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Prague, 26 March 2019

26TH ANNUAL EDITION OF DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM IS ABOUT TO START WITH AUDIENCE ON ITS MIND ONCE AGAIN

Prague, 4 - 11 April / Lucerna, Světozor and Kino Pilotů cinemas
Brno, 4 - 7 April / Scala cinema

Echoes will take place in the following towns and on the following dates:

Havířov (15 - 17 April), Hodonín (16 - 17 April), Boskovice (15 - 16 April),
Červený Kostelec (16 and 18 April), Hradec Králové (15 - 17 April), Jablonec nad Nisou (19 - 21 April)

Days of European Film have been offering the most interesting films of contemporary European cinema for 26 years. This year, the festival invites the audience to cinemas to watch 45 films from various parts of Europe. The films, divided into traditional as well as completely new programme sections, cover the themes of ordinary life: sports, Nature, eroticism and love, music, and freedom of choice. With their festival programming, DEF want to be more accommodating to the audience. The 26th annual edition of DEF will be opened by the French film [Edmond](#), the first feature film by the director Alexis Michalik.

The opening film of DEF - [Edmond](#) - is a splendid costume comedy-drama with a French charm, which tells the story of the poet and writer Edmond Rostand whose character is played by **Thomas Solivérès**. As a poor artist, he is given the chance of a lifetime to write a theatre play. The film about the creation of one of the most beautiful and most performed theatre plays, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, shows the source of Rostand's inspiration in real life. Based on the film script, a theatre play was first created, which met with great success in France and received a number of theatre awards. *Edmond* is in distribution in 26 countries and has been seen by 700,000 cinema-goers in France alone since its January premiere. "The film was also shot in the Czech Republic. From among 41 shooting days, 40 days were spent in Pilsen, Karlovy Vary and Prague. The audience can thus recognise the Estates Theatre and other locations in the scenes. One shooting day took place in the Moissac monastery in France," adds Roman Finger from Sirena Film.





*Thomas Solivérés as Edmond Rostand in the opening film of DEF.
Source: DEF*

FILMS CO-PRODUCED BY CZECH PRODUCERS AND GUESTS OF THE FESTIVAL

From among films by Czech producers, DEF will present a preview of a remarkable and intimate Czech debut ***Snowing!*** by Kristina Nedvěďová about the relationships of three generations of women in a family, starring **Petra Nesvačilová**, **Vanda Hybnerová** and **Hana Vagnerová** in leading roles. The preview screening will take place in the Lucerna cinema on 10 April and will be attended by Petra Nesvačilová and Hana Vagnerová alongside with the director **Kristina Nedvěďová**. One of the most successful Czech documentaries, ***Wilder Than Wilderness***, has been included in the new section titled Mother Nature. The director **Marián Polák** will be personally available to the audience for a debate during the public screening in the Světozor cinema on 6 April. The traditional section of the European Commission, this time focused on the election year, will present the film ***Breaking News*** by the director **Tomáš Bojar**, which premiered at the Karlovy Vary IFF in the documentary contest section. The Eurosport section will offer ***King Skate***, which also premiered at the Karlovy Vary IFF. This film was directed **Šimon Šafránek** who will debate with the audience after the screening in the Kino Pilotů cinema on Wednesday 10 April.

*“From among foreign guests, the audience can look forward to seeing the Greek director **Tassos Boulmetis** who will personally present his film **1968** about a basketball match between the Greek club A.E.K. and the Prague club Slavia in the Lucerna cinema on Friday 5 April. The comedy about an ageing superhero, titled **Superchamp Returns**, has achieved the historically highest number of viewers in domestic cinemas, and the script writer **Lucien Czuga** and the director **Félix Koch** will present it in the Světozor cinema during the Sunday screening at 18:00. In an exclusive preview, we will screen the Latvian-Czech film **Bille**, which has become a hit in its country in cinemas and also received a number of national awards. The film will be presented personally by the female director **Ināra Kolmane**, who will attend the screening in the Lucerna cinema in Prague on 6 April as well as the screening in the Scala cinema in Brno on 5 April,”* says Hana Šilarová, the programming director of DEF.

PROGRAMME SECTIONS

The 26th edition of DEF will offer 45 films to the audience, divided into 7 sections:

Best of / The selection of the most interesting films created over the recent years in the cinema of the respective European countries. This traditional section brings a representative sample of European films of various genres. For example, a dark thriller with the elements of a western from Ireland called **Black 47** (directed by Lance Daly) will be presented to the audience, starring Hugo Weaving (the *Matrix* trilogy, the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy) and Barry Keoghan (*Dunkirk*, *The Killing of a Sacred Deer*) in leading roles. The film became the most successful film in Irish cinemas for the last year. **Ether** by Krzysztof Zanussi, the world-class master of film, offers a drama from the beginning of the 20th century with an unusual ending. The Italian film **Boys Cry** (directed by Damiano and Fabiano D'Innocenzo) describes the story of two youngsters who must decide whether they will take advantage of fate when they coincidentally win the favour of a local mafia boss. The Italian syndicate of journalists gave this film the awards for the best film and the best debut director. The crime thriller **The Butcher, the Whore and the One-eyed Man** (directed by János Szász) shows a bloody love triangle in Budapest of the 1920s.

MEDIA: Love without Borders / Love, sex and eroticism in film. The various forms of love, flirt and erotic tension in the relationships between two (and more) people seen through the camera lens. The audience will certainly remember **Blue Is the Warmest Colour** (directed by Abdellatif Kechiche), featuring Léa Seydoux, about the search for (sexual) identity, which won the Golden Palm at the Cannes IFF, and **Nymphomaniac**, the double feature by the Danish demon, director Lars von Trier. In his opus, he cast well-known actors such as Charlotte Gainsbourg, Stellan Skarsgård, Shia LaBeouf or Uma Thurman. This section will also present an intimate and passionate portrait of a couple titled **My King** (directed by Maiwenn), starring Vincent Cassel, which was premiered in Cannes and which brought Emmanuelle Bercot an award for her acting performance. Thanks to the Creative Europe Desk – MEDIA, Days of European Film are returning these significant films to cinemas. The way to one's heart is also through film!

Film & Music / This traditional section will present films with a music theme, ranging from documentaries on music stars, through opera recordings to live action music films. Do you like to go to opera? Come to see one in a cinema! The offer includes a recording of the opera **Carmen** (directed by Calixto Bieito) or a documentary about the Paris opera scene titled **L'Opéra** (directed by Jean-Stéphane Bron), which won the main award at the Moscow IFF and the national award for the best Swiss document (Swiss Film Prize). **Whitney**, a biographical film about Whitney Houston, awaits the fans of pop music. On a different note, **The Heart of Hadiah Tromp** (directed by Erik de Bruyn) offers a light-hearted love story from a Navy environment. And all this in the form of a musical! This year's DEF will be in the rhythm of music once again!

Mother Nature / Can a single individual help Nature? Are the leaders of world's countries able to reach an agreement to stop a climatic change? How should we treat animals? The screening of one of the most successful Czech documentaries on the fascinating adventures of animals and plants in our country – **Wilder Than Wilderness** (directed by Marián Polák) – stands out in this section. **The Milk System** (directed by Andreas Pichler) that received two awards for the best film – at the Fünf Seen FF and the Green Screen International Wildlife FF – will show the big business associated with overproduction of milk. The centre of focus in this section is our planet.

Eurosport / This completely new section is focused on sports-themed films. The film **1968** (directed by Tassos Boulmetis) will show how the basketball match between Greeks and the Prague club Slavia ended in the politically sensitive year 1968. **In the Realm of Perfection** (directed Julien Faraut) features unique shots from the Roland Garros stadium taken during the match between John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl. With all this recorded on a 16 mm film, which shows every detail of the unique style of playing of McEnroe, the then world's number one, and thus captures his movement, emotions and technique. The film premiered at Berlinale in the Forum section. The Balkan comedy **ZG80** (directed by Igor Šeregi) will show the soccer fans of long-standing rivals – Zagreb and Belgrade. Hooligans in southern rhythms, with all this happening in the late 1980s.

LUX Film Prize / This traditional section presents the LUX film prize of the European Parliament and its three finalists, including the winning picture of the year 2018. The purpose of the prize is to support European cinema as well as the public debate about Europe, its values and social issues. The 2018 LUX Award for the Best Film was received by **Woman at War** (directed by Benedikt Erlingsson), a comedy about a middle-aged Icelandic female environmental activist who decided to change the world. The film dominated the Edda Awards, a national Icelandic event, where it won ten categories in total. Another film worth mentioning is the documentary **The Other Side of Everything** (directed by Mila Turajlić) about the dark past of a family in Belgrade, which was being screened at festivals during the last year and received, for example, the VPRO award at the IDFA festival in Amsterdam or the Best Document Award at ZagrebDo. The last of the nominated films is the intimate drama **Styx** (directed by Wolfgang Fischer) about the fear of unknown experienced when facing refugees in open sea. The film received many awards, including four ones at Berlinale.

To the Point: To Have a Choice / The well-established section To the Point focuses on the topic of elections and the picture of political issues as presented by the media. The film **Breaking News** (directed by Tomáš Bojar) documents the work of the media by showing a single day – the day on which Miloš Zeman announced that he would run in the presidential election again. The comedy **The Divine Order** (directed by Petra Volpe) deals with the topic of suffrage of women in Switzerland. The film received the Audience Award at the Tribeca FF. The dark thriller **Blind Spot** (directed by Nabil Ben Yadir) shows Belgian underworld and a police captain who decides to join an ultra-right nationalist party. These films reflect the rapidly changing world of media and the online world where it is possible to adjust the reflection of reality as well as election results.

SPECIAL EVENTS

“In recent years, DEF has focused on work with the audience. We would like to bring another target group to cinemas in addition to our faithful audience. Therefore, we are this year offering sections that are trying to reach the mainstream audience and cover the topics of everyday life: eroticism, sports, Nature, music, love, elections... Special events will also include film screenings tailored to families with children or to seniors. We also do not forget about film education and there will also be the traditional CINEMA 2019 seminar for film professionals. We will transform the European House into a cinema and a gallery for the duration of DEF,” says Barbora Golatová, the Director of the 26th DEF, commenting on the special events.

CARMEN

Sunday 7 April at 20:30, Světozor cinema, Vodičkova 41, Praha 1



[CARMEN](#) / France, 2018, 167 minutes, directed by Calixto Bieito, French with Czech subtitles

“Carmen will never give way! Free she was born, free she will die!” weeps Bizet’s dying heroine at the end of one of the world’s most famous and most performed operas. More than ever before, unrestrainable freedom, sensuality and a compulsion to live life on the edge is exuded by Spanish director Calixto Bieito’s new version of Carmen. The Paris Opera’s passionate production, directed by British conductor Mark Elder, introduced an international cast including French tenor Roberto Alagna, Latvian mezzo-soprano Elina Garanča, Italian soprano Maria Agresta and Russian bass Ildar Abdrazakov.

SCREENING FOR SENIORS

Monday 8 April at 13:30, Lucerna cinema – Small Hall, Vodičkova 36, Prague 1



[THE HEART OF HADIAH TROMP](#) / Netherlands, 2018, 90 minutes, directed by Erik de Bruyn, Dutch with English and Czech subtitles

The young Hadiah is undergoing training at the Navy because she is a daughter of an officer. However, she finds the whole military drill too restrictive. This romantic comedy musical in uniforms offers a slightly different perspective of the Navy.

After the screening of the film, there will be a lecture with samples of musicals, which was prepared by [Free Cinema](#) – a platform for film education.

Ticket price: CZK 110 / Ticket price for seniors: CZK 55

SCREENING FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Saturday 6 April at 15:00, Světozor cinema – Small Hall, Vodičkova 41, Prague 1

[WILDER THAN WILDERNESS](#) / Czech Republic, 2017, 81 minutes, directed by Marián Polák, Czech version

Thanks to the state-of-the-art technologies, this first feature film about Czech nature gives a close look at the fascinating adventures of animals and plants living around us.

The screening will be followed by a lecture on environmental protection led by the Ecology Center Koniklec., with the participation of the director.

Ticket price: CZK 110 / Ticket price for children: CZK 55

FILM EDUCATION FOR SCHOOLS

Friday 5 April, Tuesday 9 April, Wednesday 10 April, Thursday 11 April at 9:00
Lucerna cinema – Big Hall, Vodičkova 36, Prague 1

There is high-quality European cinema to make learning more interesting. This year's offer of screenings for schools brings extraordinary documentaries on topical issues.

Friday 5 April at 9:00, Lucerna cinema – Big Hall, for students 10+

[THE MILK SYSTEM](#) / Germany, Italy, 2017, 90 minutes, directed by Andreas Pichler, German with Czech subtitles



Every one of us was drinking milk when growing up. Packaging is covered with convincing slogans, which promise that we will be healthy and strong. But is it really so? A documentary that gives us insight into the global dairy industry.

Before the screening of the film, we will screen seven best short films from the “Wir sprechen” language campaign, which helps promote German among children, and there will be an entertaining discussion after the screening.

Tuesday 9 April at 9:00, Lucerna cinema – Big Hall, for students 12+

[BREAKING NEWS](#) / Czech Republic, 2018, 73 minutes, directed by Tomáš Bojar, Czech version

A lively and authentic insight into the work of journalists of the traditional media in the current accelerated era overloaded with information.

After the screening of the film, there will be a **lecture on the ideological aspects of film**, on the historical role of film in the battle of ideologies throughout history. **The lecture** is tailored to the age of students and uses a number of examples from the contemporary popular culture.

This interesting event was prepared by [Free Cinema](#) – a platform for film education.

Wednesday 10 April at 9:00, Lucerna cinema – Big Hall, for elementary school pupils in the 1st through 4th grades

[WILDER THAN WILDERNESS](#) / Czech Republic, 2017, 81 minutes, directed by Marián Polák, Czech version

Thanks to the state-of-the-art technologies, this first feature film about Czech nature gives a close look at the fascinating adventures of animals and plants living around us. T

he screening will be followed by a **lecture on environmental protection** led by the Ecology Center Koniklec.

All the screenings that are part of the *Film Education for Schools* can be ordered over the telephone at: 705 105 962 or by e-mail at: event@eurofilmfest.cz.

Thursday 11 April at 9:00, Lucerna cinema – Big Hall, for students 12+

[KING SKATE](#) / Czech Republic, 2018, 82 minutes, directed by Šimon Šafránek, Czech version



The iconic figures of the Czech and global skateboarding scenes in stories of broken bones, unbreakable friendships and wild rides pursuing freedom in the Communist era.

After the screening of the film, there will be a **lecture on Czech documentary film**, its history, present and major names. The lecture that will be given in an entertaining and dynamic form is tailored to the age of students and uses a number of examples from the contemporary popular culture.

This interesting event was prepared by [Free Cinema](#) – a platform for film education.



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CINEMA 2019

Wednesday 10 April at 10:00, Goethe Institute, Masarykovo nábřeží 32, Prague

A seminar for cinema operators, distributors and other film professionals. What is it like to work with European films in Czech cinemas? What is distributor's work with European films like? Does the audience care whether a film is European or about film in general? Czech cinema operators and distributors will give you answers to these and other questions regarding European films.

PRESENTATION OF THE NEW CINEMA PROJECT 2018-2019

A two-year project titled New Cinema 2018-2019 is designed for cinema operators and ten Czech or Slovak cinemas, selected according to projects to be submitted by them, can participate in it each year. The seminars will take place at three major festivals where the participants will learn about how to work with different types of films. All seminars will include presentations of the participants, which will be open to the public as part of the Industry Programmes, as well as detailed analyses of the numbers of viewers going to see various types of films in Czech cinemas. In the part dealing with European film, we will use actual data to show you to what extent viewers go or do not go to cinemas to see European films and whether screening such films is worthwhile. The year 2018 will be analysed.

Organised by: Days of European Film, Creative Europe Desk – MEDIA and Digital Cinema



EUROPEAN HOUSE CINEMA

Wednesday 10 April at 9:00, European House, Jungmannova 24, Prague 1



[MURER – ANATOMY OF A TRIAL](#) / Austria, Luxembourg, 2018, 137 minutes, directed by Christian Frosch

The film, based on true events, presents a reconstruction of the 1963 trial of Franz Murer, a member of the SS during the war who became a politician and a respected citizens in the 1960s. *Murer – Anatomy of a Trial* transforms from a legal drama into a story about manipulation of the truth, memories, behind-the-scenes political gambits as well as the (in)ability to forgive the sins of the past.

Awards: Diagonale, Austria 2018: Best Film. 2018 Vienna Film Prize: Jury's Special Prize.

The screening is FREE OF CHARGE. Online reservation necessary:
<https://kinoaero.colosseum.eu/incoming.aspx?mrsid=6&eventid=88292>

EUROPEAN HOUSE GALLERY

From 4 April to 21 April, European House, Jungmannova 24, Prague 1

The European House in Prague organises an exhibition of festival posters titled "26 YEARS WITH EUROPEAN FILM". If you happen to be walking down the Jungmannova street, you can enjoy the bold witty designs of posters inviting to cinemas, which decorated the poster boardings in their time.



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The price of the tickets to DEF screenings in Prague and Brno is **CZK 110**. The ticket price of **CZK 55** + a screening for seniors at Lucerna have been prepared **for seniors**. Tickets to all films can be purchased [online](#). Tickets can also be booked over the telephone or by e-mail

The DEF catalogue is available in all cinemas and from partners of the festival **for free**.

Accordion, megaphone, spotlight, clapperboard, microphone...

This one is shooting here; that one is recording there; those are rehearsing there; she is playing...

And all of them are making a film together.

Animals are just laughing at it.

Marija Petrinjac and Hana Kovačević are the authors of the concept, graphic design and jingle of the 26th annual edition of DEF.

In keeping with tradition, Lukáš Rumlena will host the ceremonial opening.

Audience can find the detailed DEF programme for each town, the list and descriptions of sections, a catalogue for download, photographs, news, information on ticket sale, information on special events, etc., at www.dnyevropskehofilmu.cz and on the [FB](#) page of the 26th DEF.

The accreditation form for journalists is available for download at www.eurofilmfest.cz/akreditace. Please, send the filled-out forms by e-mail to pr.michaeladvorakova@gmail.com no later than by Tuesday 2 April.

THE FESTIVAL TAKES PLACE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CZECH CULTURE MINISTER ANTONÍN STANĚK, 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, AND PAVEL ČIŽINSKÝ – 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 MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, THE CAPITAL CITY OF PRAGUE, THE STATUTORY CITY OF BRNO, AND THE CITY DISTRICT OF PRAGUE 1

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