

CZECH WORKS IN PROGRESS



■ czech
■ film
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Director Jan Březina
Writer Jan Březina
Producer Marek Novák (Xova Film)
Countries Czech Republic
Runtime 82 min
Languages Czech
Genre Drama, Psychological Drama
Completion date: May 2020

This film is director's debut.

Erhart / Erhart

Synopsis

A small Czech town, early autumn, the present. Young, energetic Erhart (23) returns to his hometown, after hearing of his mother's (50) mental breakdown and hospitalisation. Erhart's mother lives alone in a big family house and has been suffering from mental issues since her husband was jailed for privatisation fraud. She tells Erhart that their family house is for sale. At the same time, she claims that his missing father has returned to stop the sale and put things in order. Erhart is used to mother's delusions, but when he finds out, that their house actually belongs to an anonymous offshore company, he starts to doubt, what has so far been considered unconditional truth.

Director's Profile

Jan Březina (1980) started filmmaking while studying Film Studies at Charles University in Prague. He later studied Film Directing at Prague's FAMU, under Věra Chytilová, graduating in 2014 with medium-length feature *Maria Stock*, which premiered at Karlovy Vary IFF and received the Discovery Award at 2014's Cottbus IFF. *Erhart* is Jan Březina's fiction feature debut.

Company Profile

Xova Film is a Prague-based production company with auteur-driven profile, focusing on authentic creative vision. Xova Film's slate includes *Eternal Peace*, the eco-dystopia by Vojtěch Strakatý, female-driven apocalypse *Ordinary Failures* by Cristina Groșan, drama *Erhart* by Jan Březina, experimental detective story *Blue Box* by Petr Šprinc & Marie Hájková and Ondřej Šálek's documentary, *Breaking Europe*. Xova Film's co-productions include *Heads and Tails*, the 2nd feature of Nicolae Constantin Tănase (RO/CZ) or the short film *Along Came a Prince* by Cristina Groșan (RO/CZ).

Presented by

Marek Novák (producer), Jan Březina (director, scriptwriter)



Director Fiona Ziegler
Writer Fiona Ziegler
Producer Rajko Jazbec
(Cognito Films), Kristýna Michálek
Květová (Cinémotif Films)
Countries Switzerland,
Czech Republic
Runtime 90 min
Languages German, Czech
Genre Road Trip, Comedy
Completion date: October 2020

This film is director's debut.

Lost in Paradise / Ztraceni v ráji

Logline

Evžen, a Swiss-Czech, lives a bohemian life in Prague. An unexpected journey back to Switzerland confronts him with the grotesque charm of the bourgeoisie and the lie his father has built his life on.

Synopsis

Evžen, a son of a Czech emigrant to Switzerland, decided years ago to leave his comfortable Swiss life and went to Prague, where he has been running a music club for many years. But after a fire breaks in, Evžen finds himself in financial distress. All he can do is to go back to his native Switzerland and ask for help from his father and gradually other family members and friends he had not seen for a long time. But before that, Evžen crosses the path of a strange traveler with a crocodile so he can later on reveal his father's life lie.

Director's Profile

Fiona Ziegler was born and raised in Switzerland. She studied literature, history and political science at the University of Fribourg and Geneva before being accepted into the prestigious FAMU in Prague. Her graduation project was a short fiction *Toda Raba Ben* (2016) that was shot in collaboration with the Sapir College in Israel. Her short films *Domov* (2013), *2:1* (2013) *God Particle* (2015) and *Toda Raba Ben* (2016) were screened at various international film festivals around the world.

Company Profile

Cinémotif Films is a production company based in Prague. The company was founded in 2016 by producer Kristýna M. Květová and it is dedicated to produce both documentary and fiction projects which are suitable for international audiences and co-productions. The founding producer graduated from FAMU and in the past years she has attended various international platforms such as Midpoint or EURODOC. Her most recent title – *The Sound is Innocent* (J. Ožvold) premiered at Visions du Réel 2019.

Presented by

Rajko Jazbec (Swiss producer), Fiona Ziegler (director)



Director Jan Prušinovský
Writer Roman Vojkůvka
Producer Ondřej Zima,
Jan Prušinovský (OFFSIDE MEN)
Co-producer PubRes, Czech
Television
Countries Czech Republic, Slovakia
Runtime 95 min
Languages Czech, Slovak
Genre Romance, Drama
Completion date: June 2020

Mistakes / Chyby

Logline

Ema met Tomáš in a bar. Passionate Ema and impulsive but introverted Tomáš fall in love. Their coincidental encounter is like two missing puzzle pieces coming together. But Ema's past inevitably catches up with them.

Synopsis

Ema is a lively 25-year-old shop assistant living in a small town. Tomáš is a 30-year-old roofer living in a village nearby the capital. They spend a night together, with no expectations. However, it becomes the start of a relationship, love, living together. Ema decides to unburden herself and is ready to tell Tomáš about her tainted background. Tomáš doesn't want to hear it as he wants to live "here and now". A random episode unveils Ema's past and starts off a series of incidents which turn their lives upside down.

Director's Profile

Jan Prušinovský graduated on screenwriting at FAMU with his thesis screenplay *Frankie is a Womanizer*, which was also later his feature film debut. In 2010 he released TV series *Sunday League* (2010). In 2012, he premiered a movie prequel to the successful series, titled *Sunday League – Pepík Hnatek's Final Match*. In 2014 he directed the successful television comedy series *Fourth Star* and in 2015 he released his 3rd feature film, *The Snake Brothers* and in 2017 TV series *Gnome*. In 2019, he directed *MOST!*, the most successful TV series at viewers share in Czech TV.

Company Profile

OFFSIDE MEN was created by producer and screenwriter Jan Prušinovský and the Evolution Films production company in 2011. The company's main focus is the development, production and distribution of own theatrical film and TV creations, which includes films to be internationally co-produced. OFFSIDE MEN has produced the nationally and internationally multiawarded films *The Snake Brothers* (2015) and *The Teacher* (2016, co-production with Slovakia), and the successful Czech TV series *Fourth Star* (2014) and *Gnome* (2016).

Presented by

Ondřej Zima (producer), Jan Prušinovský (director)



Director Bohdan Sláma
Writer Ivan Arsenjev
Producer Martin Růžička,
 Jindřich Motýl (LUMINAR Film)
Co-producer Czech Television,
 Filmpark
Countries Czech Republic, Slovakia
Runtime 120 min
Languages Czech, German
Genre Drama
Completion date: March 2020

Shadow Country / Krajina ve stínu

Synopsis

A young, good-looking city girl, Marie, marries into a small Austrian town of Schwarzwald. A little vain for a small-town woman, she likes to dress up and makes her own clothes. The town is by Austrian border, in an area, forcibly annexed by Czechoslovakia in 1920. Most of the Czech-speaking citizens chose German nationality at the beginning of WW2. While peaceful during the war, the area was swept by violence right after the war. A group of malicious neighbours force fourteen wealthiest town inhabitants in front of the people's court and they are murdered. Marie and her two children have to cross the border into the woods, where they build a temporary shed of branches.

Director's Profile

Bohdan Sláma graduated from the FAMU (1997). His first feature, *Wild Bees* (2001), the portrait of a Moravian village and its quirky inhabitants, was distinguished by several international prizes. Throughout his work, from *Something Like Happiness* (2005), winner of multiple prizes at San Sebastian IFF, including the Golden Shell for best feature film, through *The Country Teacher* (Venice, 2008) to *Ice Mother* (Best Script, Tribeca FF 2015), family and close relations play a crucial role, and the prize-winning writer/director is admired internationally for his character-driven, warm-hearted and personal stories.

Company Profile 600

LUMINAR Film s.r.o. was founded by two independent producers JUDr. Martin Růžička and Jindřich Motýl, MBA. Martin is also the owner of Creative hill college (www.creativehill.cz). In 2017 they co-founded ZLIN-FILM (www.zlin-film.cz), a project establishing a local film office ZLIN FILM OFFICE (www.zlinfilmoffice.cz). They initiated beginning of local film funds in the Zlin area and endorse the development of film industry in their region and in the Czech Republic. Jindřich and Martin aim to produce high-quality films and series that bring people powerful experience.

Presented by

Martin Růžička, Jindřich Motýl (producers) / Bohdan Sláma (director)



Director Martin Šulík
Writer Marek Leščák, Martin Šulík
Producer Rudolf Biermann
(IN Film Praha), Martin Šulík (Titanic)
Co-producer Czech Television, Radio
and Television Slovakia
Countries Czech Republic, Slovakia
Runtime 100 min
Languages Slovak
Genre Comedy
Completion date: February 2020

The Man with Hare Ears / Muž se zaječíma ušima

Logline

Josef is a writer aged sixty, who thinks that nothing can surprise him any more. One evening, though, his phone rings and he finds himself caught up in a series of events that turn his world upside-down.

Synopsis

Josef's best friend tries to commit suicide; his young girlfriend Katka tells him she's pregnant; and the man with hare ears – his alter ego from one of his stories – appears to him in everyday situations. The comedy can begin. Wanting to seize his last chance, Josef decides to marry Katka. But he has to sort out his topsy-turvy life. He clashes with his daughter, whom he neglected and who is consequently unable to have a normal relationship. He goes to see his son, who can't forgive him for leaving his mother and ignoring his family. He visits his ex-wife Dana, whom he has lacked the resolve to divorce for twenty years.

Director's Profile

Martin Šulík is the most awarded and most prolific Slovak film director of the past 20 years. His most successful feature, the poetic, philosophical and humorous *The Garden* (1995) has already assumed cult status. Except for five Czech Lions, it received awards at international festivals (IFF Karlovy Vary, Cottbus). In 2011 he shot the film *Gypsy*, which was awarded at Karlovy Vary IFF and his last film is *The Interpreter* (2017). As a documentarist, Šulík likes most to deal with the field most familiar to him – the domestic cinematography and its creators.

Company Profile

IN Film Praha was founded in 1993 by Rudolf Biermann, who produced art films as well as film popular with audiences. He cooperated with many famous directors as Martin Šulík (*The Garden*, *Orbis Pictus*, *Landscape*, *Gypsy*, *The Interpreter*), Jan Hřebejk (*Shameless*, *Kawasaki's Rose*, *Innocence*, *The Holy Quaternity*), Alice Nellis (*Perfect Days*, *Revival*, *Angels*) or Julius Ševčík (*A Prominent Patient*, *The Glass Room*). His last premiere was January 2020 the film *Scumbag* directed by Marianna Čengel Solčanská and Rudolf Biermann which hit the boxoffice of 100 000 viewers by the first week in Slovakia.

Presented by

Rudolf Bierman (producer) / Josefina Borecká (line-producer)



Director Zuzana Piussi
Writer Ingrid Hrubaničová
Producer Vít Janeček (D1film)
Co-producer VIRUSfilm
Countries Czech Republic, Slovakia
Runtime 80 min
Languages Slovak
Genre Black Comedy, Women
Completion date: December 2021

This film is director's debut.

The Unbalanced / Zešřlet

Logline

Dark realistic tragicomedy and a debut of renowned Slovak documentary filmmaker and actress of alternative theatre.

Synopsis

Nadia faces harsh divorce, looking desperately for a new flat to live in with her daughter. She finally finds a miracle deal - a convenient and cheap flat. She moves in immediately... Too late she realizes the trap: coexistence with a sick and aggressive neighbour is beyond her capacities - as well as beyond any institutional solutions. Her life turns upside-down...

Director's Profile

Zuzana Piussi (1971), born in Bratislava. In 90's was an actress/author in legendary Bratislava's theatre Stoka, from Slovak Film Academy (VŠMU) she turned into documentary filmmaking and became renowned director dealing often with social-political issues. *The Unbalanced* is her fiction feature length debut.

Company Profile

D1film was founded by Zuzana Piussi and Vít Janeček in Prague in 2014 as a boutique production platform focusing on mainly for creative documentaries and other artistic production with relevant social, political or personal topics and approach. Activities and services: film production and postproduction, consulting and development of international projects shot in Czech or Slovak Republic, technical backing of film projects. We are members of Audiovisual Producers' Association.

Presented by

Vít Janeček (producer), Zuzana Piussi (director)



Director Jan Foukal
Writer Zdeněk Jecelín
Producer Silvie Michajlova,
Ondřej Zima (FILM KOLEKTIV)
Co-producer Storm Films,
Czech Television
Countries Czech Republic, Norway
Runtime 80 min
Languages Czech
Genre Romance
Completion date: July 2020

This film is director's debut.

Two Ships / Marťanské lodě

Logline

Eliška had flown through Martin's life like a spaceship. She will always stay with him. As a memory, as gratitude for an experience, as a muse.

Synopsis

Eliška, a psychologist, and Martin, a musician, meet at Martin's birthday party. For a while, it is like a Hollywood romance, just set against the backdrop of Brno. The first crisis, the first pain, comes right before Eliška leaves for Norway for an internship. After her return, they move in together. The idyll is soon disrupted by Eliška's worsening stomach pains, no medical exams can uncover the cause of. Finally, Eliška decides to shut the pains down by jumping under a train.

Director's Profile

Jan Foukal is a Czech documentary director, musician and actor. His movie debut which he scripted and directed was a docu road movie *Amerika* in 2015 (the official selection of the Karlovy Vary IFF). He also directed several other documentaries (*Stories of Extraordinary Energy*, 2014), music videos (Vladimír Merta, Baset+), spots for Medecins Sans Frontieres or Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival. In 2014, he released a music album *One Way Road* under the name of Johannes Benz.

Company Profile

The production company FILM KOLEKTIV was founded in 2013 as a joint platform of producers Jan Kallista, Ondřej Zima, Pavel Berčík, Karla Stojáková and Silvie Michajlova. It focuses on the development, production and distribution of Czech and international short, animated, documentary and feature films such as *Amundsen*, *The Last Visa*, *Valley of Knights* and including projects in development *Restore Point* and *Money from Hitler*. The company also develops TV series, commercials and children's programs.

Presented by

Silvie Michajlová (producer), Jan Foukal (director)