



11 May 2020, Prague

## **THE 27<sup>TH</sup> DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM WILL TAKE PLACE IN JUNE**

### **Praha, 16 – 21 June 2020**

(Lucerna cinema on 16 – 21 June, Světozor cinema and Kino Pilotů cinema on 17 – 21 June)

### **Ostrava, 19 – 21 June 2020**

(Minikino cinema)

### **Brno, 20 – 23 June 2020**

(Scala cinema on 22 – 23 June, Art cinema 20 – 21 June)

### **Festival Echoes, 16 – 23 June 2020**

Jablonec nad Nisou (Junior cinema on 16 – 18 June),

Haviřov (Centrum cinema on 18 – 21 June),

Hradec Králové (Bio Central cinema on 20 – 23 June),

Boskovice (Panorama cinema on 21 – 23 June),

Hodonín (Kino Svět cinema on 21 – 23 June), Červený Kostelec (Luník cinema on 23 June)

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**Days of European Film (DEF) will take place from 16 to 23 June. This means they will be the first film festival to be held in our cinemas after the loosening of governmental lockdown restrictions. As usual, the main part of the DEF programme will take place in Prague, Brno and, for the first time, in Ostrava. DEF will then move to another 6 towns in the Czech Republic in the form of Festival Echoes. DEF focuses exclusively on contemporary European cinema and will present 40 films from nearly 30 European countries in 2020. The programme is not oriented on specific countries – DEF presents European cinema based on topics and genres. Each programme section covers a broad range of topics, which is supposed to present European cinema as a living, surprising and, if possible, entertaining organism. In addition to the time-tested dramatic genres, this year's edition of DEF will also focus on sci-fi, horrors, avant-garde and documentaries. It offers award-winning animated movies, films for families with children as well as films made by old masters.**

*“I am happy that the audience is returning to cinemas today and I believe that the situation in our country will continue to develop as favourably as it has up until now. I am looking forward to the lockdown restrictions being loosened even more, which will hopefully allow us to carry out a nearly full-fledged annual edition of the festival in the second half of June. We will invite foreign guests to participate in discussions at least virtually, and besides that, we have prepared topic-specific debates with Czech environmentalists, travellers, economists, musicians, comedians, journalists and political scientists that will be held after screenings,”* says Barbora Golatová, the Festival Director.



The opening film of the festival is a ghost adventure *Extra Ordinary* – a female driving instructor must subdue a supernatural power expanding across rural Ireland. This debut by Mike Ahern and Enda Loughman playfully breaks down all genre boundaries, leaving behind an unprecedented comedic mess. This opening film, which received awards at many genre-specific sci-fi festivals, is a part of the new section titled **FEAR AND DREAMS**. In this section, DEF focuses on a mix of genres, excitement and emotional film experience. The audience will also be able to watch the raw German crime drama *Free Country* by Christian Alvar (Dogs of Berlin), a remake of Spanish *Marshland*, which was a hit with the audience during the 23<sup>rd</sup> DEF. In a preview, DEF will screen another Irish film, a horror film by Malgorzata Szumowska titled *The Other Lamb* (Film Europe) about a failed cult. *Ivana the Terrible* is the title of a Romanian-Croatian film where, in an energetic Balkan rhythm, a drama turns into an absurd comedy, in which the director Ivana Mladenović cast herself and her family.

In the traditional **STARS** section, DEF offers new films by recognised directors and films, which won at famous festivals. In a Czech premiere, incisive French political drama *Adults in the Room* by Costa-Gavras will be screened, which describes the recent Greek debt crisis through the eyes of the Minister of Finance Yanis Varoufakis. The Dutch psychological drama *Instinct* featuring Carice van Houten received the Piazza Grande Award in Locarno; the Bulgarian film *Father* won at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival. The Czech film *The Painted Bird* (Bioscop) was very successful at the Czech Lion Awards after participating in the Venice Film Festival. In a preview, DEF will present a new, visually compelling version of *Pinocchio* directed by the Italian director Matteo Garrone. The lead role in the film, which is distributed by Bohemia Motion Pictures in our country, is played by Roberto Benigni.

The **NO PARENTS** section is another new addition to the DEF programme and it will offer films suitable for children and teenagers. Besides *Pinocchio*, the former could be interested in the Czech premiere of a Latvian animated mystery film *Away*, which stands out with its hypnotic atmosphere without a single word. Last year, this film received the Contrechamp Award at the festival in Annecy. Stories for adolescents are represented by a Swedish film about a fragile summer-time friendship titled *The Unpromised Land*, which won at the festival in Zlín, as well as by films showing the life on social networks: the Italian *Likemeback* and the Hungarian *FOMO*.

In contrast, DEF traditionally follows the current events in Europe – the **TO THE POINT** section, this time with the subheading **INTO THE WILD**, underlines coexistence with Nature. It will present an Austrian reflection on the fate of animals used in experiments titled *Space Dogs*; the raw Norwegian documentary *Where Man Returns* will take the audience to the rough Nordic landscape, while the Slovenian *Stories from the Chestnut Woods* search for sentiment in a forsaken region near the Italian border. The film received the award for the best debut at the Black Nights Festival held in Tallinn. The Spanish arson drama *Fire Will Come* won in the Un certain regard section at the Cannes Festival.

DEF has also been exploring the combination of film and music for a long time. In the **FILM AND MUSIC** section, we will be able to see the revelatory Czech documentary *The Sound Is Innocent*. Live action films are represented by the eccentric Portuguese musical *Technoboss* or the British social drama *Ray and Liz* by the famous photographer Richard Billingham.



This year, same as every year, DEF will return several older films supported by the MEDIA programme to cinemas. In the **MEDIA – LUDICROUS WORLD** section, the festival will present ironic comedies such as the charming *On Tour* directed by the actor Mathieu Amalric, providing a behind-the-scenes look at burlesque; dry Nordic humour is represented by *The Other Side of Hope* by Aki Kaurismäki, which received the Silver Bear for Best Director at the 2017 Berlin International Film Festival, or the retro film titled *The Commune* about an attempt to live a life full of mutuality and joy by the Danish director Thomas Vinterberg. The American drama *Only Lovers Left Alive*, filmed by Jim Jarmusch according to his own script, received the award for the best soundtrack at the Cannes Festival in 2013.

DEF also follows new trends and this year, the alternative content will include Brainz VR Cinema, films in virtual reality. It offers a selection of live action and documentary **VR films**, which will provide an unprecedented audio-visual experience, which will be enhanced by a debate with the creators. *“Virtual reality is the place to which creative imagination is currently moving,”* says Šimon Šafránek, the festival’s new Programming Director, and adds: *“As part of the festival, we will present a testimony about the nuclear disaster in Fukushima titled After The Fallout or the film TX Reverse, which bends time and space in a compelling manner. The Czech VR creations will be represented in the Film and Music section by Brainz Music House: Tata Bojs, Kafka Band and I Love You Honey Bunny. These three unique bands will invite you to their studios.”*

Up-to-date information and the complete programme of the 27<sup>th</sup> Days of European Film will be available at [eurofilmfest.cz](http://eurofilmfest.cz) starting from 16 May; presale will start on 20 May.

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