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Over 150 films presented at 26th Prague International Film Festival - Febiofest, most in Czech premiere

This year's Prague International Film Festival – Febiofest took place from 21 to 29 March in Prague and from 1 to 18 April in regions throughout the Czech Republic. Across almost 50 screening days there were more than 500 screenings of 154 films, 135 of which were receiving their Czech premiere. A total of 69 500 viewers attended the festival.

During the 26th edition of Prague IFF - Febiofest the Kristián statutory award for contribution to cinema was presented four times. At the gala opening at Prague's Municipal House on 21 March a Kristián was accepted by Czech actress **Jiřina Bohdalová**, while the prize, for lifelong contribution to world cinema, was also presented, via a representative, to US actor **Peter Fonda**. Following a three-day stay in Prague during which he personally introduced his new film *A Fortunate Man* and gave a public master class, the Oscar-winning Danish director **Bille August** received a Kristián on Thursday 28 March. At the closing ceremony the award was bestowed on Czech director **Jiří Menzel** and collected by his wife **Olga Menzelová**.

The winner of the festival's New Europe competition section, selected by a jury headed by photographer **Jan Saudek**, was the Slovak film *By a Sharp Knife* from director **Teodor Kuhn**. The makers walked away with a prize of EUR 5,000 for the moving drama about a man forced to seek justice himself after his son has been murdered by neo-Nazis. The picture, which triumphed over nine other works by European debut directors, received a Czech cinema release on 25 April via distribution company Bontonfilm.

Also presented was the Amnesty International Febiofest Award, which went to *The Load* by Serbian director **Ognjen Glavonić**. His debut explores the still topical theme of the former Yugoslavia's recent past. The jury, which considered seven competition films focused on human rights issues, included actor **Petr Vacek**, Danish director **Isabella Eklöf** and **Petr Benda** of Amnesty International.

The winner of the You're the Filmmaker amateur category was **Filip Rzepka** with his short *World of Actors*. Second place went to **Jan Paul** for *Cohera* and **Martin Studnický** finished third with *The Fools*. The school teams category was won by the duo **Darek Husták** and **Jakub Syrovátka** with *Don't Believe Everything You See on the Internet*, second were **Jan Ryba**, **Filip Lizner** and **Ondřej Veselý** with *Moment of Truth* and third place went to **Adam Závěrka** and **Stanislav Nacár** for *Be Online*. The competition's partner was O2 Czech Republic and the prizes were handed out by **Marie Mališková**, O2's social responsibility and sponsoring manager.

The opening film of the 26th Prague IFF – Febiofest was **David Lowery's** *The Old Man & The Gun*, which is built on an excellent performance by US actor **Robert Redford**.



26TH PRAGUE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
PRAGUE 21. - 29. 3. 2019 / REGIONS 1. 4. - 18. 4. 2019

This closing film was *Stan & Ollie*, a biopic of the comedy duo **Stan Laurel** and **Oliver Hardy** directed by **Jon S. Baird**. It brought the festival to an end both in Prague on 28 March and, as part of the regional edition of the festival, at Zlín's Golden Apple Cinema on 18 April.

During 49 screening days in Prague and the regions more than 500 screenings took place (over 400 in Prague and almost 100 in regional cities and towns). The festival showcased a total of 154 films, of which 110 were not destined for Czech distribution and 44 could subsequently be seen at cinemas in the country. Of the total number, 135 were getting their Czech premiere. **Tepp Airaksinen's** *The Ragged Life of Juice Leskinen* received its world premiere at Prague IFF - Febiofest.

The festival played host to more than 120 eminent filmmakers. Some 66 came from abroad, while 55 domestic directors and actors were also in attendance. Another 22 film professionals took part in the Film Industry Days sidebar. French actor and director **Louis Garrel** made perhaps the biggest impression after coming to introduce his film *A Faithful Man*, which entered cinemas in the Czech Republic on 4 April, distributed by Film Europe.

Over 170 discussions with filmmakers, introductory talks, master classes and moderated debates took place within the festival. The festival's most popular films were *Mia and the White Lion*, *Mirai*, *The Aftermath*, *At Eternity's Gate*, *The Old Man & The Gun*, *Can You Ever Forgive Me?*, *Boy Erased*, *The White Crow* and *Free Solo*.

Regional versions of the Prague IFF – Febiofest took place between 1 and 18 April 2019 in 14 Czech cities and towns: České Budějovice, Hradec Králové, Plzeň, Beroun, Jihlava, Ostrava, Mikulov, Kladno, Liberec, Děčín, Olomouc, Uherské Hradiště, Chomutov, Zlín. The opening ceremony of Febiofest in the regions took place at DK Metropol in České Budějovice while the closing was held, as is traditional, at the Golden Apple Cinema in Zlín on 18 April.

The 27th Prague International Film Festival – Febiofest will be held in Prague from 19 to 27 March 2020.

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