



## **27<sup>TH</sup> Prague International Film Festival – Febiofest taking place in September at new venue**

Just days before its opening, the Prague International Film Festival – Febiofest was ruled out by the coronavirus crisis. However, the organisers never gave up on the idea of a physical 27<sup>th</sup> edition in 2020. In the end the popular festival will begin, with a modified programme, on 18 September when it will get underway at a closed screening with a gala pre-premiere of the documentary *Karel*. The closing film remains the latest work by Japanese Cannes winner Hirokazu Kore-eda, *The Truth* starring Catherine Deneuve and Juliette Binoche. As well as its dates, the Prague IFF – Febiofest has also changed its main venue, which is now Cinema City Slovanský dům. Screenings will also take place at the cinemas Ponrepo, Edison FilmHub and, for the first time, Kino Pilotů. Regional versions of the festival will begin in Liberec on 22 September and end in Zlín on 8 October, also visiting in between České Budějovice, Ostrava, Děčín and Beroun.

Naturally the Prague IFF – Febiofest team are monitoring developments as regards the health situation. Visitors can find all information concerning Covid-19 measures on the festival's website, which will be regularly updated. The current situation precludes inviting many guests, so planned profiles of the directors Hirokazu Kore-eda, Atom Egoyan and Oren Moverman have been put back until next year. The popular Culinary Cinema section will also return in 2021. However, honorary Kristián prizes are still being presented to two major names in Czechoslovak cinema, Iva Janžurová and Milan Lasica. Screenings of *Morgiana*, *Boarding House for Bachelors* and *Ene Bene* will remind viewers of Iva Janžurová's acting prowess, while Milan Lasica will introduce the timeless fairy tale *The Three Veterans*.

### **Opening film**

The 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the Prague IFF – Febiofest will get underway with the pre-premiere of the film *Karel* by director Olga Malířová Špátová. The feature-length documentary delivers a unique insight into the private life and soul of Karel Gott. Shooting took place across a whole year and thanks to the famous singer's frankness and openness gave rise to an intimate look at his life. Gott's renowned sense of humour isn't lacking either. The makers captured him not just on stage and in encounters with fans in this country and in Hamburg, but above all in a domestic setting. In the film the late singer takes us behind the scenes of his concerts but also into his family and private life, which he always did his utmost to guard.

### **Closing film**

The festival will close on 24 September with *The Truth* by the Japanese master Hirokazu Kore-eda. The film, which premiered at the Venice IFF last autumn, stars last year's Kristián laureate Catherine Deneuve, French Oscar winner for *The English Patient* Juliette Binoche and US actor Ethan Hawke. Kore-eda has won numerous awards, most recently a Palme d'Or at Cannes in 2018 for his second last work *Shoplifters*.

### **Kristián award**

Czech actress Iva Janžurová and Slovak actor Milan Lasica will receive this actors' prize at the opening of the festival; the latter's screen talent will be showcased with a screening of *The Three Veterans*, while *Morgiana*, *Ene Bene* and *Boarding House for Bachelors* will be screened in tribute to Iva Janžurová.



## **Main Competition and Jury**

The five prestigious films in the Main Competition, including Ivan Ostrochovský's *Servants* from the Berlin IFF and *You Will Die at Twenty*, which won a best debut prize at Venice, will be evaluated by three Czech directors. Each of them will also introduce their own film at the festival: Beata Parkanová will present her debut *Moments*; Slávek Horák his new work *Havel*; and Jiří Mádl *The Play*, in which he stars.

## **Comedy Competition**

This year's edition, helmed by programme directors Marta Švecová Lamperová and Nikolaj Nikitin, includes the brand new Comedy Competition. It features seven entertaining art-house style pictures from various parts of the world, including *God Exists, Her Name is Petrunija*, which earned the European Parliament's LUX Prize, and *Eeb Allay Ooo!*, winner of the Mumbai Film Festival. The winner of the section, which opens with *Mossad* by director Alon Gur Arye, will be chosen by 33 selected film fans.

## **Ophüls, Busan and other sections**

Viewers won't miss out either on a retrospective of the iconic German director Max Ophüls, who made movies in Paris and Hollywood, a focus on the eminent South Korean Busan festival, or many other new works screened in Febiofest's traditional sections (Queer Now, Docs, Panorama, Generation, TV Now) and new ones (Eastern Delights, Planet Dark). In cooperation with the Girls in Film platform, Febiofest will showcase new works by upcoming female filmmakers. Amateur directors will show their shorts on the theme of the environment in the final of this year's edition of You're the Filmmaker.

Programme director Marta Švecová Lamperová takes a positive view of the fact fewer films will be screened than were planned for March. *"Less is more. It makes more sense to us. If we've got films at the festival, it's better to screen them repeatedly, to give them more space and to take care of them. I think that every film in our programme merits attention."*

## **Amnesty International to again bestow award for best human rights film**

During the festival the Czech branch of Amnesty International will again hand out an award for best human rights film: the Amnesty International Febiofest Award. *"We believe that upholding human rights is a subject that concerns the whole of society and that it's not possible to win the fight against injustice without the attention and pressure of society. Films have the power to highlight problems. Which raises the possibility of solving them. That's the very reason that Amnesty is a proud partner of the Prague International Film Festival – Febiofest,"* said the director of Amnesty International Czech Republic, Linda Sokačová, a member of this year's jury. It also includes Czech actress Hana Vágnerová and Czech documentary-filmmaker Klára Tasovská.

Competing in the section will be: *Los Lobos* (dir. Samuel Kishi Leopo), *Cook F\*\*k Kill* (dir. Mira Fornay), *Suk Suk* (dir. Ray Yeung), *Light for the Youth* (dir. Suwon Shin), *Son-Mother* (dir. Mahnaz Mohammadi), *Verdict* (dir. Raymund Ribay Gutierrez) and *Sole* (dir. Carlo Sironi).



**27. MEZINÁRODNÍ FILMOVÝ FESTIVAL PRAHA**  
**PRAHA 18.–25.09.2020**

## Festival passes

Viewers can use festival passes to access available tickets. Passes can be bought for three, five or eight days. Advance sales of passes and selection of tickets is possible from 9 September at the box office of Cinema City Slovanský dům or online at [www.febiofest.cz](http://www.febiofest.cz).

## Admission

Admission to individual screenings is CZK 115.

Festival passes cost CZK 799 for three days, CZK 1,099 for five days and CZK 1,699 for eight days.

With each ticket purchased viewers will receive a face mask and a ticket for the RONDO draw, via which they can take part in a competition for prizes worth CZK 15 million. For more information go to [www.febiofest.cz](http://www.febiofest.cz).

## Industry

In September the festival's Industry section will take place on one day, with the focus set to be Czech film on international markets – the challenges and opportunities. What are the key factors helping Czech producers succeed on the international market? How to win the attention of international audiences, festivals, TV stations and distributors? These and other issues will be discussed by experts from the Department of Film Studies at Charles University's Faculty of Arts and the Audiovisual Producers' Association.

## Culinary Cinema – film and dining evening

In view of the Covid situation, Culinary Cinema will take place for a closed group. It will feature only one special menu, created by chef Ondřej Koráb of Grand Hotel Pupp. A screening of the film *Le Chocolat de H.* will take place at Cinema City Slovanský dům before a four-course meal inspired by the film, including selected wines, is served at the adjacent Empire Hall. Traditional moderator **Jolana Voldánová** will host the evening. This special concept brings together the latest films with a unique culinary experience. The founders of Culinary Cinema are former Berlinale chief Dieter Kosslick and curator Thomas Struck. Kosslick is now programme consultant of the PIFF – Febiofest and is also the guarantor of this cinema-meets-dining evening. The main partner of Culinary Cinema is the company Potten & Pannen-Staněk Group and its Gourmet Academy.

## Charity partner NaFILM

The NaFILM museum's installations connect history with current technologies, meaning it has something to offer every generation. The original exhibits – not to be found anywhere else – create in the museum itself, for its own purposes, and the visitors can try them out and in so doing learn about film by experience. The museum houses not only the oldest projection devices, such as a magic lantern, but also a classic 35mm projector. The exhibition is complemented by over two hours of screenings of Czech and foreign films. Part of the museum includes a sound studio, where it is possible to create one's own sound recording, following the example of world-famous masters from the Barrandov studios, and the laboratory of J. E. Purkyně, for experimentation with vision. At the end of the visit, each visitor can make their own animated film, which they bring home from the museum.



**27. MEZINÁRODNÍ FILMOVÝ FESTIVAL PRAHA**  
**PRAHA 18.–25.09.2020**

### **Accompanying programme**

The accompanying programme will take place in the unique environment of the Savarin Garden, whose entrance is on Na Příkopě. Visitors can look forward to a rich programme of music, dance and, last but not least, a film accompanying programme. A pub quiz and You're the Filmmaker and Industry workshops will also be held there.

### **Special screenings**

The film *The Three Veterans*, directed in 1983 by Oldřich Lipský, will be shown in tribute to Milan Lasica. It is a classic Czech fairy tale filled with situational humour that is loved by children and adults alike. It also delivers a strong moral message. What is really important in a world filled with pride, treachery and avarice? The three veterans – Pankrác, Bimbác and Servác – must find out for themselves. Viewers can enjoy the film at Slovanský dům on 18 September at 16:30.

Also receiving a special screening will be the Czech picture *The Silent Partner*, an absurd tragicomedy with an excellent cast directed by Pavel Göbl. It features parallel stories involving several main characters that are linked by seemingly random synchronicity and original humour. Beneath the surface of the comic plot is a story about something more substantial and internal. However, one does not disturb the other, meaning the film is suitable for both lovers of contemporary cinema and intellectuals.

### **Family screenings**

The Prague IFF – Febiofest also bears the smallest viewers in mind. For them it has prepared a special animated programme about eternally hungry and inventive friends in *Hungry Bear Stories*. The Czech animated adventure series *Kosmix* will whisk curious children off to explore the universe. And the popular series *The Websters*, whose premiere screening is linked to a book launch, will entertain the entire family.

### **Festival in the regions**

As is traditional, the eight days of the festival in Prague will be followed by Febiofest's regional part. A selection of the festival's best films will visit regions throughout the country, accompanied in selected cities by a special Febiofest pub quiz. The regional section visits six cities, getting underway in Liberec on 22 September. The ceremonial closing will take place in Zlín on 8 October.

22.09. – 24.09.2020 Liberec

28.09. – 30.09.2020 České Budějovice

01.10. – 03.10.2020 Ostrava

04.10. – 06.10.2020 Děčín

05.10. – 07.10.2020 Beroun

06.10. – 08.10.2020 Zlín

Contact:

Helena Váňová – PR, + 420 602 408 355, [vanova@febiofest.cz](mailto:vanova@febiofest.cz),

MFF Prague – Febiofest, Růžová 13, Praha, 110 00

[www.febiofest.cz](http://www.febiofest.cz)



**febiofest.cz**