

FINAL REPORT ON THE **27TH DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM**

Prague, 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), Havířov (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)





OPENING OF THE 27TH DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM

Days of European Film (DEF) were held from 16 to 23 June 2020. The main part of the DEF programme took place in Prague, Brno and, for the first time, in Ostrava. Subsequently, DEF moved to another 6 towns in the form of Festival Echoes. DEF focuses exclusively on contemporary European cinema and presented more than 40 films from nearly 30 European countries in 2020. The programme was not designed around specific countries but DEF presented European cinema based on topics and genres, and this year, it also focused on sci-fi, horror films, avant-garde and documentaries. DEF showed modern European cinema in its many shades and invited audiences to cinemas to see films, which had received awards at festivals, daring debuts as well as films that mix genres with an intoxicating charm. Šimon Šafránek, a director and script writer, has become the festival's new programming director.

The opening film of the festival was a ghost adventure called *Extra Ordinary*. This debut by Mike Ahern and Enda Loughman playfully breaks down all genre boundaries, leaving behind an unprecedented comedic mess. This opening film had collected awards at many genrespecific sci-fi festivals. Cliona Manahan, the Ambassador of Ireland to the Czech Republic, personally attended the ceremonial opening in Lucerna on Tuesday, 16 June. Lukáš Rumlena was the host for the evening.



Cliona Manahan, the Ambassador of Ireland, and Barbora Golatová, the DEF director, during the ceremonial opening of the 27th DEF. Source: DEF





FESTIVAL GUESTS AND AMBASSADORS

Milan Cajs came to personally present a special version of the song *Spring* by the Tata Bojs band, which was a part of the Brainz VR Cinema programme. Director **Johana Ožvold** presented a revelatory documentary *The Sound Is Innocent*, and **Václav Marhoul** drew attention to his film *The Painted Bird*. The film *Two Roads* providing a behind-the-scenes look at the extraordinary band The Tap Tap was commented on by its director **Radovan Síbrt** after the screening, and **David Jahn**, the Managing Director of Prague Burlesque, spoke about the golden age of plump burlesque with the audience after the screening of *On Tour*. **Ivo Petr**, a traveller and adventurer, told the audience about Norway with the help of photographic slides after the screening of the film *Where Man Returns*. After the screening of the film *Adults in the Room*, there was an economic-political debate about the Greek debt crisis with the well-known **economist Tomáš Sedláček**.



Economist Tomáš Sedláček debated with Šimon Šafránek and the audience after the screening of the film Adults in the Room; and director Václav Marhoul presented his feature film The Painted Bird. / Source: DEF



Radovan Síbrt opened the screening of his film Two Roads about the band called The Tap Tap; and director Johana Ožvold (on the right) presented her film The Sound Is Innocent. / Source: DEF





The screening of *Space Dogs* was followed by a debate with the **Voice of Animals organisation**, which had played a major role in advocating for the currently approved amendment to the Criminal Code, which amended the inadequate legislation governing the protection of animals. **Lawyer Tereza Plická** and actress **Kateřina Hrachovcová**, one of the DEF Ambassadors, also participated in the debate.

Fire Will Come is a film dealing with the issue of drought and wildfires – using the Café Europe platform, an established format for debating current European topics, this topic was discussed by the following erudite speakers: **Elena Višnar Malinovská**, **Head of Unit**, **Adaptation to Climate Change, the European Commission; Pavel Zahradníček, a climatologist and a researcher at the Institute of Research into Global Change, the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic, and a member of the Intersucho team; and Romana Březovská, an advisor to the Ministry of the Environment**.

The following special guests spoke about the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on cinemas, among other topics, at the 10th annual meeting of film professionals KINO 2020: Martin Pošta, the president of the Association of Cinema Operators; Vratislav Šlajer, the president of the Audiovisual Producers' Association; Aleš Danielis and Jaroslav Pecka from the Union of Film Distributors; and Daniela Staníková, the Managing Director of Creative Europe Desk – MEDIA.

Selected DEF programme sections and screenings were supported by ambassadors from among Czech influencers. In cinemas, the audience was able to meet **actor Matyáš Valenta**, **actress Kateřina Hrachovcová, Petra Nesvačilová** as well as the **versatile artist Vladivojna La Chia**. VR films were supported, among others, by **gamer Naomi Adachi**.



Petra Nesvačilová presented the screening of Father and artist Vladivojna La Chia attending the opening screening of DEF. Source: DEF







Šimon Šafránek with gamer Naomi Adachi at VR screenings and actor Matyáš Valenta (on the right) at the screening of Unpromised Land. Source: DEF

PROGRAMME SECTIONS

In a total of 6 programme sections covering a broad range of topics, DEF presented awardwinning animated films, films for a younger audience and for families with children as well as films by old masters. DEF invited audiences to a total of 130 screenings. You can find a detailed list of the programme sections <u>here</u>.

STARS / Current films that a viewer should not miss out on. They received awards at renowned festivals; they were made by world-famous creators and prominent figures of European cinema stared in them. In a Czech premiere, DEF screened an incisive political drama Adults in the Room by Costa-Gavras, which had been co-produced by French and Greek producers and describes the recent Greek debt crisis as seen through the eyes of Minister of Finance Yanis Varoufakis. The Dutch psychological thriller *Instinct* starring Carice van Houten received the Piazza Grande Award in Locarno; the Bulgarian film Father won an award in Karlovy Vary. The Czech film The Painted Bird (Bioscop) was very successful at the Czech Lion Awards after participating in the Venice Film Festival. The award-winning ironic comedy God Exists, Her Name Is Petrunija won, for example, the LUX 2019 award from the European Parliament. In a preview, DEF screened a new, visually compelling version of Pinocchio directed by Italian director Matteo Garrone. The lead role in this film, which is distributed by Bohemia Motion Pictures in our country, is played by Roberto Benigni. The Clergy, a Polish block buster about hypocrisy in the Catholic Church, and Scandinavian Silence, an Estonian-French-Belgian minimalist road movie, undoubtedly belong to the Stars section. The latter film received the Label Europa Cinemas Award in Karlovy Vary in 2019 and the FIPRESCI Jury Award and People's Choice Award at the festival in Riga.





FEARS AND DREAMS / This section, which combined emotion and experience, offered crime, ghost and horror films as well as unusual relationship-based dramas and showcased European cinema as a thrilling, living organism. Besides the opening film *Extra Ordinary*, audiences were able to watch the raw German crime drama *Free Country* by Christian Alvart (*Dogs of Berlin*), a remake of Spanish *Marshland*, which was a hit with the audience during the 23rd DEF. In a preview, DEF screened 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 director Ivana Mladenović cast herself and her family. The programme includes the Greek horror film *Entwined* by Minos Nikolakakis, a Slovak drama *Let There Be Light* by director Marko Škopa and *Hellhole* – an aesthetically compelling portrait of contemporary Brussels reeling from recent terrorist attacks.

FILM AND MUSIC / Live-action films, VR films and documentaries where rhythm, tunes and music in general play a significant role. In a preview, DEF screened the Czech documentary *Two Roads* (Aerofilms) about a band called The Tap Tap. Live-action films were represented by the eccentric Portuguese musical *Technoboss*, the British social drama *Ray and Liz* by famous photographer Richard Billingham or the award-winning musical comedy *Sawah* about a young musician who won a mixing contest in Cairo and now has the opportunity to show what he can do in the Mecca of electronic music – Brussels. We were also able to watch the revelatory Czech documentary *The Sound Is Innocent* by Johana Ožvold.

TO THE POINT / This traditional section presented in cooperation with the European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic offered documentaries as well as live-action films, which deal with the current environmental issues. We showed stories about the coexistence of man and Nature and universe, about the call of the wild. One of the screenings of *Space Dogs*, a documentary about the fates of test animals, was followed by a debate with the Voice of Animals organisation, which advocates for animal rights and files lawsuits whenever these rights are violated. The best Norwegian documentary of 2019 titled *Where Man Returns* took the audience to a harsh Nordic landscape, while the Slovenian *Stories from the Chestnut Woods* searched for sentiment in a forsaken region near the Italian border. The film had 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. *With the Wind* is a Swiss-French film about a life in harmony with nature in the mountains, which received the Variety Piazza Grande Award at the 2018 Locarno IFF.

NO PARENTS / Cell phones, friendships and first relationships. Films focusing on the coming of age and the current lives of young people. In a Czech premiere, DEF presented the Latvian animated mystery film *Away*, which stands out with its hypnotic atmosphere without a single word. Last year, this film had received the Contrechamp Award at the festival in Annecy. Stories for adolescents were represented by a Swedish film about a fragile summer-time friendship titled *The Unpromised Land*, which had won at the festival in Zlín, as well as by films showing the life on social networks: the Italian *Likemeback* and the Hungarian *FOMO*.





MEDIA – LUDICROUS WORLD / A set of older films supported by the European MEDIA Programme. This year, we focused on larger or smaller comedies ironizing the established view of the world. The programme included the charming *On Tour* directed by actor Mathieu Amalric, providing a behind-the-scenes look at burlesque; dry Nordic humour was represented by *The Other Side of Hope* by Aki Kaurismäki, which had 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 Danish director Thomas Vinterberg. The award-winning 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, among other awards.

BRAINZ VR CINEMA



Virtual reality is the place to which creative imagination is currently moving. Accordingly, this year's DEF enriched the alternative content with films in virtual reality, which were integrated into the individual programme sections. In the Fears and Dreams section, there was the Austrian *TX Reverse*, which had been 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





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remains there for the entire duration of a film. TX Reverse thus offered a remarkable experience where the usual rules and order of space and time do not apply. *The Scream VR* a horror film from a gallery, in which you are able to take a look at the famous painting by Edvard Munch from a new perspective, was an extraordinary experience. A moment for poetry in the 21st century – this was one of the ways to characterise the film *Go VR* where the audience became a part of the narrated events. In the To the Point – Into the Wild section, DEF screened 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. You find yourselves 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 were 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 presented a special version of their song *Spring*, which is based on the VR installation that had been shown at the exhibition TATA 30JS.



Audience watching VR films. Source: DEF

SPECIAL EVENTS

This year's special events reflected the current topics, which were debates with Czech environmentalists, travellers, economists, musicians, lawyers and political scientists.

GREEK DEBT CRISIS / The French-Greek film *Adults in the Room* is a film adaptation of the memoir by Minister of Finance Yanis Varoufakis who stood up to global financial institutions. The screening was complemented with an economic-political scientific debate with the well-known economist **Tomáš Sedláček** who had been an advisor to President Václav Havel or the Minister of Finance and had authored a book titled *Economics of Good and Evil*, which became a bestseller in our country and elsewhere.







SCREENINGS FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN / A mysterious island, a gigantic demon and a boy on a motorcycle who is fleeing from the demon's shadow – that is the hypnotic animated adventure *Away*. After the screening of the film, a workshop on cartoon animation was available to children. Children received backlit drawing boards, papers and coloured pencils.









The children's workshop after the screening of the animated film Away. Source: DEF

NORWAY, THE LAND OF FJORDS / At the end of Europe, there is a place where fog is so thick one can cut it with a knife. In what does an old man who lives exactly there, in chilling solitude and far away from people, find freedom? The screening of *Where Man Returns* was followed by a presentation and a Q&A session during which the audience was taken on a tour around Norway, with the help of photographic slides, by Ivo Petr (1956), a traveller and adventurer, a wanderer constantly enchanted by the wonders of the world, a lover of mountains and the outdoors. He is the author of 12 guides to European mountains (including the guide titled *The Mountains of Scandinavia*), a correspondent of many outdoor magazines, and an organiser of hundreds of expeditions to mountains on five continents.







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LAIKA AND HER PACK / In *Space Dogs*, a stray dog from Moscow had a career of an astronaut and then returned to her home streets as a ghost. The screening, which was also attended by Kateřina Hrachovcová, a DEF Ambassador, was followed by a debate with the **Voice of Animals** organisation, which advocates for animal rights, and whenever these rights are violated, this organisation conducts these criminal cases or other proceedings in order to rescue the animals and punish their abusers. In June, an amendment to the Criminal Code written by this organisation came into force in the Czech Republic. This amended the inadequate legislation governing the protection of animals and enacted stricter penalties for cruelty to animals and stricter rules for the operation of breeding stations. This organisation played an important part in making sure that this amendment was approved.



A lecture with the representatives of the Voice of Animals organisation after the screening of the film Laika and Her Pack. / Source: DEF





CAFÉ EUROPE / In *Fire Will Come*, a former convict is successfully leaving behind his previous life in wilderness. But then forests start to burn in his area. The film was accompanied by the established debate format of Café Europe, this time about the issue of drought and wildfires. The speakers were Elena Višnar Malinovská, Head of Unit, Adaptation to Climate Change, the European Commission; Pavel Zahradníček, a climatologist and a researcher at the Institute of Research into Global Change, the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic, and a member of the Intersucho team; and Romana Březovská, an advisor to the Ministry of the Environment.





Café Europe debate about the issues of drought and wildfires after the screening of the film Fire Will Come. / Source: DEF





SCREENING FOR SENIORS / Completely without worries, seniors were able to come to the afternoon screening of the latest film adaptation of *Pinocchio*, the charming work by Carlo Collodi. The film was screened by the Lucerna cinema on 19 June at 13:30. The ticket price was CZK 65.

EUROPEAN HOUSE CINEMA / From the comfort of one's home, it was possible to watch *Stories from the Chestnut Woods* via an online stream on 17 June at 19:00. The link to the stream of this award-winning Slovenian-Italian film was published in an event on the Facebook pages of the European House Cinema and elsewhere. DEF thus embraced the concept of live broadcast cinema

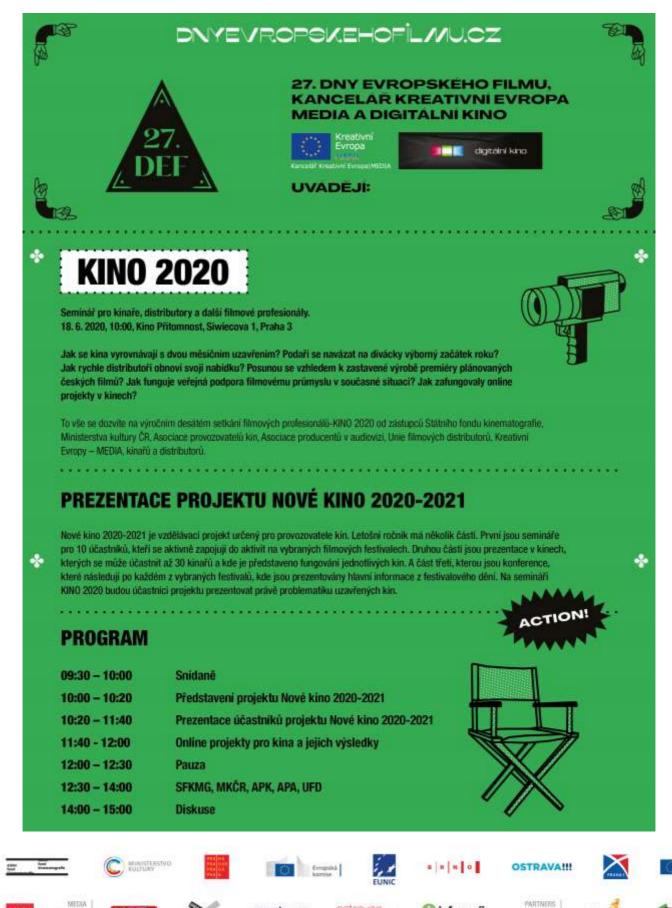


Alberta Lai, the director of the Italian Cultural Institute (on the right), and Roland Galharague, the Ambassador of France, at DEF screenings. / Source: DEF

CINEMA 2020 / As part of the special events, the participants of the 10th annual meeting of film professionals discussed a current topic. CINEMA 2020 – a workshop for cinema operators, film distributors and other film professionals answered questions about how cinemas were coping with the two-month closure, whether the excellent audience attendance at the beginning of the year would be successfully resumed, how fast distributors would renew their offers, etc. The issue of closed cinemas was 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," said Petr Vítek, the Managing Director of the Bio Central cinema in Hradec Králové.*







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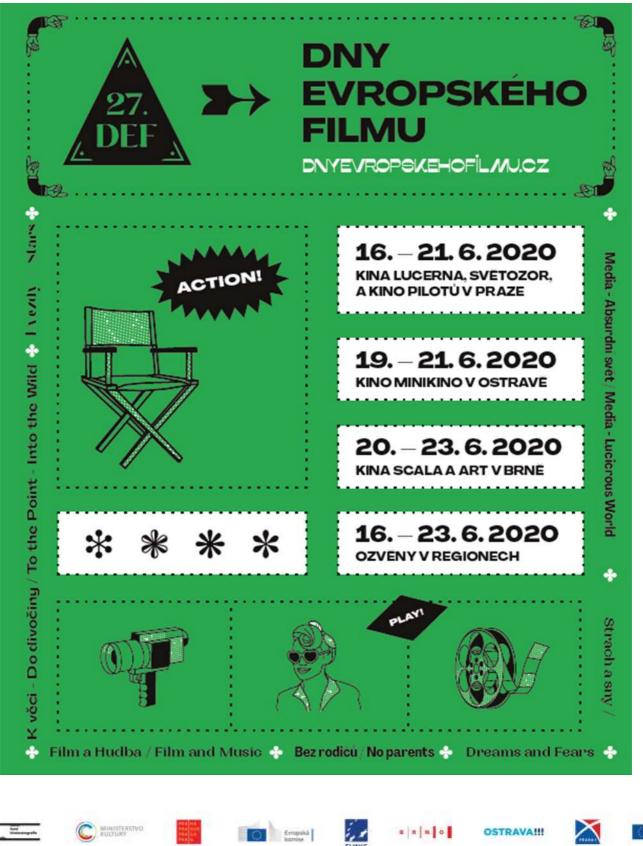






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The catalogue containing a detailed programme was available for download in the e-book format <u>here</u>. / **The price of the tickets** to DEF screenings was **CZK 130** in Prague and Brno, and **CZK 120** in Ostrava. The ticket price of CZK 65 and a screening for seniors in Lucerna were prepared for seniors. It was possible to purchase tickets to all films <u>online</u>. It was also possible to book tickets over the telephone or by e-mail. / Marija Petrinjac is the author of the concept, graphic design and trailer of the 27th annual edition of DEF. / **The promo video of the 27th DEF** can be viewed <u>here</u>.



The total number of people who attended the 27th DEF reached nearly 4,000 viewers.

WEBSITE: <u>eurofilmfest.cz</u> FB: <u>https://www.facebook.com/DnyEvropskehoFilmu/</u> INSTAGRAM: <u>https://www.instagram.com/dnyevropskehofilmu/</u>

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

THE FESTIVAL TOOK PLACE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF **THE CZECH CULTURE MINISTER LUBOMÍR** ZAORÁLEK, THE REPRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC, ZDENĚK HŘIB – THE LORD MAYOR OF THE CAPITAL CITY OF PRAGUE, MARKÉTA VAŇKOVÁ – THE LORD MAYOR OF THE STATUTORY CITY OF BRNO, TOMÁŠ MACURA – THE LORD MAYOR OF THE STATUTORY CITY OF OSTRAVA, AND PETR HEJMA – THE MAYOR OF THE CITY DISTRICT OF PRAGUE 1 / 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 CZECH FILM FUND, THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, THE CAPITAL CITY OF PRAGUE, THE STATUTORY CITY OF BRNO, THE STATUTORY CITY OF OSTRAVA, THE CITY DISTRICT OF PRAGUE 1 AND CREATIVE EUROPE DESK - MEDIA





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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 <u>www.dnyevropskehofilmu.cz</u> and are offered for reference to all the organising embassies and cultural institutes, main coorganisers and other partner institutions.

We highly value the many-year collaboration with our loyal partners who have significantly supported the festival 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 June 2020



The team of Days of European Film in the Lord Mayor's Residence during the ceremonial opening. Source: DEF

