

Press release. Prague, August 28, 2017

**NINA, BLACK PETER, BORG/McENROE and more**  
**Czech films and projects at Toronto and Venice IFF**

Czech cinematography will be present at two of the major fall film festivals, Venice and Toronto IFF.

The 74th Venice International Film Festival (8/30-9/9) will see the world premiere of the digitally restored version of the classic of Czechoslovak New Wave, Miloš Forman's *Black Peter*. The festival's Gap-Financing Market will introduce two Czech projects in development: the narrative feature *Cook, Fuck, Kill* by director Mira Fornay, and Jan Gebert's documentary film *When the War Comes*.

Toronto IFF in its 42nd edition (9/7-17) will present Juraj Lehotský's family drama *Nina* in the section Contemporary World Cinema. World premiered in July at the Karlovy Vary IFF, the film was produced in Slovak-Czech coproduction with Jiří Konečný (endorfilm). The opening night gala film at Toronto IFF, the story of tennis rivalry *Borg/McEnroe*, also carries a Czech mark – shot primarily on the Štvanice courts in Prague serviced by Sirena Film. Czech film industry and cinematography will be represented in Toronto by Czech Film Center which participates for the second time in the presentation stand of the European Film Promotion at the TIFF Industry Centre.

**TORONTO IFF**

***Nina* in the Contemporary World Cinema section**

*Nina* is a sensitive portrait of a child's disintegrating world after parents' divorce. The Slovak-Czech coproduction title is Juraj Lehotský's second narrative feature film and the third of his films presented at Toronto IFF – starting with his debut, non-fiction feature *Blind Loves* (2008) which premiered in Cannes, and followed by his first fiction film *Miracle* (2013). *Nina*'s Czech producer Jiří Konečný (endorfilm) is a known entity on the international coproduction scene with several successful projects under his belt, including the critical favorite *Aferim!* and *Little Harbour* which premiered at this year's Berlinale.



Film details: [www.alphaviolet.com/nina/](http://www.alphaviolet.com/nina/)

Interview with director Juraj Lehotský: [cineuropa.org/it.aspx?t=interview&l=en&did=330997](http://cineuropa.org/it.aspx?t=interview&l=en&did=330997)

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***Borg/McEnroe* – Opening Night Gala**

The story of rivalry between the famous Swedish and American tennis players is the fiction film debut of Danish director Janus Metz. Starring Shia LaBeouf in the role of John McEnroe, Sverrir Gudnason as Björn Borg, and Stellan Skarsgård as Borg's coach, the film received funding from the Czech State Cinematography Fund through its tax



incentives program. The Czech production outfit Sirena Film stands behind the extensive shooting of the film in Czechia with Prague's Štvanice courts (which saw many of Czech Davis Cup winnings) standing in for Wimbledon during the 1980 Grand Slam final. The coach of the best Czech tennis player Tomáš Berdych assisted Shia LaBeouf in getting in the best performance form.

Film details: [www.tiff.net/tiff/film.html?v=borgmcenroe](http://www.tiff.net/tiff/film.html?v=borgmcenroe)

### **Czech Film Center to represent Czech film industry in Toronto**

Since 2016, representatives of Czech Film Center participate in the festival under the umbrella of the European Film Promotion stand at TIFF Industry Centre at the Hyatt Regency hotel.

#### **CONTACT AT TIFF:**

Czech Film Center, European Umbrella at TIFF Industry Centre, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 370 King Street West  
**Markéta Šantrochová**, Head of Czech Film Center, cell +420 724 329 948, [marketa@filmcenter.cz](mailto:marketa@filmcenter.cz)  
September 7-13, 2017

### **VENICE IFF**

#### **World Premiere of newly restored *Black Peter***



Miloš Forman's classic film of the Czechoslovak New Wave, *Black Peter* (Černý Petr, 1963), was selected for presentation in the Venezia Classici section of the 74th Venice International Film Festival.

The section founded in 2012 presents the best of newly digitally restored films. This year, Forman's feature debut screens along with *1900* by Bernardo Bertolucci (1976); *Red Desert* by Michelangelo Antonioni (1964); and Steven Spielberg's *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977). The Czech National Film Archive premiered a number of digital restorations at major festivals, including Věra Chytilová's

*A Bagful of Fleas* (1962) in Venice, and the early sci-fi *Ikarie XB1* (1962) last year in Cannes.

Forman's *Black Peter* was restored by NFA team lead by Tereza Frondlová, consulting with Ivan Passer, who served as assistant director on the film.

#### **Projects of Mira Fornay and Jan Gebert at Gap-Financing Market**

Gap-Financing Market coproduction forum (9/1-3) takes place at Venice IFF as part of the Venice Production Bridge. Among 47 projects presented over three days, two selections come from the Czech Republic.

Mira Fornay's fiction feature *Cook, Fuck, Kill* delves into the topic of domestic violence, following a middle aged man, a seemingly kind friend, son, father and husband, who perpetrates violence against his wife. "As in my previous film *My Dog Killer*, the main theme is individual responsibility for actions and attitudes, and to what extent a society and a family bear responsibility for a domestic tragedy," says director Fornay. *My Dog Killer* received the Hivos Tiger Award at IFF Rotterdam and Fornay's debut feature *Foxes* premiered at Venice International Critics' Week. The director presented her project *Cook, Fuck, Kill* at workshops Czech Film Springboard (Finále Plzeň, 2017) and Pitch & Feedback (KVIFF, 2014), both organized by Czech Film Center.

The documentary film in development by Jan Gebert, *When the War Comes*, follows a paramilitary group in Slovakia. The group 400 strong and attracting teenage youngsters seeks to create a model society and prepare for the final clash of civilizations. The main protagonist, a university student, is the group's leader and is ready to defend the world of Slavs with gun in his hand, with an eye on a grand future in politics. The director considers nationalism and fear of 'the other' to be the main topics of his work as a filmmaker and as a journalist.

■ czech  
■ film  
■ center

státní  
fond  
kinematografie

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