

## New features by Weinreb & Kazda or Jiří Mádl supported for production

In the first production call of 2022, altogether EUR 2,56 million were distributed by the Czech Film Fund among seven promising projects which this time focus mainly on social issues from the historical or present perspective. Three female filmmakers received funding for their debut films.

The highest amount (EUR 600 000) in this call was granted to the project called **Waves**. The second co-operation between director Jiří Mádl and producer Monika Kristl (*On the Roof*, 2019), focuses on a story a young man who finds himself caught in danger after he starts working for a democratic radio station during the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. As a project in development, *Waves* was supported with EUR 28 000 by the CFF and it also participated in our Czech Film Springboard development programme in 2020.

Director, animator and producer Aurel Klimt (Studio ZVON), who stood behind *Fimfarum* series, received EUR 580 000 for production of **War with the Salamanders**, an adaptation of world-famous Czechoslovak satirical sci-fi novel by Karel Čapek (published in 1936). Klimt's version of the extinction of the human population caused by rapid multiplying of newts will be created in a distinctive artistic stylization, including 3D animation and CGI.

Other supported filmmakers will try to solve the existential problems of their heroes mainly in the environment of nature, this time. While in **The Forest**, emerging directors Tomáš Weinreb and Petr Kazda (*I, Olga Hepnarova*, 2016) join forces with producer Tomáš Hrubý (*Burning Bush, Nothing Like Before*) to tell a story of a family whose life in forest is suddenly hit by a hurricane and also subsequent bad financial decisions, director Evženie Brabcová will take the spectators to the **Backwoods**, where the family ghosts and wild boars are present and the family relationships are both built and broken. Brabcová's debut is an existential and surreal drama produced by Peter Badač of BFILM.cz. Both projects received the amount of EUR 320 000 for production.

Brabcová is not the only female director who received funding for her fiction feature debut in this call. Veronika Lišková (*Daniel's World*, 2015) prepares **Year of a Widow** – a story of a woman who, after the sudden death of her husband, has to deal with adversity and struggle with existential uncertainty. Producer Kristýna Michálek Květová of Cinématif Films was granted EUR 340 000 for the production of the film. Piaoyu Xie, a graduate of Prague's FAMU, also received funding (EUR 240 000) to direct her first film, produced by Veronika Kührová of Analog Vision. In **The Ugly Mandarin**, Piaoyu Xie follows a young Chinese woman, a talented cellist living in Prague with her girlfriend, who fails the audition granting her a working visa. As a project in development, *The Ugly Mandarin* was presented within the Czech Film Springboard programme in 2020.

A sequel to the modern Czech fairy tale is also in the pipeline. Director and producer Petr Kubík (ProfesionálníVideo) and his co-producer Viktor Křištof of Three Brothers Production received EUR 160 000 for production of **Alchemist Cursed in Time** (a follow-up to *Princess Cursed in Time*, 2020). The main theme of the tale will be the dangerous and treacherous lust for power.

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