

FINAL PRESS RELEASE ON THE 25TH ANNUAL EDITION OF DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM

Prague, 5 – 12 April, Lucerna, Světozor and Kino Pilotů cinemas Brno, 6 - 8 April, Scala cinema

Echoes took place in the following towns and on the following dates: Hradec Králové (17 – 18 April), Červený Kostelec (17 – 19 April), Boskovice (17 – 19 April),

Hodonín (17 – 19 April), Jablonec nad Nisou (17 – 22 April)





OPENING OF THE 25TH DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM

Days of European Film have been offering the most interesting films of contemporary European cinema for 25 years. This year, the festival screened 50 films from various parts of Europe. The films, divided into seven programme sections, covered the main themes of this year's annual edition: literature and music.

On 5 April, the 25th DEF was opened by the Polish film *Silent Night,* **which is a debut of the young director Piotr Domalewski** about a failed Christmas Eve, complicated family relations and the bitter realisation that whatever opinions we may have of our own family, we are still of the same blood. **Dawid Ogrodnik**, who gained fame with the role of Tomek Bekśinski in *The Last Family*, **excels in the lead role.** *Silent Night* **was given the 2 main awards at the Polish Film Festival in Gdynia and received 10 awards out of total 11 nominations for the Polish Eagle film awards. As a result, it was given awards in the following categories: Best Film, Direction, Sound, Script, Cinematography, Actor (Dawid Ogrodnik), Best Supporting Actor (Arkadiusz Jakubik), Best Supporting Actress (Agnieszka Suchora).** *Silent Night* also received the Audience Award and the Discovery of the Year award. The film was personally presented by its award-winning director, Piotr Domalewski, at the DEF.



Piotr Domalewski, director of Silent Night and Maciej Ruczaj, Managing Director of the Polish Institute, in the Lucerna cinema at the ceremonial opening

Barbora Golatová (middle), DEF Director, and Lukáš Rumlena opening the 25th DEF





CZECH CO-PRODUCED FILMS AND GUESTS AT THE FESTIVAL

From among Czech films, we presented *Insects*, the latest work by Jan Švankmajer. Jiří Lábus was personally present at the screening. The Czech-Slovak co-produced film Filthy was presented to the audience by its director **Tereza Nvotová**. Another Czech co-produced film was the Danish-Czech film The Man directed by Charlotte Sieling. "This film titled The Man, or Mesteren in original, was the second contemporary Scandinavian film that we produced in Czechia. Most of the time, producers of historical films, films demanding in terms of set decorations, or fantasy films where it is easier to offer significantly cheaper services due to a demanding art department come to our country. With The Man, thanks to incentives, we succeeded in achieving financial competitiveness even for a smaller film taking place in the present-day Copenhagen. We thank the State Cinematography Fund for their support. The film would not have been made in Czechia without them. Making the film was a film-maker's dream come true. Collaborating with the director Charlotte Sieling who directed the TV series Bridge, which has gained a cult following, is truly inspiring and enriching," said Kristina Hejduková (Sirena film) who attended the screening of the film along with a number of crew members ranging from the chief executive producer to costume and mask supervisors and others. Among the guests at the 25th DEF, there was also the actor **Hugh O'Conor** who attended the screening of *Mary Shelley*. The actors **Alise Polachenko** and **Mārtiņš Vilsons** were present at the ceremonial opening and subsequent screening of the film Grandpa More Dangerous Than Computer.



Kristina Hejduková (Sirena film) at the screening of The Man in the Pilotů cinema

Mārtiņš Vilsons and Alise Polachenko during a debate after the screening of Grandpa More Dangerous Than Computer





"The amount of stardust in this year's programme was greater than usual. In the riveting intimate drama 'The Wife' by the Swedish director Björn Runge, Glenn Close excelled alongside Jonathan Pryce and Christian Slater, and her performance has been described by many critics as one of the best roles in her career. The film by Paolo Virzi titled 'The Leisure Seeker' features a delightful acting performance by Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland. The young generation of stars shines in the film titled 'On Chesil Beach' where the lead role is played by Saoirse Ronan, or in the biographical movie 'Mary Shelley' starring Elle Fanning, Maisie Williams and Hugh O'Conor who came to Prague to present this film in person," adds Zdeněk Blaha, the festival programmer of DEF.

PROGRAMME SECTIONS

50 European films divided into seven traditional and new sections presented the most interesting works that have been recently created in European cinema.

<u>Best of</u> / The selection of the most interesting films created over the last two years in the cinema of the respective European countries. In the traditional cross-section of European cinema, the audience was able to look forward, for example, to the new film *A Ciambra* by the talented Jonas Carpignano, a thrilling social drama reviving the spirit of Italian neorealism. The successful Austrian drama *The Best of All Worlds* (directed by Adrian Goiginger), which is a raw story of a drug-addicted mother and her little son, treads the line between naturalism and magical realism. A lighter note was featured by the indie Spanish romantic comedy *Requirements To Be A Normal Person* (directed by Leticia Dolera), which shows that trying to be "normal" at any cost and not to stand out in a crowd is not a good life philosophy.

<u>Paint It Black</u> / Chill down the spine, suspense, horror and fear as well as irony and black humour. This black section for black souls brought several films from the dark corners of Europe. Some of them scared and thrilled, others provoked with their irony and cruel humour. This new section with a focus on thrillers, black comedies and more chilling spectacles presented, for example, the thriller *The Other Me* (directed by Sotiris Tsafouliaso) about a serial killer who draws inspiration from Pythagoras, the Finnish film *Armomurhaaja* (directed by Teemu Nikki) whose lead character euthanizes animals as a side job, or the raw Belgian crime film *Killers* (directed by François Troukens, Jean-François Hensgens) based on true events.

<u>Film & Music</u> / A regular theme-specific section presenting films with a music theme. Documentaries about music stars, biography movies as well as a look behind the scenes of the music show business. The music section was highly varied this year. For example, the audience had an opportunity to learn what can happen in a factory, from which all machines have disappeared overnight.





The Portuguese film *The Nothing Factory* (directed by Pedro Pinho) has received many awards: 2017 Cannes FF: FIPRESCI Award; 2017 Munich FF: CineVision Award; 2017 Duhok IFF: Judging Panel Award – Best Direction; 2017 Miškolc IFF: Adolph Zukor Award; 2017 Barcelona Independent FF: Best Film; 2017 Sevilla European FF: Best Film; 2017 Torino FF: Special Judging Panel Award, Special Recognition; and others.

The music section also included the documentary *Denk ich an Deutschland in der Nacht* (directed by Romuald Karmakar) about the rise of the German techno music scene, which was complemented by the comedy *Magical Mystery or: The Return of Karl Schmidt* (directed by Arne Feldhusen), based on the memories of Sven Regener about the beginnings of the electronic music scene. The documentary *La Chana* (directed by Lucia Stojević) about Antonia Santiago Amador, one of the best known flamenco dancers, was ready to be screened for flamenco fans. This film received a number of awards: 2016 Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival: IDFA Audience Award; 2016 Feroz Awards: Best Documentary; 2017 Millennium Docs Against Gravity: Chopin Nose Award for the Best Documentary in Music and Arts.

<u> \in Docs</u> / A selection of exceptional European documentaries, which look well on the big screen. Let us mention, for example, the Danish-Finnish-Swedish documentary *Big Time* (directed by Kaspar Astrup Schröder), which follows the work and personal life of the fascinating architect Bjarke Ingels and gives a behind-the-scenes insight into the creation of his most famous buildings.

<u>To the Point – Literature in the Spotlight</u> / The year 2018 is the European Year of Cultural Heritage. However, the To the Point section did not focus on cinema itself but the focus of attention was on the various forms in which literature is captured in film. Therefore, this section presented not only several new literary adaptations such as *On Chesil Beach* (directed by Dominic Cooke) adapted from a book by Ian McEwan but also original stories about selected writers, including the life of the Frankenstein author *Mary Shelley* (directed by Haifaa Al Mansour) or a distinctive film about a no less distinctive French provocateur *The Kidnapping of Michel Houellebecq* (directed by Guillaume Nicloux).

<u>LUX Film Prize</u> / This section dedicated to the LUX film prize of the European Parliament presented the winning film and other finalists of the year 2017. The purpose of the prize is to support European cinema as well as the public debate about Europe, its values and social issues. The 2017 LUX Award for the Best Film was received by *120 BPM* (directed by Robin Campillo), which features a fascinating story about life with AIDS in the early 1990s. Besides this film, the finalist films *Sami Blood* (directed by Amanda Kernell) and *Western* (directed by Valeska Grisebach) were also be screened. Film Europe has launched the distribution of all three films in the Czech Republic.





MEDIA – Europe's Best / European Film Awards are often referred to as the "European Oscars". Prestigious awards for the best European films, their creators and protagonists. This year, the MEDIA section presented the absolutely best European films, which received the European Film Award for the Best Film. As a result, the Czech audience was offered a cross-section of films by leading European directors in a single place. These films included the fresh winner *The Square* (directed by Ruben Östlund), *Love* (directed by Michael Haneke), *Ida* (directed by Pawel Pawlikowski), *Melancholia* (directed by Lars von Trier), as well as *Youth* or *The Great Beauty* (directed by Paolo Sorrentino) and others. Thanks to the Creative Europe Desk – MEDIA, we are returning these significant films to cinemas.

SPECIAL EVENTS

"In addition to the traditional programme and sections, we also offered film events and alternative content in order to reach even the irregular cinema goers. In recent years, DEF has focused on work with the audience, and therefore, this year, too, we offered the audience, for example, a flamenco night, German techno music, literary adaptations, the recording of a concert performed by Nick Cave, the Cinema Cuisine screenings, based on a culinary concept, film training for children and seniors, screenings for schools, an exhibition of posters, debates or special guests and other events," added Barbora Golatová, commenting on the programme of this year's 25th DEF.

FILM FLAVOUR

Wednesday 11 April and Thursday 12 April at 19:00, MONO FONO Club, Jungmannova 15, Prague 1

DEF and reputable Prague chefs offered screenings inspired by the Cinema Cuisine trend. The special Film Flavour section thus combined the screening of a film and a culinary experience. On the unique premises of the <u>MONO FONO</u> club in Prague, we offered a three-course menu by the chef Filip Strnad to be enjoyed by the audience while watching the films.





PERFECT STRANGERS



Awards: 2016 Tribeca FF: Best Script for International Live Action Film; 2017 Vilnius IFF: Audience Award; 2016 Norwegian IFF: Best Film (Audience Award); 2016 Cairo IFF: Best Script; 2016 David di Donatello Awards: Best Film, Script; and other awards.

MENU: Salad made of baked capsicums, bread Pasta al ragu Panna cotta with a raspberry sauce





ROCK'N ROLL



MENU: Asparagus with a Dutch sauce, bread Beef in the Burgundy style with a celery-potato puree Mousse au chocolat







Barbora Golatová, DEF Director (left), and Giovani Scola, the Managing Director of the Italian Cultural Institute in the MONO FONO club before the screening as part of Film Flavour

FLAMENCO NIGHT

Saturday 7 April at 19:00, MONO FONO club, Jungmannova 15, Prague 1







<u>LA CHANA</u>

The portrait of a woman who has become synonymous with flamenco. Antonia Santiago Amador a.k.a. La Chana is the embodiment of flamenco. She is one of the most famous flamenco dancers who, however, completely withdrew from the public life at the peak of her career for unknown reasons. However, the energy and power emanating from her when she danced was breath-taking. And La Chana radiates energy even today when she returns to the stage to present her last performance. A film about the strength of personality, passion for flamenco, love of dance and an enormous will to live.



Flamenco show (performed by Denisa Sofie Pavelová – dancing – and Morenita de Triana – guitar, singing). DJ Tea Jay Ivo played wild Latino music at the party.

NICK CAVE CONCERT

Thursday 12 April at 20:30, Světozor cinema, Vodičkova 41, Prague 1

The recording of last year's show in Royal Arena in Copenhagen, one of the stops on the worldwide tour of Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds was one of this year's main presentations of the Film & Music festival section.



<u>DISTANT SKY – NICK CAVE & THE BAD SEEDS LIVE IN COPENHAGEN</u>, United Kingdom, 2017, 135 minutes, directed by David Barnard, English, without dialogues





SCREENING FOR SENIORS

Monday 9 April at 13:30, Lucerna cinema – Big Hall, Vodičkova 36, Prague 1

After the screening of the Italian road movie *The Leisure Seeker*, there was an accompanying event in the form of a lecture about Italian national cinema with clips from films. The event had been prepared by <u>Free Cinema</u> – a platform for film education. The lecture was given by Jiří Forejt, a film expert.



<u>THE LEISURE SEEKER</u>, Italy, 2017, 112 minutes, directed by Paolo Virzi, English with Czech subtitles. Leaving your troubles behind and getting away from everything for a while can sometimes be the best solution. One of the lead roles is played by Helen Mirren. Award: 2017 Capri Hollywood: Capri Ensemble Cast Award

SCREENINGS FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Saturday 7 April at 15:00, Světozor cinema – Small Hall, Vodičkova 41, Prague 1

How did film originate? Once upon a time. One day, five years before the end of the 19th century, two brothers – August and Louis Lumiére – invented film. In this programme for parents with children, we took a journey to the time before the origination of film and we found out about all the things that had to have happened so that we could go to a cinema today. And those who attended the programme already know when the first Czech film was made, who starred in it and where it was screened and who lost money on that and many other things. The programme consisted of a playful introduction, the screening of a fairy tale, and a film workshop with a focus on pre-cinematographic inventions. The interesting programme had been prepared by <u>Free Cinema</u> – a platform for film education.





FILM EDUCATION FOR SCHOOLS

Friday 6 April at 9:00, Lucerna cinema – Big Hall, Vodičkova 36, Prague 1 Tuesday 10 April at 9:00, Světozor cinema – Big Hall, Vodičkova 41, Prague 1

Those pedagogues who wished to enrich education with a high-quality film and wanted to inspire their pupils to make them interested in culture took advantage of our offer of screenings for schools this year. After the screenings of films, there was a related programme in the form of a lecture about the relation between film and literature. The lecture was tailored to the age of students and used a number of examples from the current popular culture. The programme had been prepared by <u>Free Cinema</u> – a platform for film education

Friday 6 April at 9:00, Lucerna cinema

<u>ON CHESIL BEACH</u>, United Kingdom, 2017, 105 minutes, directed by Dominic Cooke, English with Czech subtitles

The story of Edward and Florence, a couple who loved each other in spite of their different origins. A film based on the eponymous literary masterpiece by Ian McEwan.

Tuesday 10 April at 9:00, Světozor cinema

MARY SHELLEY, Ireland, United Kingdom, USA, 2017, 120 minutes, directed by Haifaa Al Mansour, English with Czech subtitles

A film about the romance between the poet Percy Shelley and the eighteen-year-old Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin who became the author of the legendary work, Frankenstein.





CINEMA 2018

Thursday 12 April at 9:30 – 15:30, MONO FONO, Jungmannova 15, Prague 1

A seminar for cinema operators, distributors and other film professionals. Anyone who presents films in a cinema, at a festival or online thinks about how to get them to the audience in an even better way, how to reach the existing viewers or how to acquire new ones. The seminar offered inspiration for both offline and online projects – be it presentation of various types of films, online presentation of a cinema, or using data for catering to the audience. PRESENTATION OF THE NEW CINEMA PROJECT 2018-2019. A two-year project titled New Cinema 2018-2019 is designed for cinema operators and ten Czech or Slovak cinemas, selected according to projects to be submitted by them, can participate in it each year. The seminars take place at three major festivals where the participants learn about how to work

with different types of films. All seminars include presentations of the participants, which are open to the public as part of the Industry Programmes, as well as detailed analyses of the numbers of viewers going to see various types of films in Czech cinemas. In the part dealing with European film, actual data were used to show the participants that viewers go to cinemas to see European films and that screening such films is worthwhile.

WHAT DO I KNOW ABOUT MY VIEWERS AND HOW CAN I USE IT? Does your cinema have a website and is it present on social networks? What can you learn from them about your viewers and how to work with that further? Do you want to use these data as an effective tool for catering to your audience and for promoting the films your cinema will screen? Ben Johnson, a reputable online marketing expert, gave the participants an insight into these topics and more. Case studies of actual cinemas, questions and discussions were also included.

Organised by: Days of European Film, Creative Europe Desk – MEDIA and Digital Cinema





	DANS EXAMPSIÓN FOLMO	
	KINO 2018 Seminář pro kinaře, distributory a další filmové profesionály. čtvrtek 12. dubna 2018, 9:30-15:30 hodin, MONO FONO, Jungmannova 15, Praha 1 Každý, kdo uvádí filmy v kině, na festivalu nebo on-line, přemýšlí, jak je ještě lépe dostat k divákům, jak oslovit ty stávající anebo získat nové. Nabízíme Vám inspiraci pro offline i online projekty – ať už jde o uvádění různých typů filmů, on-line prezentaci kina nebo o využití dat pro práci s diváky.	
	Dvouletý projekt Nové kino 2018-2019 je určený pro provozovatele kin a každý rok se ho může účastnit deset českých nebo slovenských kin vybraných na základě předložených projektů. Semináře budou probíhat na třech zásadních festivalech, kde se účastnící budou seznamovat s prací s jednotlivými typy filmů. Součástí všech seminářů bude veřejně přistupná prezentace účastníků v rámci industry programů, nebo podrobné analýzy návštěvnosti různých typů filmů v českých kinech. V části určené evropskému filmu Vám na reálných datech ukážeme, že diváci na evropské filmy chodí a že má smysl je uvádět. Dv Vím O SVÝCH DIVÁCÍCH A JAK TO MOHU VYUŽÍT? Má Vaše kino web a sociální sítě? Co se z nich dozvíte o svých divácích a jak s tím dále pracovat? Choete využívat tato data, jako účinný nástroj práce s diváky a k propagaci filmů, které bude Vaše kino uvádět? Těmito a datším tématy vás provede Ben Johnson, uznávaný odborník na on-line marketing. Případové studie reálných kin, dotazy, diskuse.	
	PROGRAM09:30 - 10:00Snídaně10:00 - 10:20Představení projektu Nové kino 2018-201910:20 - 11:15Prezentace účastníků projektu Nové kino 2018-201911:15 - 11:50Evropský film v českých kinech11:50 - 12:30Oběd12:30 - 13:15Co vím o svých divácích a jak to mohu využít? 1. část13:15 - 13:30Přestávka13:30 - 14:30Co vím o svých divácích a jak to mohu využít? 2. část14:30 - 15:30Networking	
AXOCOM	Učast prosim potvrdte na e-mail: media@kreativnievropa.cz	N O
C Česká televize	TYDEN MINStinkt ADDA CINEMA EXPRESEM	s.cz





EUROPEAN HOUSE CINEMA

Wednesday 11 April at 9:00, European House, Jungmannova 24, Prague 1

<u>THE KIDNAPPING OF MICHEL HOUELLEBECQ</u>, France, 2014, 92 minutes, directed by Guillaume Nicloux, French with English and Czech subtitles. Who kidnapped the well-known writer? The screening was free of charge.

Michel Houellebecq is a well-known literary provocateur, cynic and pessimist. His novels are best-sellers in many countries. For some people, his books are just low-brow literature; for others, the author is a caustic satirist criticising the vices and nihilism of the modern society. In September 2011, media published a report that the author had been kidnapped. It was unclear by whom or why. Was it a planned crime or just the author's voluntary disappearance from the stage? Houellebecq himself offered no explanation after his reappearance. *The Kidnapping of Michel Houellebecq* is a peculiar reconstruction of events, a game with the audience and a deliberate provocation – just like his books. Michel Houellebecq himself plays the lead role. Awards: 2014 Tribeca FF: Judging Panel's Award for the Best Script.

EUROPEAN HOUSE GALLERY

From 7 March to 12 April, European House, Jungmannova 24, Prague 1

The European Parliament Information Office in the Czech Republic organised an exhibition of festival posters titled "25 YEARS WITH EUROPEAN FILM", which took place in the European House.

The price of the tickets to DEF screenings in Prague and Brno was **CZK 110.** The ticket price of **CZK 55** + a screening for seniors at Lucerna was prepared **for seniors**. Tickets to all films could be purchased **online**. Tickets could also be booked over the telephone or by e-mail. The audience was able to find all the information on the programme, its changes, ticket prices, etc., on our website. **The DEF catalogue** was available in all cinemas and from partners of the festival **for free**.

Marija Petrinjac and Hana Kovačević are the authors of the concept, graphic design and jingle of the 25th annual edition of DEF. "25 years in the life of a person seem like an eon. DEF is celebrating 25 years right now so let it shine like a neon sign! This year's poster evoked a walk around a city at dusk, the hustle and bustle of which inherently includes cinemas with neon signs. Darkness and pulsating lights invite to exceptional experiences that will also be offered in the dark cinema halls by our festival celebrating a jubilee – the 25th DEF!"





25TH DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM POSTER





n keeping with tradition, Lukáš Rumlena (Cabaret Caligula, <u>www.kabaretcaligula.com</u>) **hosted the ceremonial opening**.

Audience was able to find the detailed DEF programme for each town, the list and descriptions of sections, a catalogue for download, photographs, news, information on ticket sale, information on special events, etc. at <u>www.dnyevropskehofilmu.cz</u> and on the <u>FB</u> page of the 25th Days of European Film. We have continued the trend that more energy is spent on and attention is paid to the presentation on the Web and social networks rather than to extensive printed materials. Just like in the previous years, the campaign on social networks was based mainly on the up-to-date information on the most important parts of the programme, important dates, special events and related programme. We have witnessed a fairly large inflow of new FB users who included the DEF profile among their favourite pages. As a result, FB DEF is followed by approximately 2,500 users.



The cinemas were sold out for a number of films. More than 1,000 tickets were sold in pre-sale. The total number of viewers exceeded 12,000.





Days of European Film can offer a high-quality programme only thanks to the support from the following institutions, organisations and individuals:

THE FESTIVAL TOOK PLACE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF **THE CZECH CULTURE MINISTER ILJA ŠMÍD, THE REPRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC, ADRIANA KRNÁČOVÁ – THE LORD MAYOR OF THE CAPITAL CITY OF PRAGUE, PETR VOKŘÁL – THE LORD MAYOR OF THE STATUTORY CITY OF BRNO, AND OLDŘICH LOMECKÝ – THE MAYOR OF THE CITY DISTRICT OF PRAGUE 1** / IT WAS ORGANISED BY THE **EMBASSIES AND CULTURAL INSTITUTES OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND BY THE REPRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC** / WITH THE SUPPORT OF **THE STATE CINEMATOGRAPHY FUND, THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, THE CAPITAL CITY OF PRAGUE, THE STATUTORY CITY OF BRNO, AND THE CITY DISTRICT OF PRAGUE 1**.

The audience would not have been aware of the film festival, if there were not for the media partners who raised awareness of the 25th DEF among many cinema goers:

THE MAIN PARTNER WAS THE **AXOCOM** MEDIA COMPANY/ THE MAIN MEDIA PARTNER WAS **THE CZECH TELEVISION** / THE MEDIA PARTNERS WERE **TÝDEN, INSTINKT, ČSFD.CZ, JOJ CINEMA, EXPRES FM, MŇAM TV, EXPATS.CZ** AND **PROTIŠEDI.CZ**

The coverage of DEF in the media is collected by the partner company **NEWTON Media** and it is published on the festival's website at <u>www.eurofilmfest.cz</u> and available for reference to all organising embassies and cultural institutes, main co-organisers and other partner institutions.

We greatly value the many-year collaboration with our loyal partners who have been significantly supporting the festival from the very beginning as well as the collaboration with our new partners who trust European cinema. It is only thanks to the support from these partners that we can offer a high-quality programme, which is then appreciated by the audience in Czech cinemas.

On behalf of the team of Days of European Film

WANT WI

Barbora Golatová, Director June 2018

