

## Czech films and co-productions at Berlinale 2020

At the 70th edition of Berlin International Film Festival (20 February - 1 March 2020), the Czech Republic will have 5 films and co-productions in official selection. *Charlatan* will celebrate world premiere in Berlinale Special Gala, *FREM* will internationally premiere in Forum, *Distant Journey* will be screened as one of the Berlinale Classics, *Leaf* will please the audience of Generation Kplus, and *Servants* will be part of the Encounters section.

### Czech films in official selection

Czech-Irish-Polish-Slovak co-production feature [Charlatan](#), directed by world-famous author Agnieszka Holland (*Mr. Jones*, *Spoor*, *Burning Bush*, *In Darkness*, *Europa Europa*), will celebrate its world premiere at Berlinale 2020 in Berlinale Special Gala, which is curated by Carlo Chartrian, the former artistic director of the Locarno IFF.

Holland returns to Berlin with her brand-new biographical drama about a Czechoslovak healer who was persecuted from both Nazi and Communist regimes. *Charlatan* is produced by Šárka Cimbalová, Kevan van Thompson / Marlene Film Productions (CZ), and co-produced by Film and Music Entertainment (IE), Madants (PL), Furia Film (SK), Czech Television (CZ), Barrandov Studio (CZ), Radio and Television Slovakia (SK), CertiCon (CZ) and Magiclab (CZ). Czech Film Fund supported the film with EUR 522 745.

Czech films have a rich tradition of participation in Berlinale's Forum. Over the past decade, 7 Czech films or co-productions were part of this traditional section. This year, [FREM](#) will celebrate its international premiere as a part of Forum's line-up.

The documentary by Viera Čákanyová is a reaction to the current wave of post-humanist thinking caused by the development of technology and artificial intelligence as well as the climate crisis, and it is produced by Nina Numankadic from Hypermarket Film (CZ) and co-produced by Punkchart films (SK) and Czech Television (CZ). Czech Film Fund supported the film with EUR 70 385.

[Distant Journey](#), Alfréd Radok's debut from 1948, has been selected as one of this year's Berlinale Classics. The film is a comparison of the different visions that shaped the horrific reality of the Holocaust, and it was digitally restored in 2019 under the supervision of the National Film Archive.

A strong position of Czech animation is confirmed by [Leaf](#) which was selected for the Generation Kplus section. A short film by Russian born Czech student (Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně) Aliona Baranova tells a touching story of a huge sailor, who gets an autumn leaf from a small girl. It reminds him of his home.

For the third time, director Ivan Ostrochovský (*Koza*, *Velvet Terrorists*) is heading to Berlinale. His Slovak-Romanian-Czech-Irish co-production feature [Servants](#) is a black and white drama focused on two students of a theological seminary in totalitarian Czechoslovakia.

The film was produced by the director himself, Albert Malinovský and Katarína Tomková from Punkchart films (SK), co-produced by Point Film (RO), Radio and Television Slovakia (SK), Negativ (CZ), Film and Music Entertainment (IE), Libra Film Productions (RO), Hai Hui Entertainment (RO) and

sentimentalfilm (SK), and it has been selected for newly formed section Encounters. Czech Film Fund supported the film with EUR 153 846.

Czechs also participated in other 2 films which will premiere at Berlinale 2020. Czech television co-worked on Oleg Sentsov's Ukrainian-Polish-French dystopian drama [Numbers](#) (Berlinale Special). Last year, German-Austrian TV series **Freud** (Berlinale Series) was almost entirely shot in the Czech Republic thanks to the production company Mia Film.

## **Czech films and co-productions at European Film Market**

Czech cinema will be also represented at European Film Market. Several Czech features or co-productions released during the last months and brand-new features will be screened at the market.

### [Charlatan](#)

by Agnieszka Holland

Czech Republic, Ireland, Poland, Slovak Republic 2020

SAT 02/22 | 16:00 | CinemaxX 4 (private buyers only)

MON 02/24 | 09:00 | CinemaxX 4 (private buyers only)

### [Servants](#)

by Ivan Ostrochovský

Slovak Republic, Romania, Czech Republic, Ireland 2020

THU 02/20 | 17:00 | CinemaxX 10

SUN 02/23 | 13:35 | CinemaxX 10

### [Fritzi - A revolutionary Tale](#)

by Ralf Kukulka, Mathias Bruhn

Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, Czech Republic 2019

FRI 02/28 | 09:45 | Cubix 2

### [Scumbag](#)

by Mariana Čengel Solčanská, Rudolf Biermann

Slovak Republic, Czech Republic 2020

TUE 02/25 | 12:40 | CinemaxX 16

### [Let There Be Light](#)

by Marko Škop

Slovak Republic, Czech Republic 2019

FRI 02/21 | 16:15 | CinemaxX 2

### [Cook F\\*\\*k Kill](#)

by Mira Fornay

Czech Republic, Slovak Republic 2019

SAT 02/22 | 12:50 | CinemaxX 11

### ***Mucha: The Story of an Artist Who Created a Style***

by Roman Vávra

Czech Republic, Germany, France 2020

TUE 02/25 | 09:15 | CinemaxX 17

### [The Sleepers](#)

by Ivan Zachariáš

Czech Republic 2019