

## Czech films and co-productions at Venice IFF 2019

Czech cinema is having a big time at the 76th Venice Film Festival – Václav Marhoul's *The Painted Bird* was selected for the main competition Venezia 76. In addition, short animated *Sh\_t Happens* will compete in Orizzonti, and Czech cinema will be also represented by the restored version of Gustav Machatý's *Ecstasy* that will be screened as a pre-opening film.

Long-awaited feature [The Painted Bird](#) was selected for the Venezia 76, the main competition of the prestigious Venice Film Festival. The film was supported by the Czech Film Fund in both development and production stages (with EUR 992,308) and also in the film incentives programme, and was produced by Silver Screen (CZ) in co-production with Directory Films (UA), PubRes (SK), and Czech Television, Eduard and Milada Kučera, Innogy and Richard Kaucký.

The director of the project Václav Marhoul ([Tobruk](#), 2008 and [Smart Philip](#), 2003) based his film on the eponymous novel by Jerzy Kosiński and created a meticulous 35mm black and white evocation of wild, primitive Eastern Europe at the bloody close of World War II. The film follows the journey of The Boy, entrusted by his persecuted parents to an elderly foster mother. The old woman soon dies and the Boy is on his own, wandering through the country-side, from village to farmhouse. As he struggles for survival, The Boy suffers through extraordinary brutality meted out by the ignorant, superstitious peasants and he witnesses the terrifying violence of the efficient, ruthless soldiers, both Russian and German.

Czech cinema has another representative in the official programme of this year's Venice Film Festival – animated short *Sh\_t Happens* which will compete in Orizzonti section. The thirteen minutes long film is directed by Michaela Mihályi and David Štumpf, produced by BFILM.cz and co-produced by Bagan Films (FR), BFILM (SK) and FAMU (CZ). The film was supported by the Czech Film Fund with EUR 21,923 and is a loose adaptation of a well-known biblical story while transforming it into a contemporary ironic narrative about how the world sometimes works.

For pre-opening event of the festival was selected *Ecstasy* by Gustav Machatý which provoked, displaying nudity, at the 2nd Venice Film Festival in 1934. The film will be screened as the world premiere presentation of the digital restoration in 4K. The restoration was completed by the Czech National Film Archive thanks to the support of Milada Kučerová and Eduard Kučera and the collaboration of the Film Servis Festival Karlovy Vary.

### Press Service:

Jaroslav Kejzlar  
Editor & Communication  
Czech Film Center / Czech Film Fund

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Národní 28, 110 00 Praha 1  
telefon: +420 601 326 883  
e-mail: [jaroslav@filmcenter.cz](mailto:jaroslav@filmcenter.cz)  
[www.filmcenter.cz](http://www.filmcenter.cz)  
[facebook](#)