

CAGEY TIGERS

by Aramisova

IN THE OFFICIAL SELECTION OF IFF CANNES 2011

May 20 at 11:00 a.m. Salle Buñuel



cinéfondation
LA SÉLECTION

2 Newsletter



1 DIVADLO SVOBODA THEATRE SVOBODA

D: Jakub Hejna
CZ 2011 | 95 min | HDCam
Domestic release: April 7, 2011

Darkness is my raw material. Just as the sculptor needs his clay, the carver needs his wood; I carve my theatre out of darkness.”

Josef Svoboda

I grew up in the home of a man who was a brilliant stage designer, who was also my grandfather to whom I did not talk much. I was twenty-five when he died and I knew very little about him. I decided to explore the darkness and the emptiness and to search for some of the things that outlive us.”

Jakub Hejna

The only Czech documentary dealing with Josef Svoboda's life and work in a comprehensive and profound manner as well as the only film to incorporate archive material related to Svoboda's work and private life that has never been published.



2 OSMDEŠÁT DOPISŮ EIGHTY LETTERS

D: Václav Kadrnka
Cast: Zuzana Lapčiková,
Martin Pavluš, Gerald Turner
CZ 2011 | 75 min | 35 mm
Domestic release: April 21, 2011

Eighty Letters is autobiographical.

The source of the film is the memories of the director and the surviving correspondence between his parents. The story takes place in Czechoslovakia in 1987, after the father has defected to England and the mother and her son are trying to leave the country to reunite with him. Husband, wife, child – even at a distance they are still together, but the forced break-up of any family is an abnormal situation. The film is told through the eyes of the fourteen-year-old boy, his rankled view without the veneer of experience or initiation, in just one day, as his mother is going about a ramped up daily routine, mapping out every step hour by hour. He catches up with her in the midst of it but she must act alone in order to make their reunion a reality.



4 ČERTOVA NEVĚSTA DEVIL'S BRIDE

D: Zdeněk Troška
CZ 2011 | 95 min | 35 mm
Cast: Václav Šanda, Eva Josefiková, Sabína Laurinová,
David Suchařpa, Barbora Munzarová, František Němec,
Jana Andresíková, Karel Zima
Domestic release: April 28, 2011
www.certovanevesta.cz

In a faraway kingdom where the King goes hunting and the Queen prays to Saint Kryšpin for a baby. One day, the Queen decides to pay a visit to the Devil. She makes a pact with him and soon a beautiful princess, Štěpanka, is born. She grows up side by side with Štěpan, the son of the Queen's maid, and the two eventually fall in love, at which point the secret pact with the Devil is revealed: the Princess is to become the Devil's bride on her 18th birthday. The Devil comes to the ball disguised as a handsome nobleman but Princess Štěpanka rejects him outright, and so he turns her into a black spectre. Štěpan vows to free her, and thus the battle with Hell begins...

6 WESTERNSTORY WESTERNSTORY

D: Vlastimil Peška
CZ 2011 | 100 min | 35 mm
Cast: Mairo Kubec, Veronika Kubařová, Petr Vondráček, Pavel Zedníček, Bob Klepl
Domestic release: May 12, 2011
www.westernstory.cz

Westernstory is a romantic comedy set in a Wild West replica town in Boskovice near Brno. Turmoil ensues after the main character breaks both his arms while rehearsing a new Western show. The principal finds the replacement all the way over in Prague – popular TV star Marcel Toufar. Cowboys Johnny, Knedla and Sam periodically chase horses as well as girls from the saloon where they are rehearsing the can-can. Despite the many seemingly intractable problems, the amusement park town's distressed owner, Jerry Walker, and his eternally optimistic director, the beekeeper Trubec, lead this peculiar bunch to a successful premiere. The tourist season in this little Western town is open and the new show's success is a matter of life or death for everyone.

6 REKVALIFIKACE RETRAINING

D: Vlado Štancel
CZ 2011 | 80 min | 35 mm, DCP
Cast: Vlado Štancel, Sabina Vojvodová, Milan Kačmarčík,
Kateřina Tschornová, Lucie Kožínová, Ernesto Čekan
Domestic release: May 26, 2011
www.filmrekvalifikace.cz

The film *Retraining* maps the situation of a person who has passed fifty and has, through no fault of his own, lost his job and he is now looking for a new one. Mr. Zrzavý's tale is written according to the extraordinary experiences of ordinary people. His model is the thousands of middle-aged professionals that have lost their jobs due to external circumstances. The somewhat absurd adventures of the unemployed Mr. Zrzavý is interwoven with the story of men from the other end of the social spectrum. Mafiosi Oskar and Žorž live their lives to the fullest. They can afford to. Is there anything that they couldn't afford? You will see if anything like that exists in this film full of absurdity, paradoxes and humour.



8 PO DLOUHÉ NOCI DEN DAY AFTER THE LONG NIGHT

D: Tomáš Kudrna
CZ, DE 2011 | 89 min | digibeta
Domestic release: June 9, 2011

They arrived from Poland, Russia, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, France, Holland and Belgium – forced labourers deployed to churn out supplies for the battlefield and the German home front during the Second World War. They toiled in munitions factories, produced household goods or worked in agriculture. There were some 13 million of these forced labourers working for the Third Reich during that period. They were brought in mostly from the countries occupied by the German army or from the German protectorates. For most, the experience changed their lives forever. This groundbreaking documentary, the first to examine the forced labourers' post-war fates, seeks to answer the question of how their lives were affected by this experience.

9 V PEŘINĚ IN THE DUVET

D: F. A. Brabec
CZ 2011 | 100 min | DCP 3D
Cast: Lucie Bílá, Karel Roden,
Amélie Pokorná, Matěj Pěvrátil,
Bolek Polívka, Eliška Balzerová,
Nina Divířková, Arnošt Goldflam,
Jiří Mádln, Anna Stropnická, Nikol Moravcová
Domestic release: June 16, 2011
www.vperinach.cz

On a picturesque square there are two houses. The first is the feather cleaner's, and the other one houses the office of Miss Hilda, a dream-reader. These two are absolute enemies. The grandfather from the family of feather cleaners discovers a world of dreams hidden in duvets and figures out how to eliminate the bad dreams. Everyone in town is having quite pleasant dreams. But one day the old man disappears. His whole family becomes involved in an adventure they had never even dreamed of. Their fight with Hilda for their dreams culminates in a magical pillow world right in their duvets.



7 LIDICE LIDICE

D: Petr Nikolaev
CZ, SK 2011 | 110 min | 35 mm
Cast: Karel Roden, Zuzana Fialová, Zuzana Bydžovská,
Ondřej Novák, Roman Luknár
Domestic release: June 2, 2011
www.filmlidice.cz

The burning of this village was Nazi Germany's only act of genocide that they officially admitted during the war and it shook the world. It presents audiences with three interconnected stories. The first is about an unfortunate family where the patriarch accidentally kills his son in the heat of an argument and is then sentenced to prison. The second is the story of a letter that became the pretence for this Nazi massacre, even though it, too, was evidently an innocent lie aimed at covering up for infidelity. The third story is about fear, about personal responsibility and about whether surviving is truly winning when the prize comes in exchange for the loss of one's dignity and honour.



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- Coal in the Soul

Adam Dvořák
– producer

Karel Schwarzenberg
– Minister of Foreign
Affairs of the Czech
Republic

Petr Nikolaev
– director

Q & A WITH ADAM DVOŘÁK

Adam Dvořák, editor and producer, just completed his first historical epic film *Lidice* as a producer. Originally the direction of the film was entrusted to Alice Nellis (*Mamas & Papas*) who, because of her illness, was replaced by Petr Nikolaev (*It's Gonna Get Worse*).

How it all began...

Well, the beginning of the shooting was that simple because Alice Nellis got sick. I am ultimately very glad that I met Petr Nikolaev. The cameraman in our film was Antonio Riestra, a Mexican who Petr Nikolaev chose. In fact I was surprised about how he understood the theme and the shooting. I was a bit worried at first, but the result is so convincing that nobody dared to ask why a Mexican cameraman is shooting such a purely Czech theme. On the contrary, I think that his interpretation provides another point of view and that we are going to watch a Czech film and Czech actors through Mexican eyes. I am sure that this is just fine.

A special musical project arose for the film *Lidice*. Can you give us a brief description of it?

A soundtrack was created, and its biggest task will be to bring the theme of *Lidice* closer to younger generation. Together with Michal Hruza we approached performers across various genres for them to try to put together a collection of songs inspired by the event or the film. There will be songs there from Michal, his duet with Aneta Langerová, Lucie Bílá, Xindl X, Jan Budař, James Harries, Dan Bárta and others. All of these songs are great and I am really glad that there were created just now for our film *Lidice*.

Lidice lives on. Not only our town of *Lidice*, but also women named *Lidice* all over the world, and you know a lot of them. Can you tell us how the idea to get in touch with these *Lidices* come about and what all come of it?

I came up with the idea to get in touch with women named *Lidice* during a visit to the *Lidice* monument. They said that they knew of a few women in the world who had that name. The result is fantastic! I discovered an unbelievable number – 400 women who had the same name as the town of *Lidice*.



They are not only ladies advanced in age, but also young women. That only convinced me that the custom that existed right after what happened in *Lidice* or the impression that it left on young mothers for them to give their children the name *Lidice* has lasted up to now. And I am very glad about that. Plus we have a wonderful collection of photographs of women bearing the name *Lidice*...

What scene was the most demanding?

From the perspective of the producer definitely the ones with the most extras. We had them in a lot of scenes. I would guess around 170 extras. They are very complicated scenes, not only in terms of organisation, but also financially, of course. Then we also had a scene where there were roughly about 600 or 700 people. They came like volunteers right to the *Lidice* plain all by themselves on the basis of our appeal. We had to also make sure that we didn't "torment" them for too long. And so we rushed through it to get it all done in time. Plus rain put a wrench in the works. But Petr Nikolaev pulled it off fantastically.

Did you learn anything about *Lidice* that they didn't tell you in school thanks to the film?

I learned a lot of things thanks to the film *Lidice*. Right when I read the script, which was the reason why I got involved in it at all. I surmised that the children were taken somewhere to be re-educated and the men somewhere to be shot and the women were taken to concentration camps. But I had no idea why this happened and what their fates were. The first reading of the script, and everybody who read it said the same thing, felt like a whodunit; it was simply so suspenseful that it wasn't possible to read it five or ten pages at a time. They had to read it all in one sitting. I hope that it will be the same for the film *Lidice*, that the audience will find it as eminently "watchable".

Radim Procházka (PRODUKCE RADIM PROCHÁZKA) is the 9th **Czech Producer on the Move** who is being presented at the Cannes IFF in co-operation with European Film Promotion. Between May 14 and 17 this year's 25 Producers on the Move will have the opportunity to pitch their projects and to meet European film professionals.



Radim Procházka's biography

Radim Procházka prefers to create films that marketing experts say the audiences will find incomprehensible. Although he graduated from FAMU in 2006 as a director of documentary films, he became the producer for Karel Vachek (*Záviš, the Prince of Pornofolk*, 2006), a classic Czech director with film retrospectives held around the world, and Robert Sedláček, one of the most original contemporary Czech directors. He has several feature films under his belt that he has produced and that have received many film nominations and awards. He took away both a Czech Lion Award and the Film Critic's Award for his feature debut *Rules of Lying* and last year's film *The Greatest Czechs*. His most recent directorial effort has such a long film title that the TV buyers prefer not to even view it, but this film has also been nominated for the Film Critics Award. He is currently preparing a project with documentarist Karel Vachek, *Play Brecht!* and a historical drama under the direction of Robert Sedláček, *Fagus*. His latest film, *Long Live the Family*, once again under the direction of Robert Sedláček, is coming to Czech cinemas in November.



French director **Christopher Honoré** (*Love Songs, Ma Mère*), in a co-production with the Negativ production company, is completing the film *Les Bien-aimés* with a star-studded cast. Catherine Deneuve, Miloš Forman, Chiara Mastroianni, Louis Garrel and others are

the central characters in a story of interpersonal and partner relationships taking place in two periods of time: in the '60s in Paris and in the '90s in London. At the end of the 20th century the two main characters of the film, Madeleine and Véra, in spite of all the snags in their relationships, each played their feminine roles with a certain stubbornness, without which they would have long since given up and abandoned their desires.

World-renowned director **Jan Švankmajer** (*Surviving Life, Lunacy*) is preparing a new black comedy called *Insects*. The picture, which will have both comedic and spine-tingling moments and will feature actors more than animation, is slated for distribution in 2015. The budget for the film, which already has a Slovak co-producer, is estimated at 40 million crowns. Švankmajer's cinematic short story from 1971, which was released in kind of a half-samizdat form and uses some parts of Čapek's work *Pictures from the Insects' Life*, served as the foundation for the film. Amateur actors are rehearsing the second act of Čapek's play and he tells his story on that background.



The film *Graffiti* from FAMU student **Libor Pixa** is among the final five films nominated for the student Oscar in the category of foreign film. The film,

which the director worked on for over one year, gives a different view of Prague. Both its famous panoramas and places unknown to most people appear in it. According to the Academy's announcement, the Czech representative will be competing against films from Sweden, Great Britain, Germany and Norway for the prestigious award. The five finalists were chosen from a wider selection of 52 films from 32 countries. So far only Jan Svěrák has received the prestigious award for his film *Oil Goblins (Ropáci)* in 1989. Four other Czechs have been nominated in the past.

BRINGING BOLLYWOOD TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Representatives of the Czech Film Commission and Czech Tourism met recently with Indian filmmakers in Mumbai to promote the Czech Republic as a film location. "India offers us so much potential. They produce around 1200 feature films annually," said Ludmila Claussova of the Czech Film Commission. "We want to bring some that business to the Czech Republic."

Ludmila Claussova and Radka Neumannova of CzechTourism India made a presentation for more than 50 film professionals April 27 before meeting with executives at major film production companies in the following days. Attracting Indian filmmakers was one of CzechTourism's goals in opening its Indian branch last year. Neumannova planned the April presentation with the Czech Film Commission with this in mind. "A successful feature film is the best marketing a country can have in India," Neumannova said.



Rockstar filmed on Czech locations in 2010

Film has demonstrated boom on tourism all around the world. The first *Lord of the Rings* (2001) film gave New Zealand an estimated \$41m in promotion. Cephalonia, Greece experienced a 50% increase tourism in the three years following the release of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* (2001). Indian audiences will see Czech locations in theaters this fall with the release of Shree Ashtavinayak Cine Vision Ltd.'s *Rockstar*, directed by Imtiaz Ali and featuring Bollywood star Ranbir Kapoor. Claussova and Neumannova saw scenes from the film when they visited Shree Ashtavinayak studios, where the film is in post-production. "It looks amazing," Claussova said. "Rockstar will be a great promotion for the Czech Republic in India."



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Actor Ranbir Kapoor (left) with *Rockstar* director Imtiaz Ali

CZECH FILMS AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2011

CINÉFONDATION

CAGEY TIGERS CAGEY TIGERS

D: Aramisova
CZ, SK 2010 | 23 min |
35 mm

May 20 | 11:00 a.m. |
Salle Buñuel

A film about friendship and self-honesty. The main character resolves an internal dilemma about how honest to be with regard to his intimate feelings and to what extent he should take his loved ones, and especially his best friends, into account when fulfilling them.



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MARKET SCREENINGS AT MARCHÉ DU FILM 2011

ODCHÁZENÍ LEAVING



D: Václav Havel
CZ 2011 | 94 min | 35 mm
www.havelleaving.com
May 14 | 6:00 p.m. |
Olympia 6

A playwright, then a political prisoner and finally a president. Václav Havel's first directorial effort based upon his celebrated play "Leaving". *Leaving* is a bittersweet comedy that follows a highly appointed Chancellor who is set to step down from his position after years of service to his country.

OSMDESÁT DOPISŮ EIGHTY LETTERS

D: Václav Kadrnka
CZ 2011 | 76 min | 35 mm
www.vaclavkadrnka.com
May 16 | 8:00 p.m. |
Palais H

Eighty Letters is autobiographical. The source of the film is the memories of the director and the surviving correspondence between his parents. The story takes place in Czechoslovakia in 1987, after the father has defected to England and the mother and her son are trying to leave the country to reunite with him. Husband, wife, child – even at a distance they are still together, but the forced break-up of any family is an abnormal situation.



NICKYHO RODINA NICKY'S FAMILY



D: Matěj Mináč
SK, CZ 2011 | 90 min |
35 mm
May 17 | 3:30 p.m. |
Palais H

The film *Nicky's Family* is a loose sequel to the famous documentary Nicholas Winton – The Power of Good about Nicholas Winton from the UK who in 1939 saved 669 mainly Jewish children from being sent from Prague on transports of death, finding them new homes in England.

CIGÁN GYPSY

D: Martin Šulík
CZ, SK 2011 | 107 min |
35 mm

May 14 | 6:30 p.m. | Riviera 2
– closed screening,
by invitation only

Gypsy is the story of Adam, a boy who, after the death of his father, struggles to cross the boundaries of his settlement and tries to change his siblings' lives. He finds himself in a conflict with racial, social, and cultural prejudice and the unwritten laws of his own Roma community.

