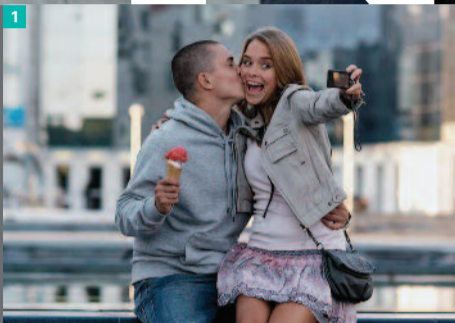


World Premiere of A NIGHT TOO YOUNG by Olmo Omerzu

in the FORUM
at Berlinale 2012



Newsletter



1 LÓVE LOVE

SK, CZ 2012 | 90 min | 35 mm, DCP
D: Jakub Kroner
Cast: Michal Nemptuda, Jakub Gogál, Kristina Svarinská
Domestic release:
January 10, 2012
www.filmlove.cz

Maťo lives a carefree life with no rules. He and his childhood friend Tomáš steal cars for a car repair shop. Maťo's life changes radically when he meets and falls in love with Veronika. She grew up in an orphanage and lives in a boarding house paid for by her school. She is constantly trying to contact her mother, whom she has never seen. Maťo doesn't tell her the whole truth about himself, and would like to change his life because of her. Maťo wants to break free from his current way of living, so he and Tomáš agree to one last score. They go to rob a gas station, but because of an unfortunate accident...



2 LÁSKA JE LÁSKA LOVE IS LOVE

CZ 2012 | 105 min | 35 mm, DCP
D: Milan Cieslar
Cast: Aneta Krejčíková, Maciej Comorek, Simona Stašová, Ondřej Vetchý, Petr Nárožný, Eliška Balzerová, Petr Vančura
Domestic release:
January 19, 2012
www.laskajelaska-film.cz

Eighteen-year-old Maruška lives with her grandfather Vlastimil and she longs to meet her prince and experience the romantic love. Then she really does meet the prince she dreamed of. She enjoys a wonderful summer vacation and her first amorous adventure with Marek, but also her first disappointment... Maruška's grandfather Vlastimil also finds out that true love never withers. Vlastimil and Libuška are like two young love-struck fools. It is love with the scent of marihuana. The witty and colourful retiree Libuška has fallen for this medicinal herb in her autumn years...

3 SOUKROMÝ VESMÍR PRIVATE UNIVERSE

CZ 2012 | 118 min | DCP
D: Helena Třeštíková
Domestic release:
January 26, 2012

Honza was born in 1974 into the cheerless era of socialism in Czechoslovakia. At that time, his parents Jana and Petr lived in one room in the apartment of Jana's divorced mother and her widowed grandmother. A few years later, the family moved from Prague to Liberec where Petr found a job and a little house for the family. When Honza was born, his father began writing a family chronicle and he has continued to do so for 37 years. "Private Universe" show not only the life of one ordinary family, but also how the Czech society has changed in last four decades. Who are we, where do we come from and where do we go?

4 SIGNÁL SIGNAL

CZ 2012 | 100 min | 35 mm, DCP
D: Tomáš Rehořek
Cast: Vojtěch Dyk, Kryštof Hádek, Karel Roden, Bolek Polívka, Eva Josefíková
Domestic release:
February 16, 2012

Two young technicians, Filos and Kája, come to a small village that is a bit cut off from the rest of the world in order to find the best place to install a new station for the reception of a cell phone signal. Their arrival understandably arouses a feeling of expectation among the locals, especially when they learn of the interesting financial reward for the owner of the land on which the transmitter will stand. A fight flares up in the village over this reward, and all weapons, those permitted and those not, are put into use. Of course, there is also the question of whether Filos and Kája will be able to live up to the expectations that have been placed on them. Maybe they aren't even who they claim to be...

5 MODRÝ TYGR BLUE TIGER

CZ, DE, SK 2012 | 90 min | 35 mm, DCP
D: Petr Oukropec
Cast: Barbora Hrzánová, Jan Hartl, Daniel Drewes
Domestic release:
February 23, 2012

What's going to happen when a blue tiger arrives to town? Adventurous, magical and humorous movie for the whole family, takes both kids and their parents to the world of fantasy. The story takes place in a bit forgotten, but still magical botanical garden, which is hidden in the middle of a busy city. Two friends Johanka and Matyáš, live blithely among tropical flowers, in company with a speaking parrot and their peculiar parents (Bára Hrzánová and Jan Hartl). When an ambitious mayor Rýp decides to tear down the garden, to build a whole new residential area on its place, a blue tiger appears right in the middle of a crossroad. He will join the kids for an exciting journey to save their unique world.

6 ŠKOLNÍ VÝLET THE SCHOOL TRIP

CZ 2012 | 90 min | 35 mm
D: Petr Šícha, Tomáš Magnusek
Cast: Libuše Švormová, Jana Švandová, Stanislav Zindulka, Miriam Kantorková, Lubomír Lipský, Tomáš Magnusek, Bořivoj Navrátil
Domestic release:
February 23, 2012
www.filmkolnivylet.cz

A group of classmates is invited to come to stay at a spa, experiencing lots of surprises, funny situations and even personal drama. At the same time we can follow the story of a young petty thief who is hired by a luxury hotel as a cook and ends up experiencing his first big romance when he falls in love with a beautiful chambermaid.



7 ČTYŘI SLUNCE FOUR SUNS

CZ, DE 2012 | 90 min | 35 mm
D: Bohdan Sláma
Cast: Jaroslav Plesl, Aňa Geislerová, Karel Roden, Jiří Mádrl, Klára Melišková, Igor Chmela
Domestic release: March 3, 2012

Fogi is a weirdo, who's enjoying his never ending puberty. But simultaneously, Fogi is also trying to live up to his family duties and bring up Věna, his son from the first marriage. He didn't get married again but lives with Jana, a post office employee. Together they have little Anicka and they all live in a flat in a small town. At first, Jana is trying to tolerate Fogi's moods, but her patience is running out. Fogi loses his job. On top of that he starts to see himself in his adolescent son and realizes with horror that Věna repeats his own mistakes. The first fights, bans and mutual misunderstandings are approaching...

8 PROBUDÍM SE VČERA WAKING UP YESTERDAY

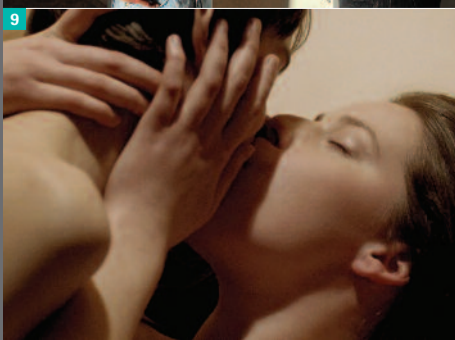
CZ 2012 | 100 min | 35 mm, DCP
D: Miloslav Šmídmajer
Cast: Jiří Mádrl, Simona Stašová, Miroslav Táborský
Domestic release: March 15, 2012

This quirky student comedy tells the story of Petr Kovář, who gets the chance to return to the past for a while and he meets the love of his life, his classmate Eliška, again in June 1989. There is one hook: physically he is seventeen again, but his mind remains that of a modern "forty-something". He returns to a different reality, forgetting that he will be tested again and how the school system was different back then. Thus the plot throws him several comical and provocative twists and through a surprising romantic entanglement it lets the audience see and recall the absurdity of the pre-revolution era.

9 PŘÍLIŠ MLADÁ NOC A NIGHT TOO YOUNG

CZ, SL 2012 | 65 min | DCP
D: Olmo Omerzu
Cast: Martin Pechlát, Jiří Černý, Natálie Řehořová, Vojtěch Machuta, Jan Vaši
Domestic release: March 23, 2012

Two boys find themselves in a young girl's flat with two other men and here they experience their first encounter with love and sexuality. The children lose track of time. They were expected home long ago. They drink, throw up and are intoxicated by love and "the shameless, unbridled and licentious" world in which David, Kateřina and Štěpán live.





Q & A WITH JIŘÍ KONEČNÝ

A Q&A session with producer Jiří Konečný (Endorfilm), whose film *A Night Too Young* is the Czech-Slovenian entry at this year's Forum section of Berlinale.

This is the second film in a row that you produced which is being presented at Berlinale. Last year's *Matchmaking Mayor* even received an award. How do you find the scripts which make a successful film? Is there a formula?

The directors' personality is the main thing. Their individuality, vision, courage, drive, determination to see things through to the end and last, but not least, their decisiveness and pertinacity. I appreciate their ability to discern the moment when the film is finished, when it is at its best. I consider the preparatory phase of a film (looking for a story, scriptwriting, casting, specifying the visual conception) to be of key importance. I try to stick to the rule that if something speaks to me it can also speak to someone else. If I am faced with a decision during a certain phase of a film's production, I think it is better to support a more radical version in the author's favour. Mutual trust and the possibility of discussion are conditions.

Olmo Omerzu is an up-and-coming Slovenian director just finishing his studies at the FAMU film school in Prague and *A Night Too Young* is his graduate film. What does it mean to you as a producer to have a graduate film in the prestigious Berlinale selection?

For the director it is a fantastic start to his career. For me it is a wonderful start to our cooperation. Olmo and I are already preparing another film together that I really believe in. Being presented at Berlinale is a great jumping board for developing the potential of both films: the one just completed and the one in preparation – I trust that it will also help us with its financing.



What kind of career do you expect for the film?

After Berlinale *Matchmaking Mayor* was invited to over 40 festivals and there are still more to come. I will be glad if the film *A Night Too Young* will be as successful. Seeing that it is a feature film and also a student film, its festival life could be even richer. I would consider it a success if the film makes it into cinematic distribution abroad.

The film's theme is childhood, the transition from childhood to adulthood and it depicts how the world of a child is reflected in the adult world and vice versa. The children in the film get into situations that they should be protected against, at least according to our social customs.

How do you expect that the audience at Berlinale will react? And here on home ground?

We have nothing but the best experience with the audiences at Berlinale – they are open, they can read the language of film, they are into discussion. A lot depends on how close the film's theme is to them. According to preliminary reactions it seems that *A Night Too Young* could have something to say to them.

Here at home I expect a more controversial reception. First of all in the spirit of the art/mainstream film scheme of things, as a kind of pre-labelling, though I hope I am mistaken. And secondly I also expect a film of this kind could enchant some people and be unpleasant even for others.



Four Suns, the new film by Bohdan Sláma, received a warm reception with its entrance to the Sundance Film Festival international competition. *Four Suns* will continue in its festival circuit to the International Festival in Rotterdam, where it will celebrate its European premiere.

Two more Czech films were chosen for the programme of the Rotterdam IFF: **Punk in Africa** (CZ, JAR) from directors Keith Jones and

Deon Maas and, in the SPECTRUM SHORTS section, a documentary about a never-completed railway line in the inhospitable Russian taiga beyond the arctic circle, **Into Oblivion**, from first-time director Šimon Špidla.

The International Festival of Short Films in Clermont-Ferrand selected Libor Pixa's film **Graffitiger** for the International Competition section. The eleven-minute-long inventive combined film about a tiger that remains at the mercy of an urban jungle already has a number of awards to its credit, including a nomination for a "student" Oscar.



The number of Czech films in cinemas in 2011 **broke records**. The highest number of 49 film were released to Czech cinemas since 1991. The Czech comedy **Men in Hope** (dir. Jiří Vejdělek) led the TOP 20 films in terms of attendance with a total of 852 199 viewers followed in second place by the historical epic **Lidice** (dir. Petr Nikolaev) with 511 064 viewers.

The second annual national awards were handed out by the Czech film critics for the best films of the past year. The film **Long Live the Family**, which Robert Sedláček made based on his own screenplay, took home far and away the most awards. The film won a total of four out of eight nominations, making it a clear favourite (best film, screenplay, director, supporting actress).



BERLINALE COMPETITION TITLE *A ROYAL AFFAIR* SHOWCASES CZECH SKILLS AND LOCATIONS

A Royal Affair, from Danish director Nikolaj Arcel, will see its world premiere February 16 in competition at the Berlin International Film Festival. The European co-production filmed in spring 2011 primarily in the Czech Republic employing Czech film professionals and using Czech locations to recreate 18th century Denmark. The film is a Zentropa Entertainments (Denmark) production. Co-producers are Sirena Film (Czech Republic), Trollhättan Film (Sweden) and Zentropa Entertainments (Germany).

A Royal Affair shot 40 days in the Czech Republic, mainly on live locations, and spent EUR 2.7 million – almost half its total budget – in the country. The project benefitted from the Czech Republic's Film Industry Support Programme, which grants qualified projects a 20% rebate on their local production costs, and received funding from the Czech State Fund for the Support and Development of Czech Cinematography.

While the Czech rebate played a significant role in the project's financing, Zentropa producer Peter Aalbæk Jensen said Czech professionals' skills and experience on big-budget productions were the key factors in deciding to shoot in Prague. "We have no tradition of working with big, spectacular historical films in

Denmark," Jensen told *Screen International* in May. "We came to get knowledge we couldn't find locally in Scandinavia."

Jensen founded Zentropa in 1992 with director Lars von Trier. The company has produced more than 70 films, including *Dogville* (2003), *Antichrist* (2009) and *Melancholia* (2011).

A Royal Affair stars popular Danish actor Mads Mikkelsen, best known to international audiences for his role in *Casino Royale*, which shot in the Czech Republic in 2006. The screenplay is the work of director Arcel and Rasmus Heisterberg, who also collaborated on the script for the international hit *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*.

A Royal Affair is based on historical events in 18th century Denmark and centers on a love triangle between German physician Johann Struensee (Mikkelsen), his schizophrenic patient King Christian VII, and Christian's English-born Queen Caroline Mathilda.

The film will see its Danish premiere in March and has secured distribution in the US and Australia.

