



New Czech films to be screened at Prague IFF – Febiofest

The 28th Prague IFF – Febiofest, which will take place on 17-24 September, will present the very best of contemporary cinema, including four Czech and one Czech co-produced films. This year's programme will feature Rudolf Havlík's **A Minute of Eternity** (Minuta věčnosti) starring popular Czech actor Jiří Langmajer, Emil Křížka's genre film **Breaking Point** (Hrana zlomu), Olga Malířová Špátová's feature-length documentary **Karel**, which opens up a unique window into the private life of iconic Czech singer Karel Gott, and the Czech-Swiss coproduction **Lost In Paradise** directed by Fiona Ziegler. The fourth Czech film to be shown at the festival – in world premiere – is still being kept a secret.

A Minute of Eternity

Director and screenwriter Rudolf Havlík travelled to Iceland to shoot the intimate adventurous drama A Minute of Eternity in the extreme conditions of Iceland's wild nature. The two protagonists are played by Jiří Langmajer and Martina Babišová. *„There is also a third main character in the film: the Icelandic landscape. Iceland's nature is unique, wild and raw. The inland is full of lava fields, geysers, waterfalls and glaciers, but also meadows and mountain ranges tinted with colours unlike anywhere else in the world, thanks to the specific climate,”* Rudolf Havlík said about the film.

Petr, an introverted and taciturn man, is a renowned heart surgeon, whose 21-year-old daughter Lucie has a congenital heart condition. Her father decides to operate on her himself. After the surgery, they decide to take an adventurous trip to Iceland together. Lucie had been mostly out of touch with her father, still unhappy about the fact he left her mother. Here they finally have the time and space to reconnect – until Lucie collapses in the middle of Icelandic wilderness. Doubts creep in, and the line between reality and fiction starts becoming blurry: has Petr made a mistake somewhere? Was the surgery really a success, as he had thought? Have Petr and Lucie really gone on an expedition to a faraway land? For the first time in his life, Petr finds himself in a situation he is not in control of, forcing him to undergo a tough battle with his own conscience and consciousness to figure out what really happened and how he got to this place.

Breaking Point

Balancing on the border line between horror and thriller, Breaking Point is the feature-length directorial debut by Emil Křížka, who previously made waves at a number of genre festivals with his short horror film Ruchoth Raoth. Intellectually disabled protagonist Viktor is played by Štěpán Kozub, whose performance in Křížka's previous film won him an award at an independent horror film festival in Los Angeles in 2018. Breaking Point is produced by Vratislav Šlajer and Jakub Košťál from the production company Bionaut, who are also the dramaturges for the Planet Dark programme section at the 28th Prague IFF – Febiofest.

Kateřina, stuck in an unhappy marriage with cold and indifferent Robert, has been gathering the courage to leave him. The situation comes to a head when Robert finds his wife with another man after coming home early from a business trip. This could present a way out for Kateřina, but Robert refuses to let her go. The circumstances change completely when Robert and their daughter Sára are both seriously injured in a car accident; the abusive mother of



disabled Viktor is killed in the same accident, bringing the two stories together – and finally releasing Viktor, who had never had the strength to stand up to his mother, from her tyrannical rule. However, his disturbed mind brings another twist to the drama: upon finding a photo of Kateřina in Robert's wallet, Viktor concludes that it should be her who pays for his mother's death.

Karel

Feature-length documentary **Karel** offers a unique look into the private life of iconic Czech singer Karel Gott. Renowned director Olga Malířová Špátová filmed Gott over the course of a full year, and thanks to his openness, honesty, and humour, created an unusually intimate window to the life of the legendary singer – one that the public, including his most faithful fans, has never had before.

Far from being an overview of Gott's undisputed talent and successes as a singer, the film instead comes in exactly at the point where fame ends. Under the surface of the phenomenal, iconic, award-adorned singer, Olga Malířová Špátová's camera uncovers the passionate painter, loving husband and father Karel, showing him not only at performances and fan meetings in the Czech Republic and Germany, but mainly in his home environments: in Prague, at his cottage, or in the village of his childhood. Through the film, the singer traces back his life to all those places which were important to him. He reveals what's behind the scenes of his huge concerts, but also his family life and his otherwise carefully, humbly protected privacy.

Lost In Paradise

Partly autobiographic, the feature debut by Fiona Ziegler – the first ever Czech-Swiss co-production – is inspired by her own experience of life between two different worlds. Protagonist Evžen is played by director and actor Ivan Pokorný, who has himself spent part of his life as an emigrant in Austria and Germany. Other cast members are Czech and Swiss personalities Dominique Jann, Hana Vagnerová, Andri Schenardi, Vratislav Brabenec, Matyáš Řezníček, and Robert Nebřenský, among others.

Born and raised in Switzerland, thirty-something Evžen decides to leave the world of Swiss bourgeoisie, which his bohemian personality never truly fit into. He moves to Prague, which his father left after the Soviet invasion to Czechoslovakia, never to return; for him, Prague belongs to a long-forgotten history, and his main worries are his good reputation and prospering dental clinic in Bern. Despite his adult age, standing up to his father is not easy for Evžen, but he does open a music club in Prague, as he had dreamt; he also meets his great love there – as well as his great misfortune – and it seems that in the end, he might have to make one more visit to Switzerland after all.

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