

24. DSEF

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FINAL PRESS RELEASE OF THE 24TH DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM

Prague, 6 – 13 April (Lucerna, Světozor, Royal and Kino Pilotů cinemas)
Brno. 14 – 17 April (Scala cinema)

Echoes took place in the following towns and on the following dates:
Boskovice (18 – 20 April 2017), **Jablonec nad Nisou** (18 – 23 April 2017),
Hodonín (18 – 20 April 2017), **Semily** (18 – 21 April 2017),
Hradec Králové (19 – 21 April 2017), **Havířov** (20 – 23 April 2017)



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For 24 years, Days of European Film have offered Czech viewers the selection of the most interesting films of the current European cinema, thus supplementing the offer of European films in Czech cinemas. This year, DEF screened a total of 49 films from all over Europe, divided into programme sections according to their themes. In addition to traditional film sections, some new ones were also introduced. The music section titled Film & Music was a special section of this year's festival, which, besides documentaries, included the new musical film by John Carney (*Once*). Special events included the *Film Flavour* screenings, offering a culinary experience based on a specially prepared menu in addition to a film. All sections were tailored to this year's annual edition of the festival in order to reflect the current trends in the contemporary European cinema. The films were presented in the Lucerna, Světozor, Royal and Kino Pilotů cinemas in Prague in a total of 70 screenings. There were 10 screenings in Brno in the Scala cinema and 33 screenings in the towns where Echoes took place. Most of the feature films were produced in the last two years and a number of the films received awards at major national and international film festivals. The films were screened in their original language versions with Czech and English subtitles.

OPENING OF DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM

The festival was opened by the Spanish film *Smoke & Mirrors* by the director Alberto Rodríguez on 6 April. This suspenseful spy film received a number of awards, including the Silver Shell at the San Sebastián Film Festival for the best acting performance in a leading role for Eduard Fernández and the Feroz Zinemaldia Award for the best film. The Goya Award for the best adapted screenplay should also be mentioned. Zdeněk Blaha, the festival programmer, commented on the screening of this film: "This suspenseful political-spy thriller is an addition to the director's previous work, particularly the thrillers *Unit 7* and *Marshland*, which attracted huge attention from the audience at DEF last year. The story based on true events shows a big corruption scandal of the 1990s and the related series of frauds and abductions orchestrated by a single person: Francisco Paesa. His part was absolutely excellently played by Eduard Fernández who is well-known in our country, too."



Lukáš Ruml, the host, and Barbora Golatová, the DEF Director, at the ceremonial opening



Lukáš Ruml, Eliška Fuchsova Kaplicky, a film producer, and Barbora Golatová in the Residence of the Lord Mayor of the Capital City of Prague

CZECH CO-PRODUCTIONS AND OTHER GUESTS OF THE FESTIVAL

DEF screened three films, which were co-produced by Czech producers under a minority co-production scheme. DEF presented the opening night of a film titled *The Chronicles of Melanie* by the screenwriter and director Viesturs Kairišs who was a guest of the festival along with the Czech producer Julietta Sichel. The film is distributed by Bontonfilm in the Czech Republic. Another film was *Ministry of Love* by the director Pav Marinković. Together with him, the actor Slobodan Milovanović and the sound engineers Ludvik Bohadlo and Jan Paul visited the festival in person. The Czech-Slovak film *Little Harbour* by Iveta Grófová was also presented in personal presence of its creators. This film received the Crystal Bear Award at the Berlin International Film Festival, given by a panel of judges composed of children within the Generation Kplus section. The film was personally presented by Iveta Grófová, the director. The films *Ministry of Love* and *Little Harbour* are distributed by CinemArt in the Czech Republic. *Yallah! Underground* was presented by the director Farid Eslam. Distribution in the Czech Republic is carried out by Stray Dogs.

Other guests of the festival included Giancarlo Soldi, an Italian director. He personally presented his documentary *Five Wor(L)ds*, a film that reveals the artistic worlds of five major Italian creators who have all received the golden Oscar statues. Last but not the least, the jazz musician Günter "Baby" Sommer who is the protagonist of the music documentary *Als Mensch ein Solist* also made an appearance. The audience was able to attend his concert in the Royal club on Saturday 8 April.



Mr. Juan José Sanz Aparicio from
Embassy of Spain in Prague with his wife



The Italian director Giancarlo Soldi
with his wife at the screening
of the *Five Wor(L)ds*

PROGRAMME SECTIONS

DEF presented the most interesting works offered by European cinema recently and screened 49 European films divided into both traditional and new sections.

Best of / In the selection of the delicacies of European cinema, the audience was able to look forward to the Greek film ***Chevalier***, directed by Athina Rachel Tsangari. It is a peculiar film written by the most prominent contemporary Greek screenwriter Efthymis Filippou who regularly cooperates with Yorgos Lanthimos. Another distinctive film in this section was ***Me and Kaminski***, a new film by Wolfgang Becker, the author of *Good Bye, Lenin!*, once again with Daniel Brühl in the leading role. The last year's big winner of the Spanish Goya film awards, ***Truman*** by the director Cesc Gay, was also presented. It is an optimistic film about a profound friendship between two men in a difficult situation. DEF presented the opening night of the drama titled ***Graduation***. The film is about compromises, personal morality and the essence of parenthood. Cristian Mungiu received the Best Director award for this film in Cannes in 2016. Aerofilms is distributing this film, which opened in Czech cinemas on the date of its opening night at DEF.

To the Point / A traditional section prepared in cooperation with the Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic focused on children and adolescents this year. What are the European children of today like? How do they think? What do they expect from life? What is troubling them? In his new film ***Being 17***, André Téchiné captures the fragility of growing up by telling a story of two adolescent boys from a small town in France. On the opening day of DEF, the distribution (by Artcam) of the documentary ***Kinders*** in the Czech Republic was launched. This film gives us a look into a musical camp where children open up about the problems that trouble them as well as about their plans and visions for the future in a way that will put a smile on the audience's faces.

MEDIA - contemporary European animation / The MEDIA section summarised the forms of the contemporary European animation over several past years. The viewers were offered not only older films such as ***The Illusionist*** or ***The Suicide Shop*** but also the latest film ***The Red Turtle***. Adults were able to find something to enjoy such as the animated documentary ***Crulic - The Path to Beyond*** and so were the smallest children for whom films such as ***Paddington*** and ***Shaun the Sheep Movie*** were screened.

€Docs / At this year's festival, documentaries fitting for the large screen were represented, among others, by ***Safari***, the latest film by Ulrich Seidl, an Austrian documentarist with a feeling for bizarre situations. The documentary ***Nice People*** about the first Somalian national team competing in a Swedish winter sport called bandy, which is similar to ice-hockey, reminded of the legendary *Cool Runnings*. No film connoisseur missed the film ***Five Wor(L)ds***, in which leading Italian directors Roberto Benigni, Bernardo Bertolucci, Gabriele Salvatores, Paolo Sorrentino and Guiseppe Tornatore speak about their love for film.

Film & Music / The Film & Music section was a special section of this year's annual edition of the festival. Besides documentaries, it also included *Sing Street*, a new musical film by John Carney (*Once*), which is a comedy about growing up in Dublin in the 1980s, and a French co-produced film *As I Open My Eyes* by Leyla Bouzid who captures the dark period in Tunisia shortly before the revolution, which came with the Arab Spring, in a story of a young female singer.

LUX Film Prize / This year, too, there was a presentation of the finalists of the European Parliament LUX Film Prize, including the absolute winner, the German bitter comedy *Toni Erdmann*.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Film Flavour / **Thursday 13 April 2017 and Saturday 15 April 2017 at 19:00, Royal cinema, Vinohradská 48, Praha 2.**

Days of European Film and recognised Prague chefs brought screenings inspired by the **Cinema Cuisine** trend in a special section called **Film Flavour**. The concept of Cinema Cuisine consists in combining the screening of a film and a culinary experience. On the unique premises of Royal cinema, a **pop-up restaurant** was set up whose menu corresponded to the theme and settings of the film. The price of 500 CZK per person included a delicious three-course menu, wine, water and a film.

LIKE CRAZY

AND THE COLORFUL ITALIAN MENU

Thursday 13 April 2017, 19:00, Royal cinema.

The unique experience of cinema cuisine was brought to you by the Italian chef Alex Facchin.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1132452630217831/>



THE RED TURTLE

AND THE SWEET FRENCH MENU

Saturday 15 April 2017, 19:00, Royal cinema.

The three-course menu was prepared by Mohammed Saouchi, aka "Momo", the chef of the French bistro Café 35.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/384588061934177/>



Film & Jazz / Saturday 8 April 2017, 19:00, Royal cinema.

The programme combining a film and musical experience was one of the main representatives of the Film & Music festival section. A price of 300 CZK per person included the screening of the film *Als Mensch ein Solist* about the legendary jazz musician **Günter Baby Sommer**, his concert, wine and water.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1672624906367450/>



The Director of Goethe-Institut Berthold Franke, DEF Director Barbora Golatová and Tomáš Fridrich from Goethe-Institut



Concert of the Günter Baby Sommer after screening of the film

Animation workshop for children / Monday 10 April 2017, 9:00, Kino Pilotů; entry fee was 70 CZK.

***Song of the Sea* /** A gorgeously animated world of Celtic mythology and potent narrative about the power of love between mother and siblings has caused the director to be compared to the masters of animated film and earned him his second Oscar nomination. Director: Tomm Moore / Ireland, 2014 / 93 minutes / Czech dubbing

Animation workshop for adults / Monday 10 April 2017, 13:30, Lucerna - Big Hall; entry fee was 110 CZK; discount for senior citizens was 55 CZK.

***The Red Turtle* /** A magical motion picture without words, understandable to all generations across all continents received the Prix Spécial in the Un Certain Regard category of the Cannes Film Festival and was the Japanese cult studio Ghibli's first European co-production. Director: Michaël Dudok de Wit / France, 2016 / 80 min / animated film / silent film

The screening of the two films was followed by an animation workshop. Animation is as old as the mankind itself. Even prehistoric people tried to paint the walls of their caves, capturing the movement of a mammoth by drawing it with eight feet. How does animation work? Can we make our own moving pictures at home? What would we need to do so? All these questions were answered by experts from the Free Cinema training and talent platform. A visitor was able to try out everything by himself/herself.



Animation workshop for children and adults

Screening for schools / Friday 7 April 2017, 9:00, Lucerna – Big Hall; entry fee was 60 CZK.

Kinders / This documentary follows several children and teens from various family backgrounds and cultures as they encounter life's difficult, confusing, joyful, even bitter moments. They are all part of the ((superar)) educational music programme, which helps turn social outsiders into young, self-confident people who, through music, learn to recognise their own hidden potential. An enjoyable documentary about children, their daily struggles and their journey to adulthood. Directors: Arash T. Riahi, Arman T. Riahi / Austria, 2016 / 95 min / documentary / German with Czech subtitles. Short animated films were screened before the film to support the learning of the German language.

Evropský dům cinema / Monday 10 April 2017, 19:00, Evropský dům, Jungmannova 24, Praha 1. The screening was for free.

Train to Adulthood / Far from the turmoil of modern Hungary, three youngsters work on the Budapest Children's Railway. The train becomes a metaphor for discussing modern-day Hungary, and offers insights into the thoughts and feelings of the young generation who will soon be responsible for the fate of all of us.

Cinema 2017 / Seminar for cinema exhibitors and film professionals, Wednesday 12 April 2017, 9:00-12:30, Hotel Luna, Kouty 77, 584 01, Ledec nad Sázavou.

Organised by: Creative Europe Desk - MEDIA, Digitální kino, APK and Days of European Film

Different options of financial support for cinema houses from the Czech Cinematography Fund, the Czech Ministry of Culture or the Creative Europe - MEDIA programme were presented during the seminar. New projects for making film projects accessible to deaf or blind audience were also presented.

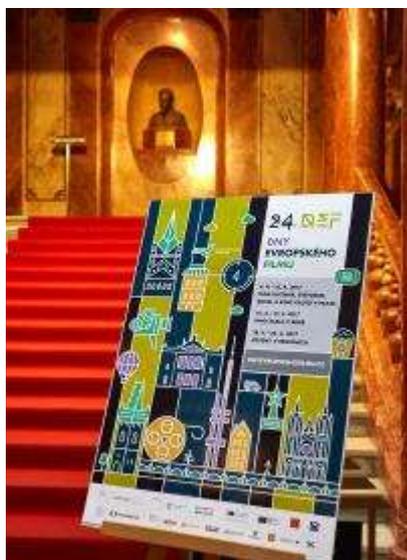
Film markets and co-production forums / A panel discussion for film professionals, Monday 10 April 2017, 9:30-13:00, French Institute in Prague, Štěpánská 35.

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

For several years, the goal of this panel discussion has been to support filmmakers in their international ambitions and to raise awareness about the markets and co-production forums as such. Besides presentations and appropriate strategies for submitting film projects, the panel discussion included important personal experience of Czech producers with selected markets and evaluation of such markets. Catherine Buresi was the main guest and presented the principles of appropriate strategies for international markets. Catherine Buresi has been working in European and international film industry with a focus on festivals, markets and co-production for more than 20 years.



Lecturers Catherine Buresi and Pavel Strnad



*DEF poster at the entrance
to the Lucerna cinema*



*DEF visual during a screening
in the Lucerna cinema*

The price of the tickets to DEF screenings in Prague and Brno was **110 CZK**. The ticket price of **55 CZK** + a screening for senior citizens at Lucerna was prepared **for senior citizens**. 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 at www.eurofilmfest.cz.

The DEF catalogue was available in all cinemas and from partners of the festival **for free**.

Marija Petrinjac and Hana Kovačević were the authors of the concept, graphic design and jingle of the 24th annual edition of DEF. This year, we drew inspiration for the visual design of the graphic aspects of the festival from the towns hosting DEF. We expressed our thanks to the towns and their residents for this in a colourful and playful manner.

POSTER OF THE 24TH DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM



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In keeping with tradition, Lukáš Ruml (Cabaret Caligula, www.kabaretcalgula.com) hosted the ceremonial opening.

The 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 special events, etc., on the website at www.eurofilmfest.cz and on the FB page at [FB](#) of the 24th Days of European Film. We continued the trend of spending more energy and paying more attention to the presentation on the website and social networks instead of extensive hardcopy materials. Just as in previous years, the campaign on social networks was based mostly on up-to-date information on the most important parts of the programme, important dates and special events. We registered a quite considerable increase of new FB users who included the DEF profile among their favourite pages. FB DEF is followed by more than 2,500 users. During the 14 days of the festival, we reached 5-9 thousand users on a daily basis.



The auditorium of the Lucerna cinema full of viewers



Press conference of the 24th DEF

**A number of films were sold out.
More than 2,000 tickets were sold in presale.
The total attendance was more than 14,000 viewers.**

“Either you love European film or you do not know it properly. Come next year, too, to get to know European filmmakers through the selection of the best that they have made in recent years.”

Your Days of European Film

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

THE FESTIVAL TOOK PLACE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CZECH CULTURE MINISTER DANIEL HERMAN, THE REPRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC, ADRIANA KRNÁČOVÁ, THE LORD MAYOR OF THE CAPITAL CITY OF PRAGUE, AND OLDŘICH LOMECKÝ, THE MAYOR OF THE CITY DISTRICT OF PRAGUE 1 / 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 MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, THE STATE CINEMATOGRAPHY FUND, THE CAPITAL CITY OF PRAGUE, THE INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND THE CITY DISTRICT OF PRAGUE 1

The audience would not have known about the film festival if there were not for the media partners who made many cinema goers aware of the 24th DEF:

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 responses to DEF in the media are collected by the partner company **NEWTON Media** and they are published in an extensive brochure which is sent to all the embassies and cultural institutions, main co-organisers and other partner institutions involved in organisation of the festival.

We greatly appreciate the many-year cooperation with our loyal partners who have significantly supported the festival from the very beginning as well as our new partners who trust European film. It is only thanks to the support from these partners that we are able to 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

Barbora Golatová, Director
June 2017

