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1 June 2020, Prague

**WILL CINEMAS SURVIVE? HOW TO WIN THE FIGHT AGAINST DROUGHT?
ARE WE IN FOR A DEBT CRISIS? VR FILMS AS AN ESCAPE? THESE ARE SOME OF THE
TOPICS THE 27TH DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM WILL BE ABOUT**

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 on 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 19 – 21 June),

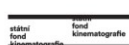
Boskovice (Panorama cinema on 21 – 23 June), Hodonín (Kino Svět cinema on 21 – 23 June),

Červený Kostelec (Luník cinema on 23 June)

Days of European Film (DEF), which focus exclusively on contemporary European cinema, will present 40 films from nearly 30 European countries this year. The main part of the DEF programme will take place in Prague, Brno and Ostrava from 16 to 23 June and subsequently in another 6 towns in the form of Festival Echoes. DEF offers films, which received awards at festivals, daring debuts as well as genre-mixing movies. DEF presents European cinema based on topics and genres, specifically in a total of 6 programme sections, which cover a broad range of topics (you can find the list of programme sections [here](#)). DEF has been focusing on interaction with the audience for a long time and this year, too, will offer a rich selection of special events (you can find the complete list of special events [here](#)).

*“From among the festival’s special events, I would like to invite the audience specifically to two events, which deal with current topics. In the To the Point – Into the Wild section, we will present a film titled **Fire Will Come**, in conjunction with the Café Europe platform, an established format of debates about current European topics, this time with a focus on the issues of drought and wildfires. In the same section, we will present **Space Dogs**, which will be followed by a debate with the Voice of Animals organisation, which advocates for animal rights and files lawsuits if these rights are violated. In June, an amendment to the Criminal Code written by this organisation will come into force. This will amend the inadequate legislation governing the protection of animals and will enact stricter penalties for cruelty to animals and stricter rules for the operation of breeding stations. This organisation has played an important part in making sure that this amendment is approved,” says Barbora Golatová, the Festival Director.*

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BRAINZ VR CINEMA THROUGH THE EYES OF ŠIMON ŠAFRÁNEK, DEF PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

We have integrated the VR programme into our respective sections. In the Fear and Dreams section, I would highlight the Austrian **TX Reverse**, which was screened at the Sundance Festival in January. Directors Virgil Widrich and Martin Reinhart break down the conventional perception of a film as fluent narration in time. As early as in the 1990s, Martin Reinhart developed a technology called “TX Transformation”, which swaps the time T-axis with the space X-axis in a film. The point is that each film frame takes up the entire space – but only for 1/24 of a second. Conversely, in a TX-Transformed film, one frame takes up a little part of the space but remains there for the entire duration of a scene. **TX Reverse** thus offers a remarkable experience where the usual rules and order of space and time do not apply.

In the To the Point – Into the Wild section, we will screen two VR hit films: **2nd Step** about an expedition into space and **Ex Anima** permeated with fascination with horses. The remarkable film **After the Fallout** by Sam Wolson and Dominic Nahr attacks the boundary of a documentary genre. We find ourselves in the area of the Fukushima power plant where a nuclear disaster occurred 10 years ago. The VR technology allows us to gain insight into the lives of the local inhabitants more evocatively in comparison with a 2D film.

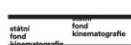
The Czech VR creations will be represented in the Film and Music section by the **Brainz Music House** project, which consists of the performances of three bands: Kafka Band, I Love You Honey Bunny and Tata Bojs. Specifically Tata Bojs will present a special version of their song *Spring*, which is based on the VR installation that was shown at the exhibition TATA 30JS.

DEF PROGRAMME SECTIONS

The offered programme is divided into 6 sections covering a broad range of topics: *Fear and Dreams / No Parents / Stars / Film and Music / To the Point – Into the Wild / MEDIA – Ludicrous World*. You can find the list of programme sections [here](#).

*“The entire programme places great emphasis on female characters. In the opening comedy **Extra Ordinary**, Rose, a female driving instructor, tries to save rural Ireland from spectres and ghosts. The lead female character of the film **God Exists, Her Name Is Petrunija** is a thirty-year-old Petrunija who has a university degree but is unable to find a job and still lives with her parents. The film won the LUX 2019 award from the European Parliament. In the Swiss drama **With the Wind**, we watch infatuation of a female farmer played by Mélanie Thierry. Director Ivan Mladenović cast herself in the role of a struggling actress who returns to her hometown. In **Instinct**, Dutch film-maker Halina Reijn examines the relationship between a female psychiatrist (Carice van Houten) and a male*

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prisoner convicted of rape. In the English-language film **The Other Lamb**, Polish author Małgorzata Szumowska follows the story of a girl from a female religious community. In **Unpromised Land**, director Victor Lindgren shows a fragile friendship of two different girls in a small Swedish town. In the section meaningfully titled *No Parents*, we find ourselves with a group of girls who are high-school graduates on a yacht in the Mediterranean in the Italian comedy **Likemeback**. The programme also includes the exceptional Greek horror film **Entwined** by Minos Nikolakakis about a city doctor who leaves for the countryside and whose happiness and horror then materialises in the form of a girl named Danae," adds Šimon Šafránek, the DEF Programming Director.

SPECIAL EVENTS

As part of the special events, the participants of the 10th annual meeting of film professionals **CINEMA 2020** will be discussing a current topic. This workshop for cinema operators, film distributors and other film professionals will deal with questions about how cinemas are coping with the two-month closure, whether the excellent audience attendance at the beginning of the year will be successfully resumed, how fast distributors will renew their offers, etc. The issue of closed cinemas will be presented by representatives of the Czech Film Fund, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the Association of Cinema Operators, the Audiovisual Producers' Association, the Union of Film Distributors, Creative Europe – MEDIA and distributors. "Cinema 2020 is a project where we always try to identify the current trends and problems related to the 'cinema business'. This year's annual edition was supposed to address the phenomenon of the documentary *Caught in the Net* or the changes of cinema programming but we will be obviously discussing the closure of cinemas and, most importantly, their reopening in the future. The project has been implemented for years under the auspices of the Days of European Film so we will definitely not neglect to cover European films in Czech cinemas," says Petr Vítěk, the Managing Director of the Bio Central cinema in Hradec Králové.

Greek Debt Crisis is the name of a special event included in the programme at which DEF will screen the French-Greek film **Adults in the Room**. This is a film adaptation of the memoir by the Minister of Finance Yanis Varoufakis who stood up to global financial institutions. The screening will be complemented with an economic-political scientific debate with the well-known economist Tomáš Sedláček who was an advisor to President Václav Havel or the Minister of Finance and authored a book titled *Economics of Good and Evil*, which has become a bestseller in our country.

You can find the complete list of special events [here](#).

The programme of the 27th Days of European Film: dnyevropskehofilmu.cz

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