

Prague, January 25, 2018

Three Czech Films at the Berlinale:

When the War Comes, Touch Me Not, The Interpreter

Three Czech coproduction films have been selected for the Berlinale IFF. The psychological drama *Touch Me Not*, directed by Adina Pintilie, will be included in Competition, while the road movie *The Interpreter*, directed by Martin Šulík and starring Jiří Menzel and Peter Simonischek, premieres in Berlinale Special, and the painfully relevant documentary *When the War Comes* by Jan Gebert will open Panorama Dokumente.

The Czech Film Center, division of Czech Film Fund, is once again the official presenter of Czech cinematography at Berlinale. Running a stand at the EFM (No.137, MGB, 1st floor,), the Czech Film Fund serves as a primary contact place for international film professionals interested in Czech film, co-production or shooting with the Czech Republic.

When the War Comes

Czech Republic, Croatia, 2018

director: Jan Gebert

producers: PINK - Radovan Šíbrt, Alžběta Karásková; co-producers: HBO Europe - Tereza Polachová, Hanka Kastelicová; Hulahop Film - Dana Budisavljevic, Miljenka Čogelja

PANORAMA

Peter lives a seemingly happy life. He drives a new white SUV, has a pretty girlfriend and recently enrolled at university. However, his real life is elsewhere – as the head of a paramilitary called “Slovenský branci” that recruits hundreds of Slovak teenagers with the silent approval of the authorities. The group’s goal is simple - to create a model totalitarian community based on military drill, obedience and fear. Peter dreams that one day he will convince the entire society- as a big shot politician.

https://www.berlinale.de/en/presse/pressemitteilungen/alle/Alle-Detail_41492.html

Touch Me Not

Romania, France, Czech Republic, 2018

director: Adina Pintilie

producers: Manekino Film – Adina Pintilie, Bianca Oana; co-producers: Agitprop – Martichka Bozhilova; PINK – Radovan Šíbrt, Alžběta Karásková, Jakub Pinkava; rohfilm – Benny Drechsel; Films de l'Étranger – Phillipe Avril)

COMPETITION

The main character, Laura, has worked for years in a mannequin factory, peeking in on other people’s intimate lives. She pays to be touched, hiring young boys to create an illusion of intimacy.

Tudor is an actor who earns his living as a masseur and wants a woman who rejects his attempts at making contact. One day, Laura sees an interactive show by Tudor and Paul that deeply moves her, and gradually becomes a silent witness to their lives, their solitary longing resonating with her own. In this mirroring process, the walls that she has so skillfully built around her collapse under the torrent of her repressed emotions.

https://www.berlinale.de/en/presse/pressemitteilungen/wettbewerb/wettbewerb-presse-detail_40852.html

The Interpreter

Slovakia, Czech Republic, Austria, 2018

director: Martin Šulík

producers: IN Film – Rudolf Biermann, Titanic – Martin Šulík; COOP99 – Bruno Wagner, co-producers: RTSV: Radio and Television of Slovakia; Czech TV

BERLINALE SPECIAL

80-year-old Ali Ungár (Menzel) comes across a book by a former SS officer, describing his wartime activities in Slovakia. Ali realizes that one of the passages recounts the execution of his parents, and sets out to visit the former SS man, who now lives in Vienna. Instead of his parents' murderer, though, Ali finds only his 70-year-old son. Georg Peis (Simonischek) is a former teacher who has distanced himself from his father's past and is now struggling with alcoholism. The interpreter's visit stirs his curiosity, so he decides to find out who exactly his father was before he dies. So it is that the two old men, the ascetic Ali and the bon vivant Georg, embark on a journey together to find the surviving witnesses of the wartime tragedy.

https://www.berlinale.de/en/presse/pressemitteilungen/wettbewerb/wettbewerb-presse-detail_41364.html

Five other movies will be screened at the European Film Market:

Barefoot (CZ, SK, DK, 2017, director: Jan Svěrák),

Epic Complex (CZ 2018, director: Jan Střejcovský),

Harvie and the Magic Museum (CZ, BE, RUS, 2017, director: Martin Kotík),

Nina (SK, CZ, 2017, director: Juraj Lehotský),

The Ash Lad - In the Hall of the Mountain King (NO, IE, CZ, 2017, director: Mikkel Brænne Sandemose).

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<http://www.filmcenter.cz/cs/press>

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