

KAWASAKI'S ROSE by Jan Hřebejk

is opening the **Panorama Special**
section at this year's **Berlinale 2010**



Newsletter



1 DVOJKA TWO SOME

D: Jaroslav Fuit
CZ 2009 | 89 min | 35 mm
Cast: Kristýna Fuitová-Nováková,
Jakub Wagner, David Máj
Domestic release:
December 10, 2009
www.dvojkafilm.cz

Michal and younger Veronika's five-year relationship has reached a crossroads. While his mind is on settling down and having children, she still wants to live it up and experience new things. In an effort to save what they have, Michal arranges a surprise holiday for Veronika. Despite his careful planning, everything goes awry, and Veronika is clearly disappointed. Their travels through Scandinavia and the trials they face mirror their troubled coexistence, seemingly confirming that their relationship is long over. Their encounter with Simon, an adventurer and petty thief forever on the road, presents an unexpected opportunity to reflect on their lives and their relationship, and pushes them forward.

2 KAWASAKIHO RŮŽE KAWASAKI'S ROSE

D: Jan Hřebejk
CZ 2009 | 100 min | 35 mm
Cast: Lenka Vlasáková, Daniela Kolářová, Martin Huba, Milan Mikulčík, Antonín Kratochvíl, Petra Hřebíčková, Ladislav Chudík
Domestic release:
December 21, 2009

The year is 2009. Pavel Josek, a distinguished scientist and former dissident, is due to receive a state medal for bravery. While filming a television documentary about his life it comes to light that in the early 1970s – under pressure from the secret police – Josek played a part in the discrediting of a former friend, who was ultimately forced to emigrate. The film recounts events that took place some 30 years earlier without using a single flashback. The family drama sheds light on the practices employed by the secret police to discredit its opponents. An emotional story of guilt and atonement, the pitfalls of memory and the need for forgiveness.

3 POUTA WALKING TOO FAST

D: Radim Špaček
CZ 2010 | 146 min | 35 mm
Cast: Ondřej Malý, Martin Finger, Kristína Farkašová, Luboš Veselý
Domestic release: February 4
www.pouta-film.cz

Antonín, a member of the Communist-era secret police, is percolating with untargeted anger and subconsciously seeking an escape from his plight. He finds it, and her name is Klára. While he has no idea what he wants of her, he wants it very, very badly and is willing to throw away everything to get it. When he breaks the rules of the organization he serves, it is neither a civic gesture nor a political one. It is rebellion, purely personal and wholly savage, a reckless revolt that can only lead to one outcome. Antonín's demise might just bear some fleeting sense of hope, too.



4 DEŠTOVÁ VÍLA THE RAIN FAIRY

D: Milan Cieslar
CZ 2010 | 96 min | 35 mm
Cast: Jakub Gottwald, Simona Stašová, Miroslav Donutil, Lenka Vlasáková
Domestic release: February 11
www.destovavila.cz

A classic romantic tale of good and evil. Roaming the land dressed as a poor old lady, the Rain Fairy recognizes that people have begun to think mainly about money, and that goodness and love are fading. She decides to punish them and take away their water... Poor Květuška loves Ondra, but the mean farmer is opposed their relationship. Brave Květuška sets off to the Rain Fairy, for whom she must complete three difficult tasks for the rain to return so she can marry her beloved. And as with all good fairy tales, love and goodness ultimately prevail.

5 DOKTOR OD JEZERA HROCHŮ THE DOCTOR FROM HIPPOPOTAMUS LAKE

D: Zdeněk Troška
CZ 2010 | 102 min | 35 mm
Cast: Jaroslav Šmíd, Eva Holubová, Jiří Langmajer, Tereza Bebarová
Domestic release: February 25
www.doktorodjezerahrochu.cz

We follow the story of a good, kind but impractical physician. Although reliable, Čeněk Dobešek is clueless about how to use his profession to his advantage like some of his colleagues. Satisfied living in a one-bedroom prefab flat alongside his beautiful wife and, unfortunately, his appalling mother-in-law, he willingly complies with all who ring the bell and demand his services at any hour. His humility and willingness annoys his mother-in-law, who would rather have as a son-in-law a prominent doctor who earns big money and does not minister to just anyone, for free, as Čeněk does. This is a traditional dialog comedy fashioned after 70s and 80s comedies that audiences still adore.

6 KATKA KATKA

D: Helena Třeštíková
CZ 2009 | 90 min | 35 mm, DVD
Domestic release: February 25

For 14 years, Helena Třeštíková followed her subjects Katka, Lada and Jana through their world of drugs, prison, love and responsibility. They live on the streets in Prague, hustling for drugs, stealing, attempting murder. Lada and Jana end up in prison. Katka ends up expecting a child. Will she manage to overcome this most difficult battle of her life? This is not a film about drug abuse, but a film about the replenishing power of life, about values and their price, about mothers and their relationship with their children.



7 JARMAREČNÍ BOUDA MARKET CHALET

D: Pavel Dražan
CZ 2010 | 84 min | 35 mm
Cast: Jaroslav Dušek, Pavel Liška, Dan Bárta
Domestic release: March
www.jarmarecnibouda.cz

Market Chalet is a harsh allegory about today's world, about pride, cruelty and hatred, wrapped into several stories that blend together. The cast, reminiscent of that of a Fellini film, plays a big role here, as does the choice of music, which gives the film a special atmosphere. It is an innovative movie based primarily on an originally conceived visual depiction of the world and set in interesting settings, augmenting the story considerably.

8 ŽENY V POKUŠENÍ WOMEN IN TEMPTATION

D: Jiří Vejdělek
CZ 2010 | 115 min | 35 mm
Cast: Eliška Balzerová, Lenka Vlasáková, Veronika Kubařová, Vojtěch Dyk
Domestic release: March 18

Forty-year-old Helena, a marital counselor, finds herself in precisely the type of situation she advises her patients on. After catching her loving and beloved husband in an affair with a younger woman, Helena stands on the threshold of a whole new life. Her daughter wants to support her but is also experiencing the challenges of her first true love. Much to Helena's dismay, her mother, a retired actress with a peculiar approach to life, also offers a helping hand. The eccentric lady has a guaranteed recipe: replace the scoundrel with a gentleman. Let Helena's romantic adventures begin...

9 CINEMATERAPIE CINEMATHERAPY

D: Ivan Vojnár
CZ 2010 | 108 min | 35 mm
Domestic release: April 8
www.cinematapie.cz

Living in the age of reality TV, it is easy to jump into highly emotional personal stories of people whose futures are being shaped by dozens of professionals. Cinematherapy takes a slightly different approach. A commercial aired on Czech Television invited viewers to attend a casting and tell their stories. Eleven of those then underwent cinematherapy – provided by the camera as an intermediary between them and the outside world. Blurring the lines between feature film, documentary and reality show, the movie does not offer the participants plastic surgery or a reunion with a long lost friend, but lets them witness their often bizarre lives and thus progress in dealing with their traumas.



10 OKO NAD PRAHOU THE EYE OVER PRAGUE

D: Olga Špátová
CZ 2010 | 75 min | 35 mm
Domestic release: April 15
www.okonadprahou.cz

An extraordinary tale about Jan Kaplický, a highly passionate, elegant architect with a clear vision of the future who has the biggest fight on his hands in Prague again. Shot over three years in the UK, Czech Republic and Italy, *The Eye Over Prague* tells the powerful story of one of the most controversial figures in the world of architecture. Kaplický's greatest unrealized architectural achievement, the new National Library in Prague, means the world to him. The project called the Eye over Prague is radical, exciting and far enough ahead of its time to provoke a fair degree of controversy. It represents a triumphant return to his homeland for the Czech-born émigré, a vindication of his uncompromisingly forward-looking philosophy and a tragically poetic ending to his remarkable career.

11 MAMAS & PAPAS MAMAS & PAPAS

D: Alice Nellis
CZ 2010 | 110 min | 35 mm
Cast: Zuzana Bydžovská, Martha Issová, Ivan Schvedoff, Václav Jiráček
Domestic release: April 15

Life simply moves faster than we do. Despite our constant planning, we generally react to what life throws our way rather than being able to dictate what happens. And yet, somehow the greatest adrenaline in life is indeed what life itself randomly presents us. While everybody is a mother or a father, even if only a potential one who never actually becomes a parent in the common sense of the word – the possibility is there. Four stories of the possible shades of modern parenthood touch on the same subject but from different angles, yet together they create a picture of how complicated and strangely unnatural the most natural process in the world has become in our society. Maybe one of these stories is yours?

12 ČESKÝ MÍR CZECH PEACE

D: Vít Klusák, Filip Remunda
CZ 2010 | 100 min | 35 mm
Domestic release: May 13

An observational and strictly unbiased documentary film about the Czechs who – considering their experience with the Soviet occupation as well as the current US-led War on Terror – are trying to decide whether to host a foreign army. Do we belong with the West or the East? Could we cope in an altogether different arrangement? The film captures the country once again involved with political slogans – “With the Soviet Union for all eternity” and, on the other hand, the US “You’re either with us or against us.” A parallel portrait of two men, two generals in the highly publicized war over the US radar base – a government lobbyist and an obstinate local mayor.





Q & A WITH JAN HŘEBEJK,

whose drama *Kawasaki's Rose* was selected for the Panorama section of Berlin International Film Festival. The film deals with informing and collaborating with the StB, the Czech communist-era secret police.

How did you get the idea for *Kawasaki's Rose*?

We've thought about and discussed the subject matter for a long time. We were drawn to it for personal reasons, although not because of any direct family connections. The fantastic German film *The Lives of Others*, which showed the secret police's practices and methods with great accuracy, gave us the courage to tackle it. But we took a different route: we've composed our story through the memories of those involved without showing any flashbacks. Our interest in the suffering caused by being found or alleged to have informed nevertheless did not stem from well-known personas, but from people we know personally.

Have you studied archival material or StB archives?

Screenwriter Petr Jarchovský studied all possible sources, and then I consulted the screenplay with Pavel Žáček, Director of the Office of Documentation and Investigation of Communist Crimes.

How did you approach the movie's main theme – culpability?

After 1989, we failed to adequately settle up with our communist past – for many, the reasons were humane, given that most everybody knew something about somebody else, and that many cowards and heroes were not so clear-cut. We do not want to relativize the culpability, we want to relate it with nuance, and not only for those who remember this time, but also for young people who haven't lived under totalitarianism.



What else is your film about?

Some time ago I was intrigued by a scientific study from historian Jiří Suk about the Velvet Revolution in 1989. This study presents an interesting idea: that the memory of direct participants cannot be relied upon to determine historical events. Significant distortion occurs when eyewitness accounts given with twenty years' hindsight conflict with records from that time. And individual memory and its precariousness is also subject of the film.

And why does the story take place in Sweden?

Simply because that's where the character Bořek lives... And also because we found a location with an amazing atmosphere and a strong story, which we integrated into the film. Sweden is a great place to shoot because you don't need any permits. Moreover, the people with whom we worked were incredibly helpful.



In 2009, 34 new Czech feature films and 12 documentaries were distributed in the Czech Republic. Among them were 9 debuts and 20 international co-productions. The State Fund for the Support and Development of Czech Cinematography supported the production of 71 projects in 2009, providing a total of EUR 6,242,962.

Czech Film Center has begun actively promoting Czech short films. In January 2010, it released a selection of shorts on DVD, *Czech Short Films Vol. 1*, featuring the very best productions from Czech film school students. The DVD was presented at the prestigious festival and market in Clermont-Ferrand where CFC represented Czech cinema for the very first time.



The Czech Shooting Star 2010 presented at this year's Berlinale is Kryštof Hádek (born 1982), who has appeared in Czech films like *Dark Blue World* by director Jan Svěrák or *3 Seasons in Hell* by Tomáš Mašín, as well as foreign productions such as the Spanish film *Cosmos* (d. Diego Fandos), the American *A Son's War* (d. Steven Edell) or the Swedish *Flickan* (d. Fredrik Edfeldt).



At the prestigious Bavarian Film Awards the German-Czech-Austrian movie *Habermann's Mill* by Juraj Herz received the award for Best Director. The film, co-produced by Art Oko Film, KN Filmcompany, WEGA-Film and Werner Herzog Filmproduktion, was shot based on a true story and is set in the Sudetenland

during the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia. The movie also prevailed in Munich, where German actor Mark Waschke won the prize for Best Acting Performance. *Habermann's Mill*, which also stars Hannah Herzsprung and Karel Roden, will come to Czech cinemas in the autumn of 2010.

Marek Najbrt's *Protector* won the Krzysztof Kieslowski Prize for Best Feature Film at the Starz Denver Film Festival in November 2009. Najbrt's drama was also selected for other U.S. festivals, the International Film Festival in Palm Springs and the Jewish Film Festival in New York, and continues to seek the nomination to represent the Czech Republic at the Oscar Awards.



CZECH INCENTIVES TO OFFER FILMMAKERS MORE VALUE



Visitors of the European Film Market in Berlin have a new reason to stop by the Czech Film Commission at the Martin-Gropius-Bau at the Czech Film Center stand No. 140. "We are about to introduce an exciting new Programme for Film Industry Support, which gives qualifying productions grants worth 20% of their production costs spent locally," says Ludmila Claussova of the Czech Film Commission. The programme is currently before the European Commission in Brussels, which is expected to approve the measure as it has similar schemes in other countries.

"These incentives will make life much easier for filmmakers who want to use the Czech Republic's great locations, talented crews, and exceptional infrastructure," says Ludmila Claussova. "When every dollar, euro and pound counts, the Czech Republic wants to help producers get more money up on the screen."



The Czech Film Commission is also cooperating with the European Film Commissions Network (EuFCN) at the Berlinale, promoting the European film industry and film culture. The Czech Film Commission is a founding member of EuFCN, which was established in 2007 and now has 73 members from 21 European countries. Those interested in learning more about EuFCN are invited to stop by and visit the representatives of the EuFCN at the MEDIA Programme's umbrella stand at the European Film Market, Martin-Gropius-Bau.

Please visit www.filmcommission.cz and www.eufcn.net for more information.



FILM FESTIVAL ZLÍN

50th International Film Festival for Children and Youth
May 30 – June 6, 2010

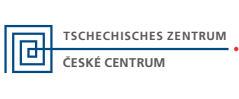
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Film Festival Zlín will be making an appearance at the 60th Berlinale EFM as part of the Central European Cinema Stand. You can locate us at the Czech Film Center, Martin-Gropius-Bau, 1st Floor, Stand No.140.

FILM MAGICIAN KAREL ZEMAN

We would also like to invite you to visit the Film Magician Karel Zeman exhibition that we have prepared within the halls of the Embassy of the Czech Republic, Wilhelmstrasse 44, Berlin 10 117 (Entrance Mohrestrasse). The exhibition will be open from Friday, February 12 to Sunday, February 21. After that it will be open till March 11 only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Exhibition hours are always from 2pm to 6pm.

We look forward to meeting you!



www.zlifest.cz

