30 December 2019, Prague



27th DAYS OF EUROPEAN FILM PRESENT NEW PROGRAMME SECTIONS AND A NEW FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

Prague 22 – 26 April 2020 / Lucerna, Světozor and Kino Pilotů cinemas Brno 23 – 26 April 2020 / Scala and Art cinemas Ostrava 24 – 26 April 2020 / Minikino cinema

Festival Echoes: 25 – 29 April 2020

Boskovice (Panorama cinema), Hradec Králové (Bio Central cinema), Jablonec nad Nisou (Junior cinema), Hodonín (Svět cinema), Havířov (Centrum cinema) and Červený Kostelec (Luník cinema)

Days of European Film are a non-competitive film festival with an exclusive focus on contemporary European cinema. The goal is to offer high-quality European films, which would otherwise not be screened in Czech cinemas, to the Czech audience. In 2020, DEF will present 40 films from nearly 30 European countries. The films to be screened are new and most of them received awards at major festivals. The main part of the programme will take place in Prague, Brno and, for the first time, in Ostrava from 22 to 26 April 2020. DEF will then continue in another 6 towns in the form of Festival Echoes. Šimon Šafránek, a film director, writer, journalist and a holder of the Czech Lion Award for Best Documentary, which he received for King Skate, will newly participate in the festival programming. "I used to watch a lot of formative films at Days of European Film and I am very happy to be able to participate in the festival in the role of the festival programming director now. In the programme for 2020, I would like to highlight the new section Fear and Dreams where we will screen thrilling films evoking these two basic human emotions. In the programme section Without Parents, we will present a genre, which is somewhat missing in the mainstream cinemas - films for young people, which reflect the coming of age and the contemporary lives of young people in general," says Simon Safránek, the DEF programming director.

Instead of placing emphasis on specific countries, DEF prefers presenting European cinema through topics and genres. Thus, it offers a broad range of topics, which is supposed to present European cinema as a living, surprising organism. Besides the well-established dramatic genres, DEF will also focus on sci-fi, horror films, avant-garde films and documentaries in the following year. It will also offer award-winning animated movies, films for families with children and films by old masters, which may please especially the older audiences. DEF also follows new trends and will extend the alternative content by including films in virtual reality in 2020. The festival will offer a selection of live action and documentary VR films, which will provide an unprecedented audio-visual experience that will be enhanced by a debate with the creators. The festival actively cooperates with the audience: *"The goal is to intensify the dialogue between creators and the audience. We will prepare not only discussions with film guests after screenings but we also want to make sure that each section includes a discussion where a foreign guests will meet a local film maker to share their experiences with processing the given theme," adds Barbora Golatová, the Festival Director.*



Up-to-date information on the 27th Days of European Film will be published on the website <u>www.eurofilmfest.cz</u> on an ongoing basis.

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