
- See You in Denver
- Life in Feathers

TRAILERS

- INTERVIEWS WITH THE DIRECTORS
- CATALOGUE OF CZECH FILMS 2007 – 2008 IN PDF VERSION

Congratulations to **Jiří Konečný** (endorfilm) who has been named this year's **Czech Producer on the Move**. The EAVE Graduate (2007) has been selected to take part in the 3-day initiative organized by European Film Promotion during Cannes IFF. Producer on the Move aims to promote emerging European producers and to support cross-border collaborations between aspiring European production companies. Together with 21 upcoming European producers, Konečný will present his new projects. Currently he is in post-production with *Joseph's Journey* by Ivo Trajkov and *Sister* by Vít Pancíř.

Czech Shooting Star 2006 **Pavel Liška** (*Something like Happiness, Country Teacher*) is starring in *The Visitor* (FIN, UK), the first feature from Jukka-Pekka Valkeapää, director of the award-winning short *The Fall*. *The Visitor* is a powerful and transcendent story of mystery and betrayal, love and conflicting loyalties, a tragic myth unfolding against a landscape of stark natural beauty and brooding latent violence. (Sales: Wild Bunch)

This year's mapping of **Upcoming Czech films**, conducted regularly by Czech Film Center, shows that a total of 70 Czech feature or animated films are in the works this year, which is ten more than in 2007. Of the 70 upcoming Czech movies, the screenplays for 38 have been finished and 17 are in production and 15 in postproduction. Among the projects are 20 international coproductions. For detailed information, please download the brochure at www.filmcenter.cz

The **Czech box office** success of the documentary *Citizen Havel* (D: Pavel Koutecký, Miroslav Janek) exceeded everyone's expectations. With more than 100,000 admissions in Czech cinemas, the portrait of the former president beat two other US documentary hits, Morgan Spurlock's 2004 *Super Size Me* (25,000 admissions) and Michael Moore's 2004 *Fahrenheit 9/11*, (27,000 admissions). Sales of *Citizen Havel* is handled by Deckert Distribution (D).



Jiří Konečný



Pavel Liška



Citizen Havel



This time we spoke to our colleague **Ludmila Clausová**, head of Czech Film Commission, upon her return from Los Angeles where she participated in the Locations Trade Show (April 10–12, 2008) for the first time.

Ludmila, what can you tell us about the Locations Trade Show?

The LTS is organized every year by the Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI) and this year's event, the 23rd in a row, was held in Santa Monica. The LTS is the best known fair where representatives of film commissions from around the world convene, and so visitors know they can obtain information about locations and especially about the financial aspects of shooting in various regions around the world. This year, Czech Film Commission was one of over 200 exhibitors at the show. Besides the Czech Republic, ten other European countries were also represented there.

Who visits the show?

The show is aimed at the professional public and is visited by around 3,000 mostly American film professionals from the ranks of producers, film studio officials, directors, location managers and others in the business.

Was there interest in the Czech presentation?

There was a lot of interest in our stand. During the whole event, we never stopped answering questions from visitors, a fact our colleagues from other film commissions might envy us for. And most of the time we didn't even have to launch into a lengthy presentation about Prague and the Czech film industry, as most of those who visited our stand already had an idea of the quality of services that the Czech Republic offers filmmakers.

What were the most frequently asked questions?

Tax incentives and financial support in general were the most frequent themes of inquiries from producers. Other questions mostly related to specific locations. Besides Prague and its best known enticements, there was also interest in castles and chateaux and historical locations in general. Producers consider it important that all the locations are in close proximity to Prague and that a variety of scenery, architectural styles and historical epochs can all be incorporated here. Besides the locations, we were asked mainly about the film infrastructure

including studios, about the availability of technical equipment, about set construction, whether we have enough film crews, and whether they speak English and of course about the rates.

How would you evaluate the significance of participating in the LTS for Czech Film Commission?

It is important to constantly promote the Commission and Czech locations in spite of – or perhaps because of – the fact we can't base our presentation on incentives for filmmakers like some other countries can. We have to continue highlighting the quality of our film infrastructure and filmmakers' experiences here. Still, the question of tax incentives or other incentive systems was cardinal, both at the LTS itself and at the meetings I had once it ended. I met with people from studios and production companies that I knew had concrete projects for which the Czech Republic would be suitable and the meetings always started with the same question: "So, when do you think tax incentives will be introduced?"

So, when will incentives for the film industry be introduced?

That question would really be better directed at the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Finance. According to the latest news from the first ministry I named, a proposal to introduce a 20% tax incentive has been drafted and is being discussed with the other ministries. It looks like our government is finally taking this issue seriously.

Were there any other benefits from participating in the LTS?

Besides our presence at the hub of show business, it was good to call attention to our activities and offices again at home in the Czech Republic. I was very pleased that our negotiations with the City of Prague went so well and that the City, together with the Ministry of Culture, financially supported our participation in the LTS.

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ZLÍN 2008

48th International Film Festival for Children and Youth

1 - 8 June 2008

Czech Republic

www.zlifest.cz

Festival International Competitive Sections:

International Competition of Feature Films for Children and Youth / International Competition of Animated Films for Children and Youth / European Debuts Competition / Competition of Films from Visegrad Countries / Zlin Dog – International Student Film Competition / The Rainbow Marble – International Children's Advertising Awards

Festival Non-Competitive Sections:

Days of British Cinema, New Czech Films and TV Production, Documentary, Panorama, Night Horizons, Anime



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