

# ALOIS NEBEL

## by Tomáš Luňák

**International Premiere at the 68<sup>th</sup> Venice IFF**

**Press screening –**  
September 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm in the Sala Volpi  
**Official midnight screening –**  
September 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm in the Sala Grande

# 3 Newsletter



**1 CIGÁN**  
**GYPSY**

D: Martin Šulík  
SK, CZ 2011 | 100 min | 35 mm, DCP  
Cast: Janko Mižigár, Martin Hangurbadžo, Miro Gulyas  
Domestic release: July 7, 2011

Gypsy tells the story of Adam, a boy who, after his father dies, tries to cross the boundary of his Roma shantytown and to improve the lives of his brothers and sisters. He encounters racial, social and cultural prejudices and comes into conflict with the unwritten laws of his own community. Circumstances turn against him and his situation drives him to commit a tragic act.



**2 GENERACE SINGLES**  
**THE SINGLES GENERATION**

D: Jana Počtová  
CZ 2011 | 77 min | 35 mm,  
Digi Beta, HD  
Domestic release: June 17, 2011  
www.singles-film.cz

They are unmarried, flexible, financially independent...and single. Are long-term relationships an anachronism or an unattainable ideal? How does the contemporary world shape, threaten or positively influence our relationships? How have Czech relationships changed in the last few years? Have we lost our fear of being lonely? People are not only single today but the system pushes them to be market-oriented and responsible. So they behave accordingly; they are market-oriented – giving birth to children is not profitable. Only single men and women have the flexibility and mobility required by the market. In what way does the market make use of them and how does it help to generate singles? A personal life becomes business... The film takes the following slogan: "My life, your money!"

**3 MUŽI V NADĚJI**  
**MEN IN HOPE**

D: Jiří Vejdělek  
CZ 2011 | 115 min | 35 mm  
Cast: Boleslav Polívka, Jiří Macháček, Simona Stašová, Petra Hřebíčková, Eva Kerekésová  
Domestic release: August 25, 2011  
www.muzivnadeji.cz

Can infidelity be the foundation of a happy marriage? "The woman should feel like she has to fight for her man, she has to try to keep him. And, most of all, she can never get bored...!!!" Rudolf successfully applies his wild theory in day-to-day practice and with unceasing élan that is enviable in a fresh sixty-year-old. Thus he can't begin to fathom the naivety of his unbearably proper son-in-law Ondřej who, in spite of his conscientious fulfillment of his duties, cannot see how his wife Alice is starting to get dangerously bored. Thus the loving father and chummy father-in-law Rudolf offers Ondřej tried and true advice on how to introduce the necessary excitement into the dying marriage...

**4 SAXANA**  
**A LEXIKON KOUZEL**  
**LITTLE WITCH**  
**ON A BROOMSTICK**

D: Václav Vorlíček  
CZ 2011 | 90 min | 35 mm, DCP  
Cast: Petr Nárožný, Ivana Chýlková, Jiří Lábus, Jan Kraus, Jiřina Bohdalová, Jan Hrušínský, Naďa Konvalinková, Helena Nováčková, Petra Černocká  
Domestic release: September 15, 2011

Saxana is now living a normal life in a beautiful family house with her husband Jan, daughter Saxanka, crazy Aunt Irma and Uncle Evžen. But something she completely forgot about is the attic concealing the secret about her previous life as a witch. But Saxanka discovers this secret of her mother's by chance and through an unexpected coincidence and Saxanka's curiosity the daughter finds herself in the magical Realm of Fairyland full of dwarves, imps, dragons, basilisks, goblins and monsters...



**7 RODINA JE ZÁKLAD STÁTU**  
**LONG LIVE THE FAMILY**

D: Robert Sedláček  
CZ 2011 | 100 min | 35 mm, DCP  
Cast: Igor Chmela, Jiří Vyorálek, Simona Babčáková, Eva Vrbková  
Domestic release: October 20, 2011

Thirty-year-old Libor is the father of two children, a former teacher and now a senior bank executive whose company went bankrupt because fraud by the managers was uncovered. The investigators offer to plea bargain in exchange for Libor's cooperation and also imply what all they know about him. Apparently there is plenty for a prison sentence. Libor takes time to reflect and convinces his wife to go away for a few days. Is he fleeing from justice or does he merely want to delay the moment of truth, when he will tell his wife that he has to go to jail? Or is there something else going on entirely? This intimate road movie set against the backdrop of the current economic crisis is an original variation on the age-old theme of intrigue in partnerships and family relationships.



**8 DŮM**  
**THE HOUSE**

D: Zuzana Liová  
SK, CZ 2011 | 100 min | 35 mm  
Cast: Miroslav Krobot, Taťjana Medvecká, Marián Mitaš, Judit Bardós  
Domestic release: October 20, 2011

Eva lives with her parents in a village near a small city. She is finishing high school and dreams of moving to London but doesn't dare openly oppose her father Imrich, a gruff and uncompromising man who has his own ideas. When Eva's not home, he's always got his eye on the time, and when she is, he has her helping him build a house for her in the backyard. All of this changes when Eva has an affair with a married man in the months before graduation.

**9 PERFECT DAYS**  
**PERFECT DAYS**

D: Alice Nellis  
CZ 2011 | 100 min | 35 mm, DCP  
Cast: Zuzana Bydžovská, Ivana Chýlková, Ondřej Sokol, Vojtěch Kotek, Bob Klepl  
Domestic release: November 11, 2011

The story begins with Erica's 44th birthday where she fails to receive the biggest bouquet of flowers she can imagine, but she does get a nice greeting card from her ex-sister-in-law, an embarrassing message in a radio show from her ex-husband, wrinkle cream from her gay friend Richard and a striptease artiste from her unfathomable mother. That is how the successful life of Erica Miller, the star of the programme "Before and After," appears, she has almost everything – her own TV programme, a hairdressing salon, a large flat with a terrace, and freedom. But with each year that goes by she yearns more and more for the one thing she does not have – a child...



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# Q & A WITH PAVEL STRNAD

An interview with producer Pavel Strnad, who is behind the first Czech animated film that originated using rotoscopic technology, *Alois Nebel*, which will have its international premiere in the official programme at the 2011 Venice IFF.

## How important is the selection of your film by the Venice Film Festival?

Of course we are honoured that the world premiere of *Alois Nebel* will be at a festival with such a great tradition. Our previous films, *A Country Teacher* and *Return of the Idiot* were also shown here, but *Alois Nebel* is the first film in the Official Selection of the Venice Film Festival. And I hope that the Gala Screening in Venice will be an excellent launching pad for the international distribution of *Alois Nebel*. Germany-based The Match Factory, which has extensive experience with similar types of productions, is selling the film. Their slate includes, for example, the very successful animated film *Waltz With Bashir*.

## Why did you decide to adapt this graphic novel as an animated film?

I remember that I talked to the authors of the comic book, Jaroslav Rudiš and Jaromír 99, at the Czech Literary Awards, Magnesia Litera, and we were joking that if Hollywood made a film out of Frank Miller's *Sin City*, then we should do the same with *Alois Nebel*. Later, when we decided that we really would do it and we were looking for the best way to adapt the comics, one possibility was to make a live-action film and then morph it in the post-production to get the right "comics look". But we really wanted to keep the visual style of the original comic book and we found rotoscoping, an animation technology which was used in the film *A Scanner Darkly* by Richard Linklater, for example. We made a short test and it was immediately clear that it's the right way to do it.

## How demanding was the production?

First, we shot the whole film with the actors. We were shooting on RED and we tried to shoot as many scenes on locations as possible. The first test showed that combining the real background with drawn animation gives a magical impression.

We filmed the exteriors of the train station in the Jeseníky Mountains, we shot in Prague's Main Station with period trains, etc. Most of the interior scenes were shot in the Barrandov Studio where we built the sets of Alois' apartment, the psychiatric hospital, the pub and others. Only the scenes for which locations weren't available anymore, such as the Prague Main Station Hall as it looked in 1989, were filmed on a green screen. Actors had to wear white makeup with black wrinkles so that animators could more easily redraw their expressions and some of them looked really horrific...

The shooting took about 35 filming days while the animation took almost two years. In November 2007 we started with the test shooting and the film was finished only a few weeks before the world premiere in Venice in August 2011.

## What was your experience with first-time director Tomáš Luňák?

When we were looking for a director for such a specific type of film, Jaromír 99, the designer who is also a singer in a rock band, recommended Tomáš Luňák who made a music clip for them where he combined live action and animation. I wasn't sure if it was too risky to have a first-time director, but Tomáš showed a wonderful feeling for the story and he was also very strong on the script, so I knew he could do it. It was an extremely difficult project, but he stayed focused from the beginning to the very end of the production. You have to realise that we only had the chance to watch the complete film, with all the animations, vfx, and so on, at the very end of the production, after almost four years. I think that Tomáš deserves a lot of credit not only for the huge amount of work that he put into the film, but first of all for the excellent artistic result. And I believe the audience will appreciate it.



Czech producer **Karla Stojáková** was selected to take part in the **Producer's Lab**, a networking and co-production program from 7–10 September 2011, during the Toronto International Film Festival. Created by European Film Promotion (EFP) in collaboration with the Ontario Media Development Corporation (OMDC) and the Toronto International Film Festival® (TIFF), the platform encourages European and Canadian producers to develop partnerships on film projects with both a high artistic and commercial value.



### Karla Stojáková's Biography

A graduate in Film Production at Prague's Film Faculty – Academy of Performing Arts (FAMU) she co-founded Axman Production in 2000 to make feature films, documentaries and short films for a wide international market. She made her first foray into producing feature films with Julius Sevcik's *Restart* in 2005 and has also co-produced such successful festival films as Norwegian

director Lilja Ingólfsdóttir's *Oblivion* or Icelandic filmmaker Grimur Hakonarson's *Slávek The Shit* or Jeanne Rektorič's short film *Orloj*.

In 2009, her production of Sevcik's feature film *Normal – The Düsseldorf Ripper* won the Best Director Award at the Shanghai International Film Festival.

In addition, Karla has line-produced for Korean feature films, TV dramas and music videos and provided film services for foreign productions in the Czech Republic. She is also the founder of the first film festival on Asian cinema in Prague – FILMASIA.

Director **Žofie Zajíčková's** short film *Domino*, which originated as a production of the Zlín film school in 2010, is among the 12 films in the competition section of the 19th annual TOKYO KINDER FILM children's film festival in Japan. The director will personally be participating in the festival in Tokyo as one of the 5 officially invited international guests. The TOKYO KINDER FILM festival was established in 1992 and will take place this year from 18–21 August. It is one of the three large international children's festivals, with over 8 thousand people viewing the 24 films being shown last year, 9 of which were included in the competition.

A new Czech family film is about to be born. Producer **Petr Oukropec** is just putting the finishing touches on the film *Blue Tiger*. The film is originating under the production of Negativ as the directorial debut of one of the leading Czech producers, Petr Oukropec, who is the producer behind, for example, the award-winning films *Return of the Idiot*, *Night Owls* and director Bohdan Sláma's *A Country Teacher*. In this case Sláma is providing directorial and dramaturgical supervision for his long-standing producer. The filmmakers want to continue in the former tradition of treasured Czech children's films, which have disappeared from Czech cinematography in recent years. The film is an adaptation of a successful children's book, *Blue Tiger* by author Tereza Horváthová, and it tells the story of a mysterious garden in the middle of a town, a garden that is to be destroyed to make way for the planned construction of an amusement centre. The town is controlled by Mayor Rýp, who is fighting against the garden. But then a Blue Tiger appears... The film is coproduced by German Blinker Filmproduktion and Slovak Arina with a budget of 1.6 mil. Euro, is planned to hit cinemas at the end of February 2012.



**Bohdan Sláma** (*A Country Teacher*), winner of a Czech Lion award and the Main Prize at the International Film Festival in San Sebastian for the film *Something like Happiness*, is in postproduction of his new film *Four Suns*. An amusing family drama about reconciliation with the reality of

unfulfilled dreams and the desire to change one's life for the better. The main role of the father that refuses to grow up and learn from his own mistakes was entrusted to Jaroslav Plesl, while Anna Geislerová (*Innocence, Identity Card*) and Karel Roden (*Lidice, Alois Nebel*) appear in supporting roles. The film, produced by Negativ, will be released to Czech cinemas in March 2012. *Four Suns* is being co-produced by Germany's Pallas Film and Czech Television.

## CURRENTLY IN PRODUCTION

Several international TV films and series are currently being shot in the Czech Republic. The shooting of the ten-episode American TV series *Missing* is underway in Prague and surroundings until October. The story centres around a mother, played by Ashley Judd, who is searching throughout Europe for her missing son. Events soon show that she is a CIA agent. The crew will spend more than 90 days shooting in the Czech Republic along with a few days in Croatia and in Istanbul. The series is being produced by ABC Studios, which primarily chose the Czech Republic thanks to incentives, also provided to television projects. Stillking Films is the local partner.

The sets have been put up on the lot and in the studios of Barrandov Studios for the two-part French TV film *Merlin l'enchanteur* (*Merlin the Magician*), which GMT Productions, in a coproduction with the Czech Republic's OKKO Productions, has been filming here from the middle of July until the middle of September. It takes the well-known story of Merlin the magician (Gérard Jugnot), this time told in a somewhat lighter form, in the family comedy genre. The French production



Prachovské Rocks



Kokořín Castle

More info at [www.filmcommission.cz](http://www.filmcommission.cz)

brought the minimum filming crew of thirteen people, hiring another hundred locally. Another few dozen Czech workers contributed to the preparatory work such as the construction of sets, props and costumes. In addition to the filming in the studios, the crew has also gone to natural exteriors in the Czech Republic such as the renowned Prachovské Rocks in Bohemian Paradise. The film is meant for the TF1 television station, which will show it in 2012.

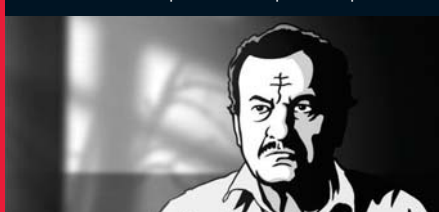
Television films, take three: The film *Die Kastellanin* (*The Castellan*), the story of a young woman Marie (Alexandra Neldel) set at the beginning of the 15th century, is being made for the German SAT1 television station and Austria's ORF. Of course, the roughly 100-member crew (70% of which is local) is filming primarily at historical locations: the Křivoklát, Točnick and Kokořín castles. The production is being arranged by Germany's TV60 München in coproduction with the Czech Republic's Wilma Film and Barrandov Studios. The film follows the successful TV film *Die Wanderhure* (*The Whore*), which was the most successful show broadcast on the SAT1 station in 2010, when it was viewed by over 10 million viewers.

## CZECH FILM AT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS 2011

### ALOIS NEBEL

D: Tomáš Luňák

CZ, DE, SK 2011 | animation | 80 min | 35 mm



### 68th VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

31. 08. – 10. 09. 2011, Italy

Section – Out of Competition

### 36th TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

08.–18. 09. 2011, Canada

Section – Contemporary World Cinema

### 52nd THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

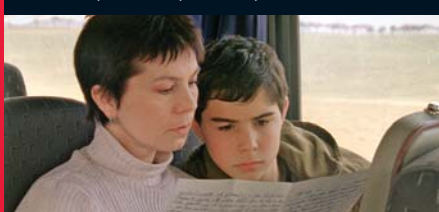
04.–13. 11. 2011, Greece

Section – International Competition

### OSMDESÁT DOPISŮ EIGHTY LETTERS

D: Václav Kadrnka

CZ 2011 | feature | 75 min | 35 mm



### 36th TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

08.–18. 09. 2011, Canada

Section – Discovery

### CIGÁN GYPSY

D: Martin Šulík

SK, CZ 2011 | feature | 100 min | 35 mm, DCP

