

FINAL REPORT ON THE 26TH DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM

Prague, 4 - 11 April / Lucerna, Světozor and Kino Pilotů cinemas
Brno, 4 - 7 April / Scala cinema

Echoes took place in the following towns and on the following dates:
Havířov (15 - 17 April), Hodonín (16 - 17 April), Boskovice (15 - 16 April),
Červený Kostelec (16 and 18 April), Hradec Králové (15 - 17 April),
Jablonec nad Nisou (19 - 21 April)



OPENING OF THE 26TH DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM

This has been the 26th year in which Days of European Film offered the audience the most interesting films of contemporary European cinema. This year, the festival invited the audience to cinemas to watch 45 films from various parts of Europe. The films, divided into traditional as well as completely new programme sections, covered the themes of ordinary life: sports, Nature, eroticism and love, music, and freedom of choice. With this festival programming, DEF were more accommodating to their audience. The 26th annual edition of DEF was opened by the French film *Edmond*, the first feature film by the director Alexis Michalik.

The opening film of DEF – *Edmond* – is a splendid costume comedy-drama with a French charm, which tells the story of the poet and writer Edmond Rostand whose character is played by **Thomas Solivérès**. As a poor artist, he is given the chance of a lifetime to write a theatre play. The film about the creation of one of the most beautiful and most performed theatre plays, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, shows the source of Rostand's inspiration in real life. Based on the film script, a theatre play was first created, which met with great success in France and received a number of theatre awards. *Edmond* is in distribution in 26 countries and has been seen by 700,000 cinema-goers in France alone since its January premiere. "The film was also shot in the Czech Republic. From among 41 shooting days, 40 days were spent in Pilsen, Karlovy Vary and Prague. The audience can thus recognise the Estates Theatre and other locations in the scenes. One shooting day took place in the Moissac monastery in France," added Roman Finger from Sirena Film, a film production company, who personally attended the opening screening together with a numerous delegation of the Czech crew with representatives of the production and set designing teams. The ceremonial opening was also attended by other special guests and, in keeping with tradition, the evening was hosted by Lukáš Rumlana.



*Lukáš Rumlana, the host of the evening,
and Barbora Golatová, the DEF Director
Photo by: DEF*



*Delegation for the opening film Edmond
by the director Alexis Michalik
Photo by: DEF*

FILMS CO-PRODUCED BY CZECH PRODUCERS AND GUESTS

From among films by Czech producers, DEF presented a preview of a remarkable and intimate Czech debut ***Snowing!*** by Kristina Nedvěřová about the relationships of three generations of women in a family, starring **Petra Nesvačilová**, **Vanda Hybnerová** and **Hana Vagnerová** in leading roles. The preview screening took place in the Lucerna cinema on 10 April and was attended by Petra Nesvačilová and Hana Vagnerová alongside with the director **Kristina Nedvěřová**. One of the most successful Czech documentaries, ***Wilder Than Wilderness***, was included in the new section titled Mother Nature. **Marián Polák**, the director of the documentary, was personally available to the audience for a debate during the public screening in the Světozor cinema on 6 April. The traditional section of the European Commission, this time focused on the election year, presented the film ***Breaking News*** by the director **Tomáš Bojar**, which premiered at the Karlovy Vary IFF in the documentary contest section. The Eurosport section offered the documentary ***King Skate***, which also premiered in the contest at the Karlovy Vary IFF. This film was directed **Šimon Šafránek** who debated with the audience after the screening in the Kino Pilotů cinema on Wednesday 10 April. This film had received the Czech Lion Award for the Best Documentary.

*“From among foreign guests, the Greek director **Tassos Boulmetis** met with the audience in person and presented his film **1968** about a basketball match between the Greek club A.E.K. and the Prague club Slavia in the Lucerna cinema on Friday 5 April. The comedy about an ageing superhero, titled **Superchamp Returns**, has achieved the historically highest number of viewers in domestic cinemas, and the script writer **Lucien Czuga** and the director **Félix Koch** presented it in the Světozor cinema at a screening on 7 April. In an exclusive preview, we screened the Latvian-Czech film **Bille**, which had become a hit in its country in cinemas and had also received a number of national awards. The film was presented personally by the director **Ināra Kolmane**, who attended the screening in the Lucerna cinema in Prague on 6 April as well as the screening in the Scala cinema in Brno on 5 April,”* said Hana Šilarová, the programming director of DEF.



Ināra Kolmane (middle), the director of the Latvian-Czech film titled Bille
Photo by: DEF



After the screening of the Czech film titled Snowing!
Photo by: DEF

PROGRAMME SECTIONS

The 26th edition of Days of European Film offered 45 films to the audience, divided into 7 sections:

Best of / The selection of the most interesting films created over the recent years in the cinema of the respective European countries. This traditional section brought a representative sample of European films of various genres. For example, a dark thriller with the elements of a western from Ireland called **Black 47** (directed by Lance Daly) was presented to the audience, starring Hugo Weaving (the *Matrix* trilogy, the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy) and Barry Keoghan (*Dunkirk*, *The Killing of a Sacred Deer*) in leading roles. The film had become the most successful film in Irish cinemas for the last year. **Ether** by Krzysztof Zanussi, the world-class master of film, offered a drama from the beginning of the 20th century with an unusual ending. The Italian syndicate of journalists gave the awards for the best film and the best debut director to **Boys Cry** (directed by Damiano and Fabiano D'Innocenzo). The crime thriller **The Butcher, the Whore and the One-eyed Man** (directed by János Szász) showed a bloody love triangle in Budapest of the 1920s.

MEDIA: Love without Borders / Love, sex and eroticism in film. The various forms of love, flirt and erotic tension in the relationships between two (and more) people seen through the camera lens. The audience were able to watch **Blue Is the Warmest Colour** (directed by Abdellatif Kechiche), featuring Léa Seydoux, about the search for (sexual) identity, which had won the Golden Palm at the Cannes IFF, and **Nymphomaniac**, the double feature by the Danish demon, director Lars von Trier. In his opus, he cast well-known actors such as Charlotte Gainsbourg, Stellan Skarsgård, Shia LaBeouf or Uma Thurman. This section also presented an intimate and passionate portrait of a couple titled **My King** (directed by Maïwenn), starring Vincent Cassel, which had premiered in Cannes and for which Emmanuelle Bercot had received an award for the best acting performance. Thanks to the Creative Europe Desk – MEDIA, Days of European Film returned these significant films to cinemas. The way to one's heart was also through film!

Film & Music / This traditional section presented films with a music theme, ranging from documentaries on music stars, through opera recordings to live action music films. Opera lovers were able to go to see one in a cinema, too! The offer included a recording of the opera **Carmen** (directed by Calixto Bieito) or a documentary about the Paris opera scene titled **L'Opéra** (directed by Jean-Stéphane Bron), which had won the main award at the Moscow IFF and the national award for the best Swiss document (Swiss Film Prize). **Whitney**, a biographical film about Whitney Houston, awaited the fans of pop music. On a different note, **The Heart of Hadiah Tromp** (directed by Erik de Bruyn) offered a light-hearted love story from a Navy environment. And all this in the form of a musical! This year's DEF was in the rhythm of music once again!



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Mother Nature / Can a single individual help Nature? Are the leaders of world's countries able to reach an agreement to stop a climatic change? How should we treat animals? The screening of one of the most successful Czech documentaries on the fascinating adventures of animals and plants in our country – **Wilder Than Wilderness** (directed by Marián Polák) – stood out in this section. **The Milk System** (directed by Andreas Pichler) that had received two awards for the best film – at the Fünf Seen FF and the Green Screen International Wildlife FF – showed the big business associated with overproduction of milk.

Eurosport / This completely new section was focused on sports-themed films. The film **1968** (directed by Tassos Boulmetis) showed how the basketball match between Greeks and the Prague club Slavia ended in the politically sensitive year 1968. **In the Realm of Perfection** (directed Julien Faraut) featured unique shots from the Roland Garros stadium taken during the match between John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl. With all this recorded on a 16 mm film, which shows every detail of the unique style of playing of McEnroe, the then world's number one, and thus captures his movement, emotions and technique. The film premiered at Berlinale in the Forum section. The Balkan comedy **ZG80** (directed by Igor Šeregi) showed the soccer fans of long-standing rivals – Zagreb and Belgrade. Hooligans in southern rhythms, with all this happening in the late 1980s.

LUX Film Prize / This traditional section presented the LUX film prize of the European Parliament and its three finalists, including the winning picture of the year 2018. The purpose of the prize is to support European cinema as well as the public debate about Europe, its values and social issues. The 2018 LUX Award for the Best Film had been received by **Woman at War** (directed by Benedikt Erlingsson), a comedy about a middle-aged Icelandic female environmental activist who decided to change the world. The film had dominated the Edda Awards, a national Icelandic event, where it had won in a total of ten categories. Another film worth mentioning is the documentary **The Other Side of Everything** (directed by Mila Turajlić) about the dark past of a family in Belgrade, which had been screened at festivals during the last year and had received, for example, the VPRO award at the IDFA festival in Amsterdam or the Best Documentary Award at ZagrebDo. The last of the nominated films was the intimate drama **Styx** (directed by Wolfgang Fischer) about the fear of unknown experienced when facing refugees in open sea. The film had received many awards, including four ones at Berlinale (the Prize of the Ecumenical Jury, the Label Europa Cinemas Prize, and the Heiner Carow Prize).

To the Point: To Have a Choice / The well-established section To the Point focused on the topic of elections and the picture of political issues as presented by the media. The film **Breaking News** (directed by Tomáš Bojar) documents the work of the media by showing a single day – the day on which Miloš Zeman announced that he would run in the presidential election again. The comedy **The Divine Order** (directed by Petra Volpe) deals with the topic of suffrage of women in Switzerland. The film had received the Audience Award at the Tribeca FF. The dark thriller **Blind Spot** (directed by Nabil Ben Yadir) shows Belgian underworld and a police captain who decides to join an ultra-right nationalist party. These films reflected the rapidly changing world of media and the online world where it is possible to adjust the reflection of reality as well as election results.



SPECIAL EVENTS

“In recent years, DEF has focused on work with the audience. We would like to bring another target group to cinemas in addition to our faithful audience. Therefore, this year, we offered sections that are trying to reach the mainstream audience and cover the topics of everyday life: eroticism, sports, Nature, music, love, elections... Special events also included film screenings tailored to families with children or to seniors. We also did not forget about film education and there was also the traditional CINEMA 2019 seminar for film professionals. The European House was transformed into a cinema and a gallery for the duration of DEF,” said Barbora Golatová, the Director of the 26th DEF, commenting on the special events.

CARMEN

CARMEN

Francie

Režie: Calixto Bieito

„Nikdy se Carmen nepoddá, svobodná zrozená, svobodná země“ pláče umírající Bizetova hrdinka na konci jedné z nejslavnějších a nejhranějších světových oper. Nezkrotná svoboda, živočišnost a nutkání žít s maximální silou a intenzitou až na hraně.

Obsazení: Elina Garanča, Roberto Alagna, Maria Agresta, Ildar Abdrazakov

NE 07.4.

20:30 SVĚTOZOR (PRAHA)

ÚT 16.4.

17:30 KINO CENTRUM (HAVÍŘOV)

SCREENINGS FOR SENIORS



SRDCE HADIAH TROMPOVÉ

Nizozemí

Režie: Erik de Bruyn

Mladá Hadiah prochází výcvikem u námořnictva, protože je dcerou důstojníka. Celý vojenský drill je pro ni ale příliš svazující. Romantický muzikál v uniformách!

NE 07.4.

17:30 KINO PILOTŮ (PRAHA)

PO 08.4.

13:30 LUCERNA (PRAHA)

ČT 11.4.

18:00 SVĚTOZOR (PRAHA)



SCREENING FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN



PLANETA ČESKO

Česká republika

Režie: Marián Polák

Naše příroda je pestrá jako málokde na světě. Krásu a dobrodružství máme na dosah ruky – stačí se jen dobře dívat! První celovečerní film o české přírodě, fascinující dobrodružství zvířat a rostlin žijících kolem nás zcela zblízka.

SO 06.4.

15:00 SVĚTOZOR (PRAHA)

Za účasti režiséra.



FILM EDUCATION FOR SCHOOLS

Friday 5 April, Tuesday 9 April, Wednesday 10 April, Thursday 11 April at 9:00
Lucerna cinema – Big Hall, Vodičkova 36, Prague 1

This year's offer of screenings for schools brought extraordinary documentaries on topical issues.

Friday 5 April at 9:00, Lucerna cinema – Big Hall, for students 10+

[THE MILK SYSTEM](#) / Germany, Italy, 2017, 90 minutes, directed by Andreas Pichler, German with Czech subtitles



Every one of us was drinking milk when growing up. Packaging is covered with convincing slogans, which promise that we will be healthy and strong. But is it really so? A documentary that gives us insight into the global dairy industry. Before the screening of the film, we screened seven best short films from the “Wir Sprechen” language campaign, which helps promote German among children, and there was an entertaining discussion after the screening.

Tuesday 9 April at 9:00, Lucerna cinema – Big Hall, for students 12+

[BREAKING NEWS](#) / Czech Republic, 2018, 73 minutes, directed by Tomáš Bojar, Czech version

A lively and authentic insight into the work of journalists of the traditional media in the current accelerated era overloaded with information.

After the screening of the film, there was a **lecture on the ideological aspects of film**, on the historical role of film in the battle of ideologies throughout history. **The lecture** was tailored to the age of students and used a number of examples from the contemporary popular culture.

This interesting event was prepared by [Free Cinema](#) – a platform for film education.

Wednesday 10 April at 9:00, Lucerna cinema – Big Hall, for elementary school pupils in the 1st through 4th grades

[WILDER THAN WILDERNESS](#) / Czech Republic, 2017, 81 minutes, directed by Marián Polák, Czech version

Thanks to the state-of-the-art technologies, this first feature film about Czech nature gives a close look at the fascinating adventures of animals and plants living around us.

The screening was followed by a lecture on environmental protection that was provided by Ekocentrum Koniklec.



DNYEVROPSKEHO FILMU.CZ

KING SKATE
Česká republika
Režie: Šimon Šafránek

Přilepit se k betonu. Vysvištět prostorem. Mít to všechno v pohybu. Skateboard! V šedi ČSSR 70. a 80. let něco úplně jiného, úplně nového. Láska na první pohled. Nekonečnej mejdan!

ST 10.4. **19:30 KINÓ PILOTŮ (PRAHA)**

Za účasti režiséra.

After the screening of the film, there was a **lecture on Czech documentary film**, its history, present and major names. The lecture that was given in an entertaining and dynamic form was tailored to the age of students and used a number of examples from the contemporary popular culture.

This interesting event was prepared by [Free Cinema](#) – a platform for film education.



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KINO 2019

Seminář pro kinaře, distributory a další filmové profesionály.
Středa 10. dubna 2019, 9:30 - 13:00 hodin, Goethe Institut, Masarykovo náb. 22, Praha 1

Jak se pracuje s evropským filmem v českých kinech? Jakou práci s ním má distributor? Řeší divák, zda se jedná o evropský film, nebo film obecně? Na tyto a další otázky ohledně evropského filmu vám odpoví čeští kinaři a distributoři: Aerofilms, Artcam Films, Pilot Film, Produkce Radim Procházka.

PREZENTACE PROJEKTU NOVÉ KINO 2018-2019

Dvouletý projekt *Nové kino 2018-2019* je určený pro provozovatele kin a každý rok se ho může účastnit deset českých nebo slovenských kin vybraných na základě předložených projektů. Semináře probíhají na třech zásadních festivalech, kde se účastníci seznamují s prací s jednotlivými typy filmů. Součástí všech seminářů je veřejně přístupná prezentace účastníků v rámci industry programů, nebo podrobné analýzy návštěvnosti různých typů filmů v kinech. V části určené evropskému filmu na reálných datech ukážeme, jak diváci na evropské filmy chodí a zda má smysl je uvádět. Analyzován bude rok 2018.

PROGRAM

09:30 – 10:00	Snídaně
10:00 – 10:20	Představení projektu <i>Nové kino 2018-2019</i>
10:20 – 11:15	Prezentace účastníků projektu <i>Nové kino 2018-2019</i>
11:15 – 12:00	Evropský film v českých kinech
12:00 – 13:00	Oběd

Účast prosím potvrďte na e-mail: media@kreativnievropa.cz



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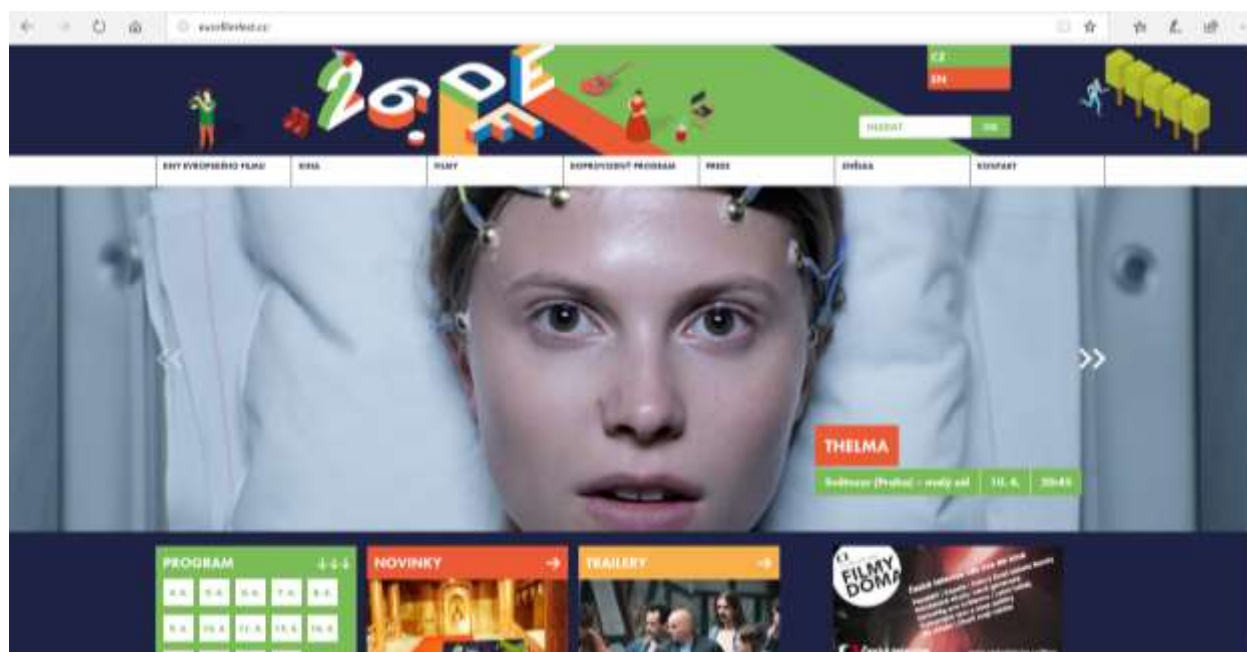
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The price of the tickets to DEF screenings in Prague and Brno was **CZK 110**. The ticket price of **CZK 55** + a screening for seniors at Lucerna were prepared **for seniors**. It was possible to buy tickets to all films **online**. It was possible to book tickets over the telephone or by e-mail. The DEF catalogue was available in all cinemas and from partners of the festival for free.

The total number of viewers who attended the 26th DEF reached nearly 10,000.

The detailed programme of DEF in each city, the list and descriptions of sections, the catalogue for download, photographs, news, information on the ticket sale and on the special events, etc. were all available to the audience at www.dnyevropskeho filmu.cz and at [FB](#) of the 26th Days of European Film.

Marija Petrinjac and Hana Kovačević are the authors of the concept, graphic design and jingle of the 26th annual edition of DEF.





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The Days of European Film are able to offer a high-quality programme only thanks to the support of the following institutions, organisations and persons:

THE FESTIVAL TOOK PLACE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CZECH CULTURE MINISTER ANTONÍN STANĚK, THE REPRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC, ZDENĚK HŘIB - THE MAYOR OF THE CAPITAL CITY OF PRAGUE, MARKĚTA VAŇKOVÁ - THE MAYOR OF THE STATUTORY CITY OF BRNO, AND PAVEL ČIŽINSKÝ - THE MAYOR OF THE CITY DISTRICT OF PRAGUE 1 / IT WAS ORGANISED BY THE EMBASSIES AND CULTURAL INSTITUTES OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND BY THE REPRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC / WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, THE CAPITAL CITY OF PRAGUE, THE STATUTORY CITY OF BRNO, AND THE CITY DISTRICT OF PRAGUE 1

The audience would not have known about the festival if there were not for the media partners who created the awareness of the 26th DEF among our cinema goers.

THE MAIN PARTNER WAS THE AXOCOM MEDIA COMPANY/ THE MAIN MEDIA PARTNER WAS THE CZECH TELEVISION / THE MEDIA PARTNERS WERE ČSFD.CZ, RESPEKT, AKTUÁLNĚ.CZ, PROTIŠEDI.CZ AND EXPATS.CZ

The reports on the festival in the media are collected for DEF by the partner company NEWTON Media and are published on the festival's website at www.eurofilmfest.cz and are offered for reference to all the organising embassies and cultural institutes, main co-organisers and other partner institutions.

We highly value the many-year collaboration with our loyal partners who have supported the festival significantly from its very beginning and we are also grateful to our new partners who trust European film. It is only thanks to the support of these partners that we are able to offer a high-quality programme, which is then appreciated by the audience in Czech cinemas.

On behalf of the team of Days of European Film

Barbora Golatová, DEF Director
May 2019

