

FOXES

by Mira Fornay

in the International Critics' Week competition at the 66th Venice Film Festival 2009.

Screening: September 9, Sala Perla 2



3 Newsletters



1 JÁNOŠÍK. PRAVDIVÁ HISTORIE THE TRUE STORY OF JANOSIK AND UHORCIK

D: Agnieszka Holland, Kasia Adamik
SK, PL, CZ, HU 2009 | 140 min | 35 mm
Cast: Václav Jiráček, Ivan Martinka, Michal Zebrowski, Sarah Zoe Canner, Marián Labuda, Richard Krajčo
Domestic release: September 10

The story of the most famous "Central European Robin Hood," who became a symbol of popular resistance to feudal oppression. Although four feature films have been made about Janosik, we still know little beyond the folklore. This new movie by filmmaker Agnieszka Holland and her daughter Kasia Adamik finally presents the true story of Juraj Janosik, a Bratislava native whose short but dramatic life has inspired generations of Slovaks to create a romantic legend. Screenwriter Eva Borušovičová spent years studying archival records and documents.



2 LIŠTIČKY FOXES

D: Mira Fornay
CZ, SK, IE 2009 | 83 min | 35 mm
Cast: Reka Derzsi, Rita Banczi, Aaron Monaghan, Jitka Josková, Jonathan Byrne, Christopher Simpson, Nicholas Pinnock, Brendan McCormac, Dana Pribulová, Petra Nesvačilová
Domestic release: September 17
www.listicky.cz

Alžbeta, 23, is desperate to find a man and establish a new home in Ireland. Her older sister – Tina, 27, engaged to an Irishman, Steve, 30 – wants to help her out but Alžbeta categorically rejects her sister's help. Alžbeta appears to be jealous of her sister's better life and her engagement to Steve. From the beginning, there is a sense that something dark and unspoken lies between the two sisters, something that creates great tension and prevents them from getting closer. From their perspective, the only thing that can bring happiness and the prospect of a good life is men. The only way for the sisters to escape this vicious circle is to face up to their past and the deep, dark secret therein.

3 PROTEKTOR PROTEKTOR

D: Marek Najbrt
CZ 2009 | 100 min | 35 mm
Cast: Marek Daniel, Jana Plodková, Klára Melišková, Tomáš Měcháček, Rišo Stanke, Jan Budař, Jiří Ornest, Sandra Nováková
Domestic release: September 24
www.protektor-film.cz

The year is 1938. Radio reporter Emil is married to actress Hana. The outbreak of war and the German occupation of Czechoslovakia turn their lives upside down. Being Jewish, Hana tumbles from the height of her career to the very bottom of the social ladder. In order to protect her, he makes a pact with the devil that shatters his integrity and turns his love for Hana into a cynical "protectorate." Just as Reichsprotektor Reinhard Heydrich is assassinated in Prague, Emil's fateful encounter with a seemingly banal object sparks a wild ride that ends in him regaining his self-respect...



4 AUTO*MAT AUTO*MATE

D: Martin Mareček
CZ 2009 | 90 min | HD
Domestic release: September 24
www.automatfilm.cz

Do we control the city or does the city control us? Are we becoming automated? Is Prague's mayor a cyclist or just a populist? Are we all involved in this? *Auto*Mate*, a documentary story about urban streets replete with bicycles, politicians' false promises, death and hope. An inspiring, emotional and humorous documentary playfully seeking answers to questions related to life in the city and civilization in motion, questing after an adventurous path to change. A diversely styled film, combining the documentary genre, animation, music and home video clips. The director's personal story and his attempt to transform the city surrounding him. Film-view, film-gesture, film-action. "I'll get up in the morning and change my city."

5 ULOVIT MILIARDÁŘE TO CATCH A BILLIONAIRE

D: Tomáš Vorel
CZ 2009 | 95 min | 35 mm
Cast: Tomáš Matonoha, Ester Janečková, Jiří Mádl, Kateřina Sedláková, Miroslav Etlzer, Milan Šteindler, Josef Carda, Radomil Uhlíř
Domestic release: October 1
www.ulovitmiliardare.cz

When the media fabricates a report accusing successful businessman Patrik Grossmann of racism, the atmosphere gets so thick that he becomes everybody's punching bag. Grossmann's demise seems inevitable until he gets an idea: Buy a TV station and change public opinion. More important than the story itself is the disclosure of the relationships and mechanisms via which our "information society" functions. Dictatorships used not PR, but propaganda. Everyone knew about the propaganda but nobody believed it. Nobody knows about the PR but everybody believes it.

6 MILOŠ FORMAN: CO TĚ NEZABIJE... MILOŠ FORMAN: WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU...

D: Miloslav Šmídmajer
CZ 2009 | 100 min | 35 mm
Cast: Miloš Forman, Saul Zaentz, Michael Douglas, Paul Rassam, Jean-Claude Carrière, Woody Harrelson
Domestic release: October 8

MOVIES – SUCCESS – CAREER – DISAPPOINTMENT – FRIENDS – FAMILY – THE CRUELTY OF CHILDHOOD – THE VIRTUE OF POWER – REBELLION – FREEDOM... These are the basic pillars of this grandly visual documentary by director Miloslav Šmídmajer that seeks the answers to some key questions: Why did Miloš Forman have to shoot some films the way he did? Where does his internal strength spring from? What is his life story?



7 STÍNU NEUTEČEŠ NO ESCAPE FROM THE SHADOW

D: Lenka Kny
CZ 2009 | 100 min | 35 mm
Cast: Jaroslava Adamová, Pavel Landovský, Helena Dvořáková, Anna Polívková, František Němec, Matěj Hádek, Alois Švehlík, Marian Roden
Domestic release: October 15

After sixty years of wedlock, an eighty-year-old woman approaches her granddaughter, a lawyer, to help her get a divorce. The young woman is shocked by her grandma's decision, not to mention her resolve and pertinacity. What must have happened in the elderly couple's relationship that all those decades couldn't smooth over? Not wanting to divide her beloved family, the granddaughter attempts to discover her grandma's reason. Although the family's dramatic past comes to light, her grandparents' secret remains a mystery to her.



8 ZBOBULE THE GRAPES 2

D: Vlad Lanné
CZ 2009 | 94 min | 35 mm
Cast: Lukáš Langmajer, Kryštof Hádek, Tereza Voříšková, Jana Švandová, Jiří Krampol, Jiří Korn, Václav Postránecký, Miroslav Táborský, Lubomír Lipský, Jan Antonín Duchoslav
Domestic release: October 22
www.bobule.cz

The Grapes 2 is the story of two young men. One is trying to integrate himself into the world of wine making after inheriting his grandfather's vineyard and wine cellar. The other has taken refuge at his friend's place after getting himself into trouble. But nothing goes like either wants it to. And they've both got love problems. In a typical Moravian village, the two attempt to keep the vineyard running and experience adventures which could cost them good wine, their women and even life itself.

9 3 SEZÓNY V PEKLE 3 SEASONS IN HELL

D: Tomáš Mašín
CZ 2009 | 110 min | 35 mm
Cast: Kryštof Hádek, Karolina Gruszka, Martin Huba, Jan Kraus, Miroslav Krobot, Tatiana Pauhofová
Domestic release: November 5
www.3sezonyvpekle.cz

It's 1947, a time of sensuality, extravagance and humor. Ivan Heinz, a handsome fop and witty provocateur, is just 19 years old. He leaves home and sets off on an unconventional journey in celebration of freedom and artistic ideals. While putting together his first collection of poetry, Ivan rushes headlong into a desperate romance with a liberal-minded bisexual, Jana. The new lovers live full throttle, inspired by erotica, spats, laughter, music and affected by dramatic political changes. Ivan and Jana live off the spoils of petty robberies and plan their escape to Paris. But the new communist regime begins to show its repressive face...

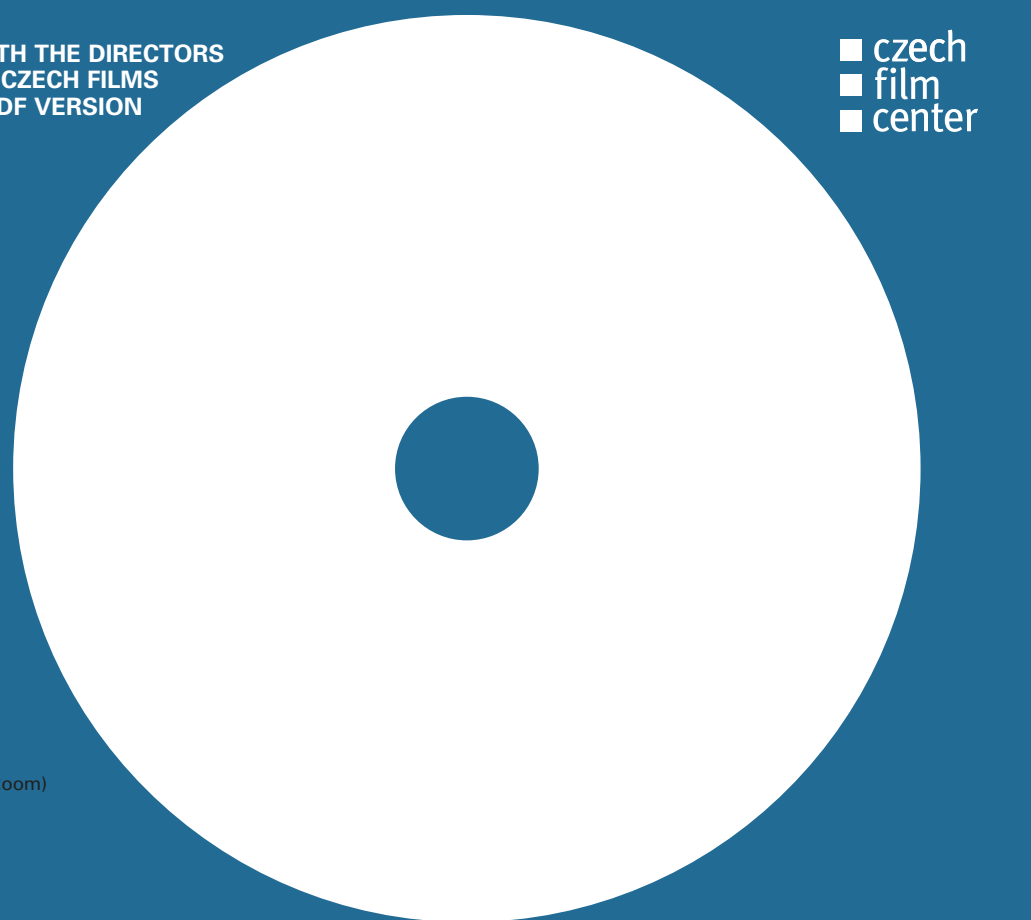
FEATURES

- English Strawberries
- Bathory
- Grapes
- Night Owls
- Frankie Is a Womanizer
- Guard No. 47
- The Karamazovs
- Who's Afraid of the Wolf
- Goat Story – The Old Prague Legends
- Marbles
- May
- Small Celebrations
- At Your Own Risk
- The Loveliest Riddle
- Shameless
- Of Parents and Children
- Life at Stake
- Sister
- Sorrow of Mme Schneider
- Thawing Out
- A Wedding on a Battlefield
- Just an Ordinary Family
- Tobruk
- I'm All Good
- A Country Teacher
- Same to You, Boss!

DOCUMENTARIES

- Bye Bye Shanghai
- Cinémensonge (Film-Lie)
- RAPublic
- Damas de Blanco
- The Baluty Ghetto
- Gyumri
- Ivetka and the Mountain
- Take It Jeasy!
- Malupien
- Citizen Havel
- Them, Us and Skitskoj (A Dialogue in the Editing Room)
- Panda with Red Ears
- The Immortal Balladeer of Prague
- Plani di Giardini Ideali
- René
- Gustáv Husák Centre Stage
- Welcome to North Korea!
- Forgotten Transports

TRAILERS INTERVIEWS WITH THE DIRECTORS CATALOGUE OF CZECH FILMS 2008 – 2009 IN PDF VERSION



FOXES,

the debut feature of director Mira Fornay, is screening in International Critics' Week at Venice. The film tells the story of two immigrant sisters who share a dark secret. The director give us her insights:

How did the story originate? Where did you find the inspiration?

Mira Fornay: I developed the script during my studies at the National Film and Television School in London. As it turns out, a lot of my girl friends moved to London at the same time I did. They all started as au pairs. I was fascinated by this massive migration of young women from east to west. I started following their stories and the crowd of immigrants from former eastern bloc in London and later on in Dublin. After two years of research, I had great material, but absurdly I found this particular story about two sisters on the Polish-Ukrainian border. That's where I realized that all the stories I heard in England and Ireland have roots back home.

What is the significance of the title?

We perceive reality through Alžběta's experience as a girl from "the other side". *Foxes* have lived in Dublin for almost a century, most people still perceive them as aliens, much like most of us still perceive immigrants in our neighbourhoods. Immigrants and urban foxes survive on leftovers. They're sitting on a fence – their lives are split between two homes, or rather they live in a gap between them. The invisible gap is full of dreams and fears.



Why did you set the story in Dublin?

Dublin here is a universal example of any other contemporary European city dealing with the clash of cultures, immigrants and national stereotypes. The authentic places of the hotels, immigrants' pubs and flats, as well as the use of dialogue in the characters' native languages emphasize the main tension of the drama.

Foxes is a character-driven drama seen from the point of view of the main character, Alžběta. It's a raw, docu-style mise en scène in which a shoulder-mounted camera follows the characters. Why did you choose this style?

I use this particular storytelling form and style to help the audience to understand Alžběta and to break our senseless habit of being judgmental towards others.

However, the main drama is based on the sisters' relationship with the dark past, but there is also an important level of social reality.

What is your next project about?

I am developing my second feature under the auspices of the Nipkow Programm in Berlin. This story is based in Central Europe and its main tension arises from middle-class apprehension of "the others" — people of different color, religion or traditions. It's an intimate drama within a family, about blood kinship and increasing racism in contemporary Europe, as well as brotherhood and friendship. In terms of genre, it's more tragicomedy than pure drama. Like *Foxes*, the new project doesn't aim to judge or make a moral statement.

Marta Lamperova is managing director of Film Europe, which is handling world sales for Foxes. She tells us about her hopes for the film's success:

Foxes is a very fresh film. How will audiences at Venice respond?

Marta Lamperová: Mira Fornay is definitely an exciting discovery, a very fresh talent with her own style and vision. Her short films were already wonderful, so it's no surprise that her first feature is a success.

How are you marketing the film?

This is an Eastern European film, very realistic and kind of dark, depicting not only the troubled love-hate relationship of two sisters. It is also very interesting and vivid in how it depicts the life of young Eastern European immigrants in Western Europe. It's an art house film, so we expect good response from the festivals all over the world, as well as niche distribution.

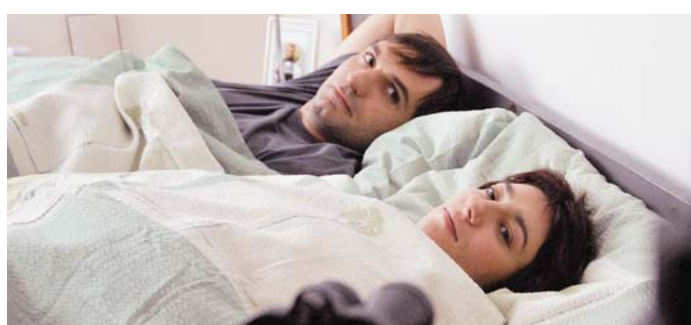
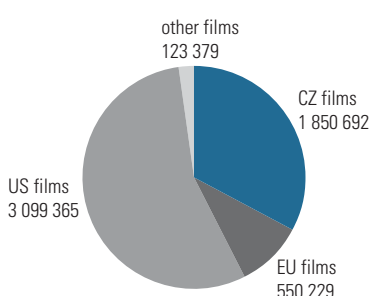
To what extent can Foxes pave the way for other films from the region?

Along with Bohdan Sláma's films, I think *Foxes* shows that these countries have talented directors capable of making interesting films. For a long time we were a blank space on the film map. Now the situation is slowly changing, which is really encouraging for other filmmakers.

TOP 10 in Czech cinemas (01–06/2009)

English Title	Country	Admissions	Box Office/CZK
1 You Kiss Like God	CZ	851 617	86 662 508
2 Angels & Demons	US	266 742	30 102 466
3 Hell with the Princess	CZ	247 154	19 732 131
4 Thawing Out	CZ	243 316	23 265 951
5 Fly Me to the Moon 3D	US	213 837	20 527 618
6 Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa	US	188 162	13 362 087
7 Slumdog Millionaire	BR	159 376	16 681 905
8 The Curious Case of Benjamin Button	US	145 581	16 409 364
9 Monsters vs. Aliens	US	138 428	17 299 282
10 Bolt	US	124 921	12 266 169

MARKET SHARE – admissions in Czech cinemas (01–06/2009)



Jan Hřebejk's comedy *Shameless* (2008) has been selected for the **Toronto International Film Festival** in September. The director is currently working on a chamber drama, *The Kawasaki Rose*, which has been partly shot in Sweden. The premiere is planned for early 2010. Director Michael J. Bassett's adventure movie *Solomon Kane*, a French-Czech-English co-production that was largely shot in Prague, will also be screened at the Toronto festival.



Václav Marhoul's wartime drama *Tobruk* has been nominated for the European Film Awards, bestowed each year by the European Film Academy (EFA). The story, taking place in the hostile terrain of the North African desert in 1941, was selected as the Czech EFA nominee by the presidium of the Czech Film and Television Academy (CFTA) from twenty-five feature films. The film had already taken Czech Lion Awards for Best Cinematography, Best Score and Best Sound at the national awards ceremony in March. This year's EFA awards will be announced on December 12, 2009.

Jan Švankmajer, who received the Crystal Globe for Outstanding Artistic Contribution to World Cinema at the International Film Festival in Karlovy Vary in July, is preparing a new movie, the psychoanalytic comedy *Surviving Life* (*Theory and Practice*). This time the renowned animated film director has chosen an utterly unique technique: the main characters are played by still photos of actors, which are cut out and animated before the camera.



Oscar-winning director Jan Svěrák (*Kolja*, 1996) is currently working on a film for children with the working title *Kuky Returns*. The screenplay, featuring a dog and a number of puppets, was written by director Alice Nellis. The movie is being produced under conditions similar to those of Svěrák's low-budget and critically acclaimed *The Ride* (1994).

Acclaimed director Alice Nellis (*Eny Meeny, Some Secrets, Little Girl Blue*) is completing her fourth movie with the working title *Mamas & Papas*. The film tells the stories of a number of couples dealing with the issue of parenthood – wanted, unwanted, longed-for and botched. The premiere is set for March 2010. Nellis' next movie, historical drama *Lidice*, relating the Nazi occupiers' annihilation of an entire Czech town through personal stories, will come to the cinemas next year.



The 13th **Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival** (www.dokument-festival.cz) will be held from October 27 to November 1, 2009. The festival has been a member of **Doc.Alliance**, a co-operative effort of five key European festivals devoted to first-rate documentary films (IDFF Jihlava, CPH:DOX Copenhagen, DOK Leipzig, Planete Doc Review Warsaw and Visions du Réel Nyon) since 2008. Like every year, the 2009 festival will offer a multitude of interesting documentaries, both Czech and foreign, and a wide variety of accompanying events.

CZECH FILM CENTER



The Czech Film Center (CFC) was established in 2002 with the aim of systematically enhancing the visibility of Czech film worldwide.

CFC consists of the Film Promotion – involved in the promotion of Czech films abroad – and the Film Commission, providing services to incoming foreign film productions and promoting the Czech Republic as a shooting location.

Its main activities include

- **Information** – providing up-to-date information on the state of Czech cinematography and the Czech film industry
- **Promotion** – the coordination of promotional activities at important international festivals and markets, the organisation of promotional events in the framework of festivals in the Czech Republic
- **Publication** – annual catalogues, DVDs and other regular or occasional publications
- **Networking** – making and maintaining contacts in the area of the international film industry and the mediation of the necessary contacts with both Czech film professionals and foreign institutions, organisations and production and distribution companies with the goal of connecting to both already-existing and new structures operating in this area

All you ever wanted to know about Czech film...

www.filmcenter.cz